

# LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT MEETING

**Zoom Meeting**  
**April 15th, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

## **Time and Place:**

The April 2021 LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District meeting was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Zoom meeting.

## **Attendees:**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mitch Bishop, those in attendance by Zoom were John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Mark Danielson, Dalia Zygas, Jerry Jackson, and Amanda Lahners.

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to accept the minutes from the monthly board meeting on March 18, 2021 with a minor spelling change. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mark Danielson made the motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session on March 31, 2021. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

## **Public Comments:**

Mitch Bishop opened the public comments. Mitch stated as follows, “Anyone wishing to speak please state your name and address and will be allowed 3 minutes to speak as we have a large agenda to get through today.”

Michael Streiter - 4848 North 425 E, Rolling Prairie, IN, email: [m.streiter@yahoo.com](mailto:m.streiter@yahoo.com). Phone #219-379-4682. I am also speaking on behalf of my father, Richard Streiter, at 4833 425 East. Still have the same comments, and still against the project. Still waiting on the rest of the information and the studies and not sure if it comes from IDEM or the District. Interested in that and letters that were supposedly sent out. Also, interested in the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting and minutes and if that was a private meeting or if the public should have had access to it and we did not know about it.

Attorney Barry McDonnel replied to Mr. Streiter that he was happy to answer that question and that the meeting was an Executive Session. Executive Sessions are done by Indiana Code and the statute allows for exceptions such as employee matters, litigation matters, negotiation for property, this matter was regarding potential or pending or real litigation as indicated. Therefore, the meeting and minutes are not public. It is just not the Sewer District that has these type of meetings, County Commission, County Council, Economic Development they all have these meetings.

Mr. Streiter commented that its fine – just a lot of government over-reach and he just tries to keep track of it, especially when at his doorstep.

Mitch Bishop asked if there were any other public comments, no one spoke up, so he closed the public comments.

### **Reports - Finance Staff:**

Steve Carter, the Board's accountant, presented the board with the following reports:

- 1.) Financial Report
  - A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$33,301.57 as of March 1, 2021.
    1. Deposits 4,339.96
    2. Interest Paid \$.29
    3. Disbursements: \$1,506.53 in Operation Expenses
  - B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$36,135.29 as of March 31, 2021.
- 2.) Toll Road
  - A.) Beginning balance \$84,399.19 as of March 1, 2021.
    1. Deposits \$0.00
    2. Interest Paid: \$.68
    3. Disbursements: \$15,012.43
  - B.) Account Ending balance as of March 31, 2021 is \$69,387.44.
- 3.) Hoosier Fund:
  - A.) Beginning balance \$250,331.85 as of March 1, 2021.
    1. Interest Paid: \$63.82
  - B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of March 31, 2021 is \$250,395.67.
- 4.) Claims

Steve Carter presented claims in the amount of \$39,421.89.

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$39,421.89. Dalia Zygus seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **Reports:**

#### **Astbury:**

Chris Vogeler indicated no new reports since last meeting.

- WWTP – Heater was fixed in the water plant. Invoice will be forthcoming.
- Lawncare – Chris indicated it needed to be determined who was going to cut the grass at the sites this year. Mitch will research lawn care services and get some quotes.
- WWTP – floor needs to be painted where the desks and cabinets were taken out. Overall clean up of facility needs to be done.

#### **JPR - Billing/Collections/Lien**

- Nothing new – One property owner called to go pay her lien off.

#### **Phase II Update:**

Dan Byam, Engineer from JPR, attended to give an update on Phase II - For the last month -

- Contractor installed Hatfield south of the lift station, they ran on Michigan Street and did the short run near the lift station on South street, they installed sewer East of Hatfield, down towards the east end of town and they have installed 3 of the sanitary package

systems – they still have work to do on those like the electrical and the force main associated with them - but they did install and set the tanks.

- For the next period they are looking at finishing up the east end of Short Street, and then move from there and continue along Short Street to the West, doing the sections on Depot Street and Mechanic as well.
- They will also be installing the final 4<sup>th</sup> sanitary pump station as well in the next month.
- Change Order for Little Tavern – Emailed prior to the meeting that morning along with an image. Put together the numbers for the change order. Drawing emailed of what Dan anticipates the lateral to look like – it will be a 6” service lateral extending from Mechanic Street up the east side of South Poplar Street to serve Little Tavern. It is terminating at the alleyway between the Little Tavern and the houses along Mechanic Street. That would consist of roughly 165’ of SDR 21 service lateral, 2 45’s, there would be a cleanout and plug, additional sanitary T at the main. And then to be conservative I have estimated a lane width of pavement replacement up Poplar Street. I am just doing that based on there are some good-sized trees close to the roadway for the house at the corner of Poplar and Mechanic Street. It may not be necessary – but I am including it to be conservative. Estimating the Change Order to be about \$15,000. With the savings from the previous 2 Change Orders, we are still doing good with the contingency funds. Dan would like to get the boards approval for Mitch to sign outside of the meeting once the Change Order is prepared.
- Previously the Board approved Mitch signing Change Orders in the amount of \$5,000 and under prior to board meetings.
- The reason for pushing the Change Order through is because it must go to SRF for approval before it can be included in the protect and installation.
- Questions were raised and discussed regarding the septic systems for the house and bar having the same septic system. Owner is the same for the bar and home. Location of septic on properties and depth, and slop of pipe for service was also discussed. Maintenance issues were a concern with Jerry Jackson considering the connection was for a bar/restaurant. Jerry was thinking an 8” pipe might be a better idea. Dan said the cost would most likely be 10K higher but would be a better fit and would serve the homes without any issues. Dan could put together a new cost estimate and get with Jerry to review the new plan to make sure it meets his approval.
- The board discussed the change order amount they were ok with Mitch to sign after Jerry’s review with Dan and his approval of the new lay out.

Dalia Zygas made the motion for Mitch Bishop to sign Change Order #3 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 once it has been reviewed and approved by Jerry Jackson. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

One additional item from Dan

- Pay App #1 from Woodruff & Sons in the amount of \$298,767.81 – JPR reviewed and confirmed the amount.

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to approve Pay App #1 in the amount of \$298,767.81 for Woodruff & Sons. Mark Danielson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) at Fire Department, 3 West Michigan, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371
- Fire Department wants a disclaimer in writing stating and advertised that the Kankakee Fire Department and Township are in no way affiliated with the sewer project.
- Meeting date, place and time confirmed with board.

### **New Business:**

- Sewer Exemption – 1 property going through the process for the sewer exemption.
- Phase I – Sewer Exemption property has expired – Jennifer will send them a letter that they need to have their septic re-inspected to extend their exemption.
- Credit Card – Mitch discussed getting a couple of credit cards or accounts set up for the Board at local places for office supplies and building needs. The board decided to go with Kabelin Ace Hardware and Kemps Office City.

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to approve setting up an account for the Board at Kabelin Ace Hardware and Kemps Office City. John Carr seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- Gary Radtke – MOI – Attorney Barry McDonnell explained that it has been the Board's intent to allow Renasaunse School and the related area to be taken over by the Michigan City Sanitary District – they already take the waste and geographically it makes sense. There will at some point be an agreement between this board and the Sanitary District and when that happens, he wants to see some kind of hold harmless and indemnification agreement – regarding liability if this board has any. At this point Gary is just looking for our approval of this MOI – I believe everyone else who is involved has already approved it – the Sanitary District, the School, property owners. Attorney has no issue with the MOI – Mitch also reviewed it and has no problem nor does Jerry.

Jerry Jackson made the motion to approve the MOI. John Carr seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- IN 811 Locates: - Quote from USIC was received for \$25/ticket. Contract was also received. Questions on the Limitation of Liabilities in the contract for USIC were discussed along with if the property owners' laterals should be located or not.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the quote from USIC once Barry and Jennifer finish reviewing the contract and approve it. Dalia Zygas seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

- Major Moves Money – Jennifer found all the purchase orders for payments made to the County and prepared a spreadsheet. She emailed all board members the spreadsheet and the Ordinance, so all new members had a copy. Tony made a large payment with the balance in an account prior to his retirement, which took care of the \$750/month payments for the 2021 year. The current balance due is \$2,338,051.70.
- Mitch mentioned that himself, the Economic Development Direct and the Redevelopment Director – Stimulus #3 - The American Rescue Plan – we sat down for a couple of hours and discussed eligible projects and what could be funded. One of them of course is the Broad Ban, Sewer and Water Projects, and any account negatively effected by Covid. Road funds because people are driving less. They put together a list of 3 or 4 sewer projects which are related to the Board because they are within the District. One of the ideas, which was a very good idea and brought up by Barry, was to see if the monies due

to the County for Phase I from the Major Moves Money could be paid from the American Rescue Plan. That would help reduce everyone's bill by \$10/month if this could happen.

- Another project that I have not spoken about in a while is the 321 North project. It was bid last year. We asked for 3 Million for that project. We have legal issues with that – we had investors and they are still at the table.
- And then the 3<sup>rd</sup> one is the one we worked on with JPR in the past. There was work done with the public – and that is the extension to Saugany Lake. Mitch spoke to Ken Jones and the plant does not need to be expanded. Nothing would have to be done there. Also, we do have an easement with the Toll Road to reach Saugany Lake. We either asked for 2.5 or 3 Million. Ken thought that would be a close estimate for the project to hook up Saugany Lake.
- It was also brought up – but not sure if it will go through – to get assistance with the lateral connections.
- The Board has no authority of when or if they will get any of this money. This will be all done by the County Council and Commissioners. Mitch talked to a few members and they were in support of a few of the projects.
- Next Meeting will be on May 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., by Zoom.

#### **Old Business:**

- Solar Panel: - Midwest Wind & Solar - Tabled.
- Website Update – Scheduling a meeting with them to set up and add new information to site.
- FOIA Requests – Marcella mentioned that Attorney Barry McDonnell should reply with the information going forward and if he needs Jennifer's help gathering information to let her know. McDonnell wanted to remind everyone that the obligation is to provide documentation and not to provide answers to a series of questions like when you get Interrogatories like when you are being sued. Obviously, if we do not have the documents, we can't provide them. Obviously, the board understands this, and I hope if the public is still listening, they understand that we only have Jennifer, who is a part-time employee, who is dealing with the FOIA requests and the Phase II project and all the other board requests, and we are not slow peddling anything. We want everyone to have everything, but we throw a lot on Jennifer's plate and she does that as efficiently as possible. I am fine with her forwarding them to me and the answers coming from me.
- Sewer Connection Guidelines and Use Ordinance – Update and working on to complete – asking Jerry to send what the City uses currently to compare and review. Will have the Guidelines for review emailed to everyone within the next week.

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn at 10:11 a.m. was made by Jerry Jackson, seconded by Mark Danielson, all in favor.