

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

November 22, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at 809 State Street, Room #3, LaPorte, IN 46350 and by Zoom Meeting, Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015295897?pwd=SjllK0FsYnFzM3B5TFZxNUsxQ0xvdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 1529 5897 Password: 060992

Attendees:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by John Carr, roll call was taken. Those present included the following: John Carr, Mitch Bishop, Dalia Zygus, Marcella Kunstek, Mark Danielson, and Amanda Lahners

Not present: Jerry Jackson

Approval of Minutes:

None to approve this month.

Public Comments:

Tim Grieves – 5589 E Wawasee Trail – Saugany Lake – He heard they were going to have to pay for a grinder and 2 clean outs, he wants someone to look into that and let him know what it will cost. So far, it's 85/month, will it be added to that?

Michael Colfield – 5641 E Oswego Trail – Saugany Lake – Primary residence is in Chicago area. He stated no one ever reached out to him to let him know work on the sewer project would begin. He wants to know who defined the area and how was the scope of the project established. He also wants to know how the interest in this project was determined. He doesn't think the part time residents should have to pay the same amount as full-time residents for this project. He is on a fixed income, and this is a hardship and could possibly cause him to sell the home that has been in his family for almost 100 years.

Robert Smith – Saugany Lake – Wants to know how this project got started. He shared that they don't have enough people on this lake that are interested in a sewer upgrade. Out of 70 homes on the east side of the lake, 43 are empty most of the time. He thinks the majority of homeowners are not for this. He would like to see the money spent on opening a division of the health department that would check out the lakes, testing water etc.

Joyce Forbes – 7661 Lake Park Ave – Hudson Lake – Joyce stated that this project started in 2013 and at that time 2 Homeowner Associations were in favor of this because septic systems

were getting old and were originally designed for small cabins. Many of the homes are larger and permanent residents, there is not enough room for everyone to replace their septic tanks when they fail. She was in attendance at a 2015 meeting when Saugany residents were in favor of this.

Robert Smith made an additional comment: He stated that only the people for the project attended the meeting and the people against did not attend that meeting.

Tom Lode – 5522 E Winona – Saugany Lake – He is the president of Saugany Lake HOA, representing 180 property owners. He said a survey did go out in 2015. His HOA is on the west side of the lake, and he said the HOA is in favor of this project. They would like to eliminate septic tanks. Association worked with Health Dept. to get the die test run. Alga blooms on the lake occur from E.coli. He also commented that there are only 10% of septic documents on file with the Health Dept.

Public Comments were closed.

Reports - Finance Staff:

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

Financial Report

- 1.) Toll Road
 - A.) Beginning balance \$175,530.29 as of October 1, 2022.
 1. Deposits: \$26,960.00
 2. Interest Paid: \$134.15
 3. Disbursements: \$18,050.00
 - B.) Account Ending balance as of October 31, 2022, is \$184,574.44.
- 2.) Rolling Prairie Service Area
 - A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$14,603.55 as of October 1, 2022.
 1. Deposits: \$12,217.67
 2. Interest Paid \$18.19
 3. Disbursements: \$5,913.93
 4. Loan Principal County: \$
 5. Reimbursement: \$0.00
 6. Transfers Bond & Int Acct: \$1,416.67.
 7. Transfers Debt Serv Reserve Acct: \$141.67. Ending Balance of \$6,023.72.
 - B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$19,367.93 as of October 31, 2022.
- 3.) Hoosier Fund: This is picking up to 3.65%, it was at .3% when we started this fund.
 - A.) Beginning balance \$252,586.39 as of October 1, 2022.
 1. Interest Paid: \$597.17
 - B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of October 31, 2022, is \$253,183.56
- 4.) Claims
Steve Carter presented claims for consideration in the amount of \$76,389.66.

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$76,389.66. Seconded by Mark Danielson. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports:

Astbury

- Chris Vogel, nothing to add to the reports submitted. Sludge was hauled. Situation with Flow Meter at the plant.
- Jennifer pointed out that in the packets were 2 proposals for roof repairs. Proposals from Larson Danielson for Pipe Boot Replacement for \$2,860 and Building Eave Repairs in the amount of \$2,385.00.

Marcella Kunstek made a Motion to Approve both proposals from Larson Danielson in the amount of \$2,860 and \$2,385.00. Seconded by Amanda Lahners.

Motion was approved with Mark Danielson abstaining from the vote.

Phase II Billing Update – Jennifer Ransbottom

Jennifer Ransbottom, from JPR gave an update on Phase II -

- Billing: Nothing to report other than what is in the report.

Phase II Update –

- Connections for property owners continue.
- Asset Management Plan Update – Draft plan was emailed to everyone for their review. Dan B and Steve Carter will be going over the final in the next few weeks. Review of all assets and facilities is in the report. Each asset was looked at and evaluated based on failure.
- A cost was applied to each asset – to figure out the annual cost of the system.
- Steve Carter then worked on a capital improvement budget.
- Steve and Dan will review with the engineering committee in the next few weeks and hold a work session. Then the draft will be given to the board at the next meeting for review by the entire board. Then adoption of the AMP the following month.

Hudson/Saugany Project –

- Term Sheets have been sent out for the BAN. Need an officer available to confirm a bid tomorrow when they come in. Board members will sign the acceptance.

Dalia Zygus made a Motion that all Officers of the Board are approved to sign the bid sheet for the BAN. Seconded by Amanda Lahners. Motion was approved by all parties.

A new account at Horizon will need to be set up as well. Need to maximize the interest as best as possible.

- The new Asset Management Plan update to the current one will need to be completed by June 2023.
- Surveying efforts are continuing in Hudson/Saugany.
- Proposed contract breakdown was discussed for the Hudson/Saugany project. A map was shown on Zoom to reflect that breakdown. 5 separate contracts.
- Contract A – WWTP

- Contract B – Pump Stations and Force Mains
- Contract C – Saugany Lake Pressure Sewer
- Contract D – Hudson Lake Pressure Sewer
- Contract E – Hudson Lake Pressure Sewer
- Potentially could have 5 different contractors.

Executive Committee:

- None

Engineering Committee:

- Engineering Committee meeting for January 2023 for project related information.
- Grinder Station Location Policy
- Equipment Pre-Selection-prior to bid of project will put out to bid for vendors.
- Scoring would be done for all bidders/vendors to make selection.

New Business:

- Next Meeting, December 27, 2022
- Pre-Agenda meeting to be held December 20th – John, Marcella, Steve H. Barry, Steve C. Randy, Jennifer
- Whisper Isle Subdivision – information at the December meeting.
- Internal Control Policy – we will start looking at one.
- Annual Budget – we will start looking at one. Astbury, Marcella, Steve and Jennifer will work together on this budget plan.
- Georgette Joyce was unable to use her mike for the public comments so Jennifer read what she typed in – it was as follows: “I am for sewers. There was a public meeting in June. There were quite a few options shared for financial help – maybe folks should look at the meeting minutes from that. Hudson Lake had a study done in 2008 and we had only 7% of septic systems documented. Not having sewers has impacted the ability to sell and improve homes. We need sewers – it is a health issue for people and the lake. Not a popularity contest. We need sewers.”

Old Business:

- Mitch Bishop discussed having a written agreement regarding the easements for Michigan City and giving them the rights. Project is taking longer than anticipated. Ductile water pipe is 9 months out. Project should be done by May/June next year.
- Love’s truck stop should open January 2024.
- Discussions regarding what the board wants to do and waiving the easement fees.
- Barry indicated he had a Resolution for the board to approve. He will send it to Jennifer to provide and approve at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Mark Danielson made the motion to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. Seconded by Marcella Kunstek. Motion approved unanimously.