

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 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, Marcella Kunstek, Jerry Jackson, and Amanda Lahners. Not Present: Mark Danielson.

Approval of Minutes:

Marcella Kunstek made a Motion to approve the minutes from March 26, 2024. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All in favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Christina & Nickalas Soder – 212 W. Mechanic Street – appeared at the meeting to discuss the soil sampling results they received from having their property tested. They indicated they noticed discrepancies in the testing and how it was taken. They want a 3rd party to do the testing.

It was explained to the property owners that it was a 3rd party who does testing regularly and took the soil samples. This was not done by the City or the District themselves.

Further explanation of how the situation occurred was given. Along with the changes which have been made since the incident. Those changes include raising the antenna on the SCADA system so it will not lose signal, along with notifying IN MI Power of the lift station not being shut off at any time. This should ensure that no future incidents occur at this location.

Dan Byam also explained that for the overflow to occur the High-Water Alarm level alarm in this station, which sets off a call to Jerry via SCADA, is located 6” below the inlet piping to the pump station, which is roughly 5’ below existing grade. This means that once an alarm is tripped, wastewater would need to back up the existing gravity sewers and 5’ of tank volume before there would be a spill out of the pump station. By his calcs, this is over 3,000 gallons of storage, meaning that if an outage occurred at the station, Jerry would have approximately 35 hours to respond before the station started overflowing. This is plenty of response time, and the overflow only occurred the first time because of the lack of SCADA coverage, which has been rectified.

Public Comments was closed.

Reports - Finance Staff:

Steve Carter, the Board's accountant, presented the financial report to the board with the following reports and reported that Month End reports have been completed and reconciled to the bank accounts.

Financial Report

1.) Toll Road

A.) Beginning balance \$103,032.00 as of March 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$56,977.00
2. Interest Paid: \$219.51
3. Disbursements: \$17,173.50
4. Voided check \$0.00

B.) Account Ending balance as of March 31, 2024, is \$143,055.01.

2.) Rolling Prairie Service Area

A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$203,534.32 as of March 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$(12m195,08) and interest Paid \$421.96
2. SRF Deposit Reimbursements \$0.00.
3. Bond Proceeds: \$0.00.
4. Disbursements: 3,116.68.
5. Loan Principal County: \$3,660.00
6. Reimbursement: \$0.00
7. Transfers Debt Service \$283.34, Bond & Int Acct: \$2,833.34
8. Loan Payment paid: \$0.00
9. Transfers Debt Serv Reserve Acct: Paid \$283.34, ending Balance \$6,516.80, Bond & Interest Acct: \$2,833.34, Ending Balance of \$35,147.16.

B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$176,228.44 as of March 31, 2024.

3.) Hoosier Fund:

A.) Beginning balance \$349,201.82, March 1, 2024.

1. Interest Paid: \$1,601.51.
2. Transfer Funds: \$0.00

B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of March 31, 2024, is \$350,803.33.

4.) Hudson/Saugany – Horizon Account.

A.) Beginning balance \$2,412,165.75 as of March 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$0
2. Interest Paid: \$10,216.60
3. Reimbursements: \$0.00
4. Disbursements: \$40,391.47
5. Bank Fees: \$0.00

C.) Account Ending balance as of March 31, 2024, is \$2,371,774.28.

5.) Claims

Steve Carter presented claims in the amount of \$66,455.42.

Amanda Lahners made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$66,455.42. Seconded by Mitch Bishop. All in Favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports:

Astbury

- No report received by Astbury for the meeting. Chris Vogeler was on Zoom from Astbury and indicated that there was nothing to report. He did say the compressor was in but not yet installed.

JPR Billing/Collection:

- Jennifer Ransbottom reported there is nothing more than what is in the report.

Phase II Update –

- Dan Byam reported, and he is waiting on SRF’s response to PER Amendment #4 for the Rolling Prairie Phase II project. He is expecting approval before next meeting.
- Dan Byam also presented the quote he received to get 4 generators at the 4 pump stations sites in Rolling Prairie. They would cost approximately \$20K/each and then another \$5-\$10K for installation each. The District would be looking at spending around \$100-\$120K for all 4 generators and installation. Dan further indicated that the current grinders have generator connections to use for any issues and the overflow happened because there was a perfect storm. Since that time, the issues have been resolved as he previously mentioned. Dan recommended that the District not purchase any generators at this time as the current grinder pumps have
- All grinders are also installed in the right-of-way.
- It was also mentioned that if the District did move forward with purchasing these generators and installation it would deplete the Rolling Prairie funds by more than half of their current balance. This could result in increased rates if future needs in Rolling Prairie arrive.
- Property owners, Soders, spoke again indicating that they believed it was necessary to install the generator at this site due to their property being at the lowest point and heaviest contributor to the grinder is the Tavern.
- Discussion regarding installing only 1 generator at the site of the Soder property was held. Attorney McDonnell gave his legal opinion that it was not an innovative idea to install only 1 and all 4 should be installed if any. He does not believe that it should be selectively installed to solve a problem. The current grinder is what is the norm for installation and is better than the norm. The testing was done, and it was determined that there are no long-term issues.
- Discussion regarding having an executive meeting was held and they will review.

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM DAN B.

Hudson/Saugany Update:

1. General

a. Proposed Project Contracts

i. Phase I

1. Contract A – Saugany Lake Pump Station and Force Main
2. Contract B -Saugany Lake Wastewater Collection System

ii. Phase II

1. Contract A – Travel Plaza #3 WWTP Expansion
2. Contract B – Hudson Lake Pump Station and Force Main

3. Contract C -Hudson Lake Collection System I
- iii. Phase III
 1. Contract A -Hudson Lake Collection System II
 2. Contract B -Hudson Lake Collection System III
 3. Contract C -Hudson Lake Collection System IV
2. **Wastewater Treatment Plant**
 - a. Design of WWTP Improvements to be included in the Phase I Project is ongoing, expected to be completed by the time the permit applications are submitted in May.
 - b. Proposed WWTP Expansion for Phases II and III will be designed in late 2024.
3. **Wastewater Collection System**
 - a. Preliminary Plan and profile alignment and drawings
 - i. Finalizing design of Saugany Lake pressure sewers and adjusted mainline force mains.
 - ii. Saugany Lake electrical distribution system layout complete.
 - iii. Conducting a thorough engineering review of the project in the next month prior to the construction permit application submittals.
 - iv. IDEM Construction Permit for Phase I project expected to be submitted in May 2024.
 - v. Hudson Lake pressure sewer system plan and profile drawings to be continued to be worked on later this year.
4. **Land Acquisition**
 - a. Grinder Station Easements
 - i. JPR is continuing to meet with property owners to discuss grinder station placement.

Purchase Agreement was discussed for property owner at Saugany. There will be a closing set for the property. The District will need to wire the funds to Meridian Title for the closing.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the wire transfer of \$10,600 to Meridian Title for the closing. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All in Favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Mitch Bishop made an amended Motion to approve a not to exceed amount of \$12,000 to Meridian Title for the property closing which will include additional costs for Meridian. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All in Favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Income Study – Discussion regarding JPR is waiting on additional information from funding source prior to sending out and starting the Income Study.

Engineering Committee

- None.

New Business:

- Next Meeting, May 28, 2024.
- Steve Carter presented his Engagement Letter.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter from Krohn & Associates. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All in Favor. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- Rate Ordinance – Barry still has for his review and will have it for meeting in May.

Adjournment:

Mitch Bishop made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Seconded by Marcella Kunstek. All in Favor. Motion approved unanimously.