

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 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 Mitch Bishop, roll call was taken. Those present included the following: Mitch Bishop, Jerry Jackson, Marcella Kunstek, and Mark Danielson.

Approval of Minutes:

Marcella Kunstek made a Motion to approve the minutes from June 25, 2024. Mark Danielson seconded it. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Ronald Nowak, 523 Lakeside Street, LaPorte, Indiana. Provided a petition with 28 signatures that did not want to be part of the Hudson/Saugany Project. There are 28 ½ lots that have 7.5 acres north and 17.95 acres east. An address noted within this subdivision is 1938 N. Whisper Crossings. Concern regarding providing and installing City Water and Sewer in the neighborhood. Jennifer Ransbottom reported a study was conducted to include the subdivision, and it was decided not to be included at this time. Jerry Jackson also indicated that the sewer that runs along SR 2 is city-owned and that subdivision would need to be annexed into the City and there is no request for annexation. Barry McDonnell also indicated there is no intention for water and the only water is to the toll plaza.

Harvey Adams, 1812 N. Whisper Crossing, LaPorte, Indiana if sewer was not approved or allocated why did John Carr tell him face to face that it is coming, and they cannot stop it. The majority of the board has no plans to do anything in this area.

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.) Hudson/Saugany

A.) Beginning balance of \$2,310,792.28 as of June 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$0.00
2. Interest Paid: \$9,790.79
3. Disbursements: \$26,094.15
4. Voided check \$0.00

B.) Account Ending balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$2,294,488.92.

2.) Rolling Prairie Service Area

A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$190,173.10 as of June 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$32,194.34 and interest Paid \$411.92
2. SRF Deposit Reimbursements \$7,000.00.
3. Bond Proceeds: \$0.00
4. Disbursements: \$1,121.27
5. Loan Principal County: \$0.00
6. Reimbursement: \$0.00
7. Transfers Debt Service \$0.00, Bond & Int Acct: \$0.00
8. Loan Payment paid: \$0.00
9. Transfers Debt Serv Reserve Acct: Balance \$6,800.14, Bond & Interest Acct: Ending Balance of \$37,980.50. Total ending balance \$273,438.73

B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$228,658.09 as of June 30, 2024.

3.) Hoosier Fund:

A.) Beginning balance \$353,976.36, June 30, 2024.

1. Interest Paid: \$1,570.62.
2. Transfer Funds: \$0.00.

B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$355,546.98.

4.) Toll Road – Horizon Account.

A.) Beginning balance \$164,976.12 as of June 1, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$28,488.50
2. Interest Paid: \$305.76.
3. Reimbursements: \$0.00
4. Disbursements: \$16,732.83
5. Bank Fees: \$0.00

C.) Account Ending balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$177,037.55

5.) Claims

Steve Carter presented claims for \$18,988.66

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve the claims for \$18,988.66. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All in Favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Astbury

- Chris Vogeler was on Zoom from Astbury and reported there were electrical issues possibly due to power surges, caused by the blower (aeration) units to cease operation over the weekend of July 31. SCADATA telemetry did not notify Astbury staff of this issue, which deprived the biomass of dissolved oxygen and led to elevated NH-3 levels.

The blowers were successfully restarted on Monday, July 15, but another apparent electrical issue caused a recurrence of the issue during the week. The blowers are back in operation with no further issues observed. “Seed” sludge from another nearby treatment plant was introduced to the biomass. Daily checks will be conducted until the issue is resolved. A report was submitted to the IDEM. A quote for a new Scadata will be obtained by JPR. A list of parameters that are alarmed on the Scadata will be provided at the next meeting.

JPR Billing/Collection:

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

Phase II Update –

- Dan Byam reached out to BL Anderson on the PER #4 additional funds expenditure. They are to have an employee on-site July 24 and July 25 to tie in the level control and Scadata improvements for the two pump stations.

Hudson/Saugany Update:

1. General

- a. Proposed Project Contracts
 - 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 are ongoing.
 - i. JPR will have the IDEM Permit ready for the District Board President’s signature by the week of August 5, 2024.
- 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 alignment of revised force main route along county roads
 - ii. JPR will have IDEM Permit ready for the District Board President’s signature by the week of August 5, 2024.
 - iii. 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.

Jerry Jackson made a motion to allow President John Carr to sign the Construction Permit prior to the next meeting. Seconded by Marcella Kunstek. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Income Study – The Income Study letter was mailed out last week. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

2nd Notice Letter for Easements – The second letter was mailed to property owners at Saugany who have not returned their signed and notarized easements.

Engineering Committee

- The Engineering Committee met on July 9. Minor edits to the rate ordinance were made.
- Notice of Statutory Exemption and Extension of Service Letters will be sent once the permits are signed.

New Business:

- Next Meeting, August 27, 2024.
- Pre-Agenda Meeting, August 20, 2024 @ 9:00 AM, Attendees: John, Marcella, Barry, Steve C, Dan, Jennifer and Steve H.
- Transit Development District – possibilities for Saugany/Hudson project – John Car to update information.

Old Business:

- Mark Danielson made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2nd Reading of the Rate Ordinance. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously. Barry McDonnell noted the rate ordinance does not change the rates for the current customers, Rolling Prairie nor the Toll Plaza. It is more comprehensive and does not change rates for residential but does change for commercial properties. Rate Ordinance is 2024-01. Motion was made by Mark Danielson to approve the 2nd Reading of the Rate Ordinance. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Mark Danielson made a motion to have the 3rd and Final Reading of the Rate Ordinance. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark Danielson made a motion to approve the 3rd and Final Reading of the amended and restated Rate Ordinance. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Marcella Kunstek made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Interlocal Agreement – County - \$1.5M – Barry McDonnell reported he needs a letter for the County Commissioners indicating will be receiving matching funds. He stated this is probably something JPR could probably together indicating this.

Adjournment:

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to adjourn at 9:48 a.m. Seconded by Mark Danielson. All in Favor. The motion was approved unanimously.