LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES
June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:
The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 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

A. Call to Order
John Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call
Roll call was taken.

Present: John Carr, Mitch Bishop, Corey Campbell (arrived at 9:25 AM), Mark Danielson, and Amanda Lahners

Absent: Jerry Jackson, and Marcella Kunstek

Also Present: Daniel Byam, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Ken Jones, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Steve Carter, O.W. Krohn & Associates
Barry McDonnell, Esq
Jennifer Ransbottom, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Chris Vogeler, Astbury (via Zoom)

D. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 26, 2026, Monthly Board meeting were presented.
Mark Danielson made a motion to approve the May 26, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Amanda Lahners. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Comments:

Denise Blough, 5622 East 800 North – I had forwarded a statement and timeline prior. I am here regarding a billing issue. It is clarification, and I feel it is a misunderstanding and I want to clarify active business. We do not do business like this, and we want to have a good relationship. Amanda can speak to that because we've talked about this sewer many years ago, and we do not oppose the sewer coming in. What happened was, unfortunately, we have a property that has 2 buildings on it. We applied for an exemption, and we received the exemption because it is a new building, and a new system was put in. With that exemption, we made the assumption that it was for the entire property where there is 2 buildings. One of the buildings is a primary building that was just built, and the other is was there and is basically used as a storage shed right now, but it could be used as a house. We don't use it that way, and there is no running water, and we didn't until now that we are doing all of this. So we made the assumption that the billing that started last July was just a misunderstanding and that it would make a correction to itself. It did not make that correction to itself. We are not at our primary property a lot, we are back and forth, so our communication is not really good, billing started, and we did not pay the bill. We did not address the billing because we did not want to compromise our original exemption. That was our only concern: having an original exemption on the primary property. Proceeding on the timeline of events, we were out of the country from February until the beginning of April. In February, before I left, I addressed Chris at the Billing Department that they needed something contractual that protects their primary property exemption. As soon as we get that, I asked her to make a note of that. I asked her what I would need to do; basically, our communication was not good because we did not know who to communicate with. I got back and reached out to Amanda, who gave me directions to come to the meeting. I came to a meeting and met with Mr. McDonnell and Jennifer, and we worked out an agreement. We were sent a revision of the easement agreement that protects our primary property; we signed it and returned it. We would like to clear up the billing. We want to be good customers, and we want to have a good relationship with the Board. I am willing to pay $690.00, which is a baseline cost and does not include late fees. We are asking for the release of the lien.

F. Reports

1. Steve Carter – Claims and Finance

   Steve Carter reported the following financials for the month of May.

   a. Rolling Prairie

      i. Receipts for the month: $13,581

      ii. Operating Disbursements: $4,005

      iii. Interest Income: $329

      iv. Loan Payment to the County: $1,830

      v. Net positive cash flow for the month: $7,574.93

      vi. Total ending balance: $413,878.68

      Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances

      a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): $390,051.42

b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): $16,190.50
c. Bond & Interest (BONY): $7,636.76

b. Hudson Saugany Service Area
i. Receipts for the month: $5,932.11
ii. Operating Disbursements: $510.00
iii. Interest Income: $2,730.73
iv. Bond Proceeds from SRF: $276,098
vi. Ending Cash Balance: $861,845.251
Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon Checking): $124,078.10
b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): $18,553
c. Bond & Interest Account (BONY): $37,203
d. Construction Fund (Hoosier Fund): $751,564
e. Construction Fund (BONY): $6,143

c. Toll Road – Horizon Account.
i. Receipts for the month: $34,357.79
ii. Operating Disbursements: $22,306.80
iii. Interest Income: $561.24
iv. Total Positive Cash Flow: $12,612.23
v. Total Ending Balance: $298,883.78
Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances
a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): $172,823.32
b. Improvement Fund (Hoosier Fund): $126,060.46

Steve Carter, indicted for the Horizon checking for Rolling Prairie, has accumulated a significant balance. Earning about 9.5% on the money in this account. On the Hoosier fund, earning about 3.5%, and may want to look at moving some money from Horizon to the Hoosier fund.

Mark Danielson made a motion to transfer $200,000 from the Rolling Prairie Horizon fund to the Rolling Prairie Hoosier fund. Mitch Bishop seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Steve Carter indicated the Hudson Saugany Horizon account balance is approximately $48,000 and has payments to make totaling approximately $56,000. A transfer from the Hoosier fund to Horizon operating. He recommended transferring $200,000 to cover a couple of months of payments.

Mitch Bishop made a motion to transfer $200,000 from the Hudson Saugany Hoosier fund to the Hudson Saugany Horizon fund. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Claims
Claims for the month totaling $89,257.38 for all three service territories

Mitch Bishop made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Astbury Water Technologies
   a. Operations

      Chris Vogeler indicated there were a few maintenance issues at the waste treatment plant with the compressor and backflow preventer, which have been taken care of. After one of the storms, he had to reset some alarms at the waste treatment plant. Sludge removal from the waste treatment plant has been scheduled.

      Barry McDonnell inquired about the status of the water leak issue at the toll plaza. Jennifer Ransbottom reported JPR is working on a quote to replace the travel plaza water mains. Toll Road was sent an invoice for $7,287.50 for the overflow charge, and the District is awaiting payment.

   b. Billing

      Jennifer Ransbottom stated that Astbury's billing information was included in the Board's packet.

G. JPR District Administrator

1. Variance Invoices for Property Owners

   This information was included in the Board packet.
2. Toll Road – Emergency Repair and Water Leak Update

   This item was discussed above.
3. Overflow Charges – May $7,287.50

   This item was discussed above.
4. Customer Connection Process Update - Saugany Lake

   Jennifer Ransbottom stated the customer connection process needed to be reviewed and updated, as this was last done at Rolling Prairie. This will be reviewed with the Engineering Committee in the future.
5. Blough – Email past due amount and Lien

   Barry McDonnell indicated the Board needed to make a determination regarding the release of the lien. The billing for July 2025 through July 2026 was $690.00, which was $57.50 per month. The Bloughs were asking for a waiver of the lien fees and late charges during that time. Ms. Blough stated the lien fees were $150.00 and a late fee of $5.75 per month.

   Mark Danielson made a motion for the Bloughs to pay the bill from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, and the lien fees and waive the late fees. Mitch Bishop seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

H. JPR – District Engineer

1. Hudson/Saugany Project Construction Update
   Dan Byam reported the construction contract is about 70% complete. Contract A, TGB is 100% complete with drilling of the force main pipe, but still has the jack and bore, tie-ins, and ARV's to install. Selge is 83% complete with 68% of the grinders installed. Selge indicated at the last meeting that they will have grinders and pressure sewer installation completed by the end of July.

   a. Contract A – TGB Pay App #11
      Dan Byam presented Contract A - TGB's Pay App #11 for $466,363.16. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

      Mitch Bishop made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #11 for $466,363.16. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

   b. Contract A – TGB Change Order # 6
      Dan Byam presented Contract A – TGB Change Order #6 indicated this change order is for a net increase of $315,127.71. The Change Order is for a 37-linear-foot extension of the casing pipe as a result of having to drop the jack and bore installation 10 feet deeper, extending to push the casing past a NIPSCO gas and power pole on the north side to avoid having to protect it during construction. Also, additional excavation costs were associated with the jack and bore extension as a result of making it deeper. When reviewing this change order, the District should receive credit because the excavation costs per cubic yard to construct the pits were initially built into the unit price of the casing pipe, and using TGB's labor numbers, the credit numbers were worked, and TGB offered it back as part of the estimate. This ended up being approximately $13,000. This change order was requested by the railroad. When the project initially bid, there were some existing signal wires and other items in the railroad right-of-way that were not aware of until after the project bid. JPR was going from the information provided by the railroad. The final additional charge was that TGB ran into some unsuitable soils on County Road 800 when they were boring, and they had to cut the road in order to determine where this ended, which contributed to approximately $5,000. If this change order moves forward, $80,000 will be left in construction contingency plus variance payments on the project. JPR is expecting another $40,000 deduct to the District because of over estimation on some quantities.

      Mark Danielson made a motion to approve Contract A – TGB's Change Order #6 for a net deduction of $315,127.71. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed, with Mitch Bishop voting no. The motion carried.

c. Contract B – Selge Pay App #9
Dan Byam indicated that Pay App #9 for $445,596.79. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Amanda Lahners made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #9 for $445,596.79. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Byam indicated that JPR continues to review and update the budget for Phase 2 of the project to reduce costs and make the project more affordable, and that it will be presented to the Board in the coming months.

Ken Jones indicated JPR is attempting to deliver a project that the Board can feel comfortable with from a rate standpoint. Congressman Yakim's office has indicated that they have allocated funds for the Phase 2 project. The amount of funds is not close to the $4M requested, but they allocated $850,000. We are asking them to increase it to $1M.

Ken Jones stated regarding the water leak at the travel plaza, ITR has asked JPR to do the design work to replace their water main.

I. Executive Committee - 2026 Budget Information - Ongoing
No report

J. Finance Committee
No Meeting

K. Engineering Committee
No report

L. New Business
1. Pre-Agenda Meeting & Attendees – John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Corey Campbell, Barry McDonnell, Dan Byam, and Jennifer Ransbottom. Next meeting is July 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central (10:00 AM Eastern)
2. Next Meeting – July 28, 2026, in person and via Zoom/Teams links.

M. Old Business

1. Rolling Prairie Lift Station SCADA Follow Up - Jerry Jackson
   Dan Byam indicated this repair has been resolved.
2. Flow Meter Repair – 1083 E SR 2 – LaPorte Village Manufactured Home Community (Account #M014173-0)
   Dan Byam indicated he reached out to the LaPorte City Engineer, who indicated they needed the District to shut down the electric service to that flow meter, and they will then make the necessary repairs and will invoice the District. Mark Danielson requested to know what the time and estimated cost will be for it to be repaired. Dan Byam will follow up with the request.
3. Mark Danielson inquired about the status of the vandalism that was occurring. Jennifer Ransbottom reported that vandalism is continuing to occur, and cameras have been installed with pictures of individuals. There have been reports, and an investigation is ongoing. Mitch Bishop inquired about how much vandalism has been incurred. Ken Jones reported that damage has been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and both contractors' materials have been affected. Both contractors have been informed that the damage costs are their responsibility as they are owners of the project until it is turned over to the District through substantial completion. If the contractors feel they need to, they can file an insurance claim with their carriers.

N. Adjournment

Mitch Bishop made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. Second by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

"J:\Projects\2019 Projects\2019-0071 Laporte\Administrative Tasks\Board Packets\2026\7-28-2026\D.1. 2026-06-23 Meeting Minutes.doc"