

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
TURKEY CREEK REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT**

The Board of Trustees of the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District met in the Office of the said District, 4852 North 1200 West, Cromwell, Indiana, on the 16th of March 2020. Such meeting pursuant to annual notice in accordance with the rules of the Board of Trustees and I.C. 5-14-1.5.

President Boone read the following: Public comments or questions will be addressed during the "General Public Business" section of tonight's agenda. Therefore if anyone has a comment to present which has not already been presented, or a question to ask which has not previously been asked please do so when acknowledged by the Board. State your name and you will be allowed 2 minutes for your comment or discussion of you question.

President Boone called for the roll of members of the Board shown to be present or absent is as follows:

PRESENT

Dan Mikolajczak
James Boone
Keith Ort
Robert Dumford

ABSENT

Donald DeWitt
James Young

Also present were Timothy Woodward-District Superintendent, Jeff Hersha of Jones and Henry, Andy Boxberger of Carson LLP, Michael and Karen Williams of Microbyte, Chelsea Los of The Paper, Jane Bauer, Assistant Manager, Alisa Martin Office Clerk and Pam Johns-Office Manager. There were also five individuals from the public in attendance.

With the new regulations due to the COVID-19 President Boone changed the order of the agenda for the meeting. He requested that Jeff Hersha of Jones and Henry go first so that public business could be taken care of first and people could leave if they wanted.

Attorney Boxberger stated that the update regarding NEAR would be first, followed by any questions from the public, after which it would not be discussed again during the meeting.

Jeff reported that the Preliminary Engineering Report had been completed and sent to Baker Tilly for review and for cost analysis.

Jeff stated that grants are being looked into and the first step in that process is an income study. He presented an agreement for services to be done by Priority Project Resources, Inc. After discussion the motion was made by Vice President Dumford to have Priority Project do an income survey at a cost of \$3000.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dan Mikolajczak and carried. In order to qualify the area must meet a 51% income threshold.

Jeff verified that the grants being looked into were based on income and not wealth.

The Board was asked how the need for a sewer system is determined. Attorney Boxberger stated that need is determined by the State and Health Department. He reminded people that regulations have changed and some properties that had septic service in the past may not be able to get a permit in the future if their current system fails. Regulations have changed over the years and if the property could not install a new septic system to replace a failed system and there was not sewer service available the property would be condemned by the health department if a pump and haul system could not be installed and approved.

Jeff responded to the questions that had been submitted via email.

1. Current cost as related to the law passed in 1977 regarding connecting to the sewer. Jeff stated that he could not speak to the intent of the state but did state that the estimated cost of \$15,000.00 today based on inflation would have been \$3600.00 in 1977.

2. When asked about elderly individuals not being able to handle the cost. Jeff pointed out that hook up requirements are dictated by the state. The District must comply with the requirements of the state and local health departments. It was stated that the cost covers all aspects for conveyance and treatment. People were reminded that the District does not make money (profit). It is simply a steward of the funds generated by user fees to maintain fiscal viability and operation of the Utility.

3. Bonar Lake area-it has not yet been determined if the line would include Bonar Lake at this time.

4. When asked, Jeff reviewed the exception rules regarding staying on septic. This is a health department decision and at the current time an exception may be granted if the septic system is less than 10 years old. After 10 years from installation the health department may issue two further exceptions of five years each after which time the property must be connected to the District. All exemptions are approved and issued by the Kosciusko Health Dept. and not the District.

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Attorney Boxberger also reminded everyone that if for any reason sewage ends up on the ground within the District boundaries it is the District's responsibility to clean it up and report it to IDEM. This is even if there currently is no service available to that property.

He also reminded everyone that the Board was appointed by the Governor and Trustees with the goal of providing service to as many people as possible while working with IDEM and using their discretion to determine economic viability and environmental protection.

If the District does decide to extend service to the Northshore area property owners would be notified by letter and then they would then have 90 days to submit the determination that they would be exempt from hook up. This must be done prior to the District going ahead with financing and acquiring bonds.

Tim reminded everyone that even if a new home had been built on a property that does not mean a new septic system was installed, many times a home is allowed to hook up to the existing system when tear downs and rebuilds are taking place.

A property owner asked Jeff about Health Department records. He verified that after researching all permits in the NEAR area over 60 % were over 30 years old. Jeff had checked all septic permits and presented the information at the October meeting, he will send the information out to the property owner requesting it.

When asked what system was being looked at, Jeff reported that 4 options were looked at: gravity, vacuum, grinder pump and a hybrid system. The reports include initial cost and operating cost. All reports were passed along to the rate consultants for review and will be reported on.

Trustee Mikolajczak reminded everyone that the Board members' homes and businesses are hooked up to TCRSD. Board members always try to make good financial decisions and do not make these decisions lightly.

President Boone verified that each Board Member had a copy of the minutes from the February 17, 2020 meeting and the Special meeting of February 21, 2020.

Trustee Dumford made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mikolajczak and carried.

After reviewing the claims the motion was made by Trustee Mikolajczak to pay claim #'s 1692-1697 from the Water Fund plus claim #'s 1650,1661-1691 and 1698 the Operation & Maintenance Fund. Also approved were check #'s 2142, 48-9 from the Water Fund and's 17117-23, 17132, 44, 17156-7, 59-60 and 17171-78 from the O & M Fund. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ort and carried.

Attorney Boxberger presented Resolution 2020-01. This resolution allows payment of claims for expenses in advance of Board Approval during the Covid-19 emergency. The resolution was introduced by Trustee Mikolajczak, seconded by Vice President Dumford and approved by the Board.

Tim reported on the new RAS Pumps. He also reported that they had finished installing all the flow dishes which has resulted in a 60 % flow reduction from these areas. Sludge is also being hauled out to the approved farm fields in order to gear up for the season. The goal is to haul 300,000 gallons this spring. It saves money for both the farmers (\$7.00/acre) and the District. A property owner is looking to install a private sewer along Hesitation Way with a recapture agreement. Tim will keep the Board updated.

The screener maintenance originally scheduled for May was able to be done early and has been completed.

Employee Health insurance is up for renewal May 1, 2020 and due to the possibility of not having a meeting in April it was decided to present it at the March Meeting. After discussion Trustee Mikolajczak made the motion to renew the employee insurance with Anthem Blue Cross-Blue Shield. The motion was seconded by Vice President Dumford and carried.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, Vice President Dumford made the motion to adjourn.

Trustee Ort seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m.

April 20, 2020

James Boone, President

Respectfully, submitted by:


Pam Johns, Office Manager