

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M. HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

CALL TO ORDER: Raymond Turri called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

ATTENDANCE: Board members attending Raymond Turri, James Mersfelder, Richard Reis, Dave Hazan, Alternate Jerry Abrahams, also attending Tax Collector/Clerk Laurie Mosley and Plant Superintendent Mark Theriault.

EXCUSED: Alfred Shull, Norval Lunan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular board meeting held November 9, 2021 was presented for approval. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY**, Richard Reis seconded by David Hazan; to approve said minutes as presented. No corrections or discussions. **ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

REPORT FROM PLANT SUPERINTENDENT AKA CHIEF OPERATOR- MARK THERIAULT

- Mark had the flatbed at P+C repair for an oil leak. The clutch fan also needed to be replaced. The new clutch fan is OEM and is sticking, another new fan was ordered.
- Mark has the plow and sander ready for winter. The equipment has been greased, oiled and serviced so all should go well when it comes time to use them.
- Eastern Water was here to do the biannual wet-well cleaning. Lots of grit and grease was found at all stations, some more than others. They also found the usual small rocks at 6 and 9 along with the pea stone that is always found at station 7. The rock catchers Mark had installed at 6 and 9 continue to hold back the stones and prevent costly impeller and volute repairs.
- Mark and Jim met with DPC on the collection system repairs. They walked the areas where the repairs are to be done due to access concerns. Collectively they put a list of repairs together. Dave has the project out to bid.
- Tower Generator will be here the week after next to service all the generators.
- Mark reported that everything was going well until last night when the level indicator fell in the wet well, shutting its use down. In turn, they had to work through the night, dealing with how to fix it. Starting with lowering the wet well, and clarifier, once they found the issue, they reattached the level indicator. Throughout the whole event, many mishaps occurred. By morning, all was done.
- Ray Turri reported that during the past week, the board had received an email from Mark stating one of our employees had given in his notice. His reason for leaving was for better hourly pay. Mark had researched and reported how the plant was well below the average hourly wages for Operators in Training (OIT) compared to other local plants. In March, the district approved a \$2 an hour increase on the completion of their Class 1 test however, with Covid restrictions and changes to testing dates, the test was not offered when the employees were ready to take it. It was decided to give the (2) employee OIT's a \$2 increase retro to July 1 to get them up to the going rate. Going forward, we will contact other surrounding plants and survey what the pay rate is for all class levels of wastewater employees to have a benchmark to follow. Discussion occurred on how we need to pay a little more than the surrounding plants, we are small, employees need to live close to the plant (for on call purposes), and employees

have to work in all areas of the plant, unlike the larger plants. After the survey is complete the board can discuss a pay scale for the employees to have as a goal (to move up through certification in class levels). The employee has decided to stay with an increase in salary. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY**, Jim Mersfelder seconded by Richard Reis; to pay our 2 OIT employees an additional \$2 an hour retro to July 1 until today for their respective hours worked and to increase their pay by the same, No discussion. **ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED**
Mark thanked the board for listening and helping him keep his good employees.

FLOWS: The average daily flow for November was 105,000gpd and the total rainfall was 3.85in the average daily flow to date for December is 89,000gpd and the rainfall has be ¾ of an inch.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY; Richard Reis seconded by Jim Mersfelder; to seat Alternate Jerry Abrahams as a voting member at 3:19PM in the absence of Alfred Shull, No discussion. **ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS:

David reported that November was a quiet month. Things to note- we collected another permit/connection fee under income, under expenses we had all the wet well cleaned which is an expense (but budgeted) procedure, we also had a very high tractor repair cost. David commented that the accountant Darrin Newbury will be in the office this week to make the auditors journal adjustments to the audit and then David can put together a excel budget sheet with the adjusted amounts. Laurie commented that the capital improvement line is not on the income statement sheet (that shows expenses) it is on the expense report. She has created a job list to break out all the capital costs for the board to see in an itemized spreadsheet.

Delinquent Report. Laurie reported that Delinquent collections are doing well. Much lower than the past couple years. State Marshal Arthur Quinn is now handling our Tax Warrants and has already collected in full one warrant (in December).

At 3:25PM A MOTION WAS MADE BY Richard Reis, seconded by Jerry Abrahams to go into Executive Session pursuant to CGS Sec. 1-200(6)(B) - strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation to which the public agency is a party – Welte v. WLSL litigation. No discussion, **ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:26PM.

At 3:26PM A MOTION WAS MADE BY Alfred Shull, seconded by Richard Reis to go into Executive Session pursuant to CGS Sec. 1-200(6)(B) - strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and pending litigation to which the public agency is a party – Compliance with DEEP Consent Order. No discussion, **ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:34PM.

OLD BUSINESS- Ray reported that the DPC I&I project planning has had no new information.

NEW BUSINESS- Ray reported that the board had decided to start in person meetings again at the clubhouse however the WLPOA had decided not to open the clubhouse to meeting currently due to the new COVID variant. We will continue to meet remotely.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING- None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jerry Abrahams, seconded by Richard Reis, to adjourn at 3:38PM. No discussion, **SO VOTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Turri, President (Acting Clerk for Alfred Shull's excused absence)

Laurie Mosley, Recording Clerk

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY
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