

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WASHINGTON COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT MEETING ROGERS ISLAND VISITORS CENTER

July 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Carpenter, Matt Traver, Tim Fisher, Mike Fiorillo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Washburn, James Maskell

OTHERS PRESENT: Joseph Brilling; Executive Director, Acting
Matthew Fuller; Meyer, Fuller & Stockwell
Leah Whaley; Administrative Assistant

Mr. Traver called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Roll call was taken. Mr. Traver asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of 06/13/23. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Fiorillo, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Brilling advised the board that he spoke with the county treasurer regarding sewer district staffing and rates and was made aware that if all vacant positions were filled in the district, it would roughly be a \$300,000 annual cost. This budgetary need will be discussed further and worked through with the work group. The annual cost would also drive a rate increase up for sewer users in the district. Filling the position for Senior Operator and two Operator Trainees is a current priority for the district. Mr. Brilling plans to move forward with filling these positions during this budget year and next budget year. Mr. Fiorillo raised the question whether there should be a plan in place should a new employee leave after the district funds their training. Mr. Brilling will check with civil service law regarding schooling reimbursement.

The district had originally budgeted \$42,000 for an electric truck but the bid came back at a significantly larger cost. A new gas truck has been priced out at \$50,097. The district is looking for a budget amendment for this purchase. A motion to accept a budget amendment for the price of a new truck was made by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Fisher, all in favor and the motion carried.

A reimbursement request in the amount of \$440.00 was received from the homeowner at 564 Lower Oak St. The homeowner reached out to the sewer district first and after the district staff did not find any obstructions, they advised the homeowner to call a plumber. It was then determined there were roots in the line on the district end. A motion was made to reimburse the homeowner for the IBS invoice in the amount of \$440.00 was made by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Fiorillo and the motion carried.

Mr. Brillling advised that once the new Sewer Use Ordinance is adopted, moving forward these situations will be at the responsibility of the homeowner, their responsibility being from the property out to the main. Mr. Traver would like to look into sending a notice out during fall billing with this new information. Mr. Brillling would like it to be posted on the county website as well.

Mr. Fuller updated the board that the MPR is completed for the extension of WCSD#1 to encompass Kingsbury SD#1, north of Casey Rd. Kingsbury will dissolve the sewer district at the town level and the county sewer district will be extended to incorporate that district. Next week the county will set the public hearing for the August meeting for the extension of the district. The resolution drafted by Mr. Fuller is a recommendation by the Board of Commissioners for the Board of Supervisors to accept the MPR, and to set the public hearing on this. A motion to accept the drafted resolution was made by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Fiorillo, all in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Brillling stated he has no current updates on the Irving Tissue project. Mr. Traver spoke briefly on a meeting he was part of regarding the project. Irving Tissue has their responses from DEC and from the district at this point, and conversation is taking place on how best to move forward. Irving has not yet responded to the engineering report received.

Mr. Brillling provided an update on the WWTP capital construction project. The grit system is now online and working well. One of the digesters has been drained and the mobile dewatering has begun. The concrete on the outside has been sounded and is all good, which is a huge cost saving to the project. The tanks will still need to be drained before moving forward on the Cogen, the boiler, and the piping. The third effluent screw will be installed and completed within the next two weeks.

Mr. Fuller gave a quick update to the board regarding septage receiving/hauling and the limitations of where septage can be taken in the surrounding region and what issues this may cause down the road. Mr. Fuller advised that he has been in contact with Derek Thorsland at DEC regarding this impending issue and how it will impact the SPDES permits.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Fisher, all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leah Whaley