

**LIBERTY REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2020**

The LRWD board meeting was called to order by President Steve Knoté @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held live with social distancing and masks.

Members participating were: Brent Devine, Bruce Reinke and Steve Knoté. Steve Graves joined by remote. Marla Cook was absent.

Others participating was: Office Manager Kathy May, Superintendent Jerry Zearbaugh, Bookkeeper Peg Selvey and Attorney Mark Abrell. Engineer Rick Miller and Jennifer Wilson joined by remote, Jennifer Devine and Anthony B Locke.

PUBLIC HEARING ON RATE REDUCTION

Attorney Mark Abrell opened the meeting by announcing that the lawsuit with Muncie Sanitary District has finally been settled after 6 years. We settled for a 20 year contract. Mark presented the proposed Ordinance 2020-2. The ordinance proposes to lower rates with a new contract with Muncie Sanitary District based upon these items per 100 cubic feet: \$14.30 lowered to \$12.53, \$57.20 lowered to \$50.11 and the flat rate from \$80.63 to \$70.63 and the \$10.00 surcharge on the newest customers would remain the same.

Jennifer Wilson did the rate study and she reported that the proposed ordinance was a 12.24% reduction but we could go as high as 28.5% reduction. The 28.5% reduction would bring rates to \$10.22 per cubic feet with minimum being \$40.88 and flat rate \$57.65 & \$67.65 with the \$10.00 surcharge.

Jennifer stated that to make sure we have enough to cover expenses she has built in \$93,000.00 per year and \$7,500.00 per month. If lowest percentage rate is accepted she has built in \$341,000.00 per year. She has also included the MSD sewage bill monthly.

Mark asked for discussion and Mr. Devine said he thinks the 28.5% would work and Jerry Zearbaugh agreed and Jennifer Devine did also.

Attorney Mark Abrell told the Board that they needed agree to lower the rates, move to amend the introduced Ordinance 2020-2 to \$10.22 per 100 cubic feet, \$40.88 monthly minimum, and flat rate to \$57.65 plus \$10.00 for latest customers.

Mr. Devine made a motion to amend the proposed Ordinance 2020-2 in accordance with the maximum rate reduction of 28.5% provided for in the Preliminary Rate Report performed by Jennifer Wilson, which provides that the rates be reduced as follows:

- A. Customers with city water:
 - 1. Monthly rate per 100 cubic feet: \$10.22
 - 2. Monthly minimum, (400 cubic feet allowed, based upon above rate): \$40.88
- B. Customers on wells.
 - Flat Rate, well water users: \$57.65

Furthermore, I move that we adopt Rate Ordinance 2020-2 as amended.
Mr. Reinke seconded the motion to amend and adopt Rate Ordinance 2020-2 as amended. Vote by roll call, motion carried.
This Ordinance 2020-2 will be executed 10-15-2020.

The rate hearing meeting adjourned @ 7:35 p.m.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as written.
Mr. Reinke seconded the motion, vote by roll call, motion carried.

Claims totaling \$92,658.99 were viewed and signed.

Mr. Devine made a motion to accept the claims as written. Mr. Reinke seconded the motion, vote by roll call, motion carried.

Mr. Knot recognized Peg Selvey, Bookkeeper, for the financial report. Peg reported receipts for September 2020 were \$235,184.30 with disbursements of \$186,145.40 leaving \$49,038.90 in the black.
Peg deposited \$4,903.89 in the Sewage Works fund.

The year to date amount is \$1,388,155.14 with disbursements of \$1,251,206.98 leaving \$136,948.16 in the black.

As of today 10-15-20 the billing office has collected \$102,038.16 with disbursements of \$68,323.85 leaving \$33,714.31 in the black. The MSD bill is \$17,658.85 and this includes \$884.34 credit from MSD in accordance with the new contract.

Mr. Devine made a motion to approve the financial report. Mr. Reinke seconded the motion, vote by roll call, motion carried.

Mr. Knot opened for new business. Mr. Knot suggested we put together a manual for info, such as preventive maintenance, swimming pool credit, and summer watering credit. Mr. Graves suggested an analysis on equipment. Rick Miller suggested master file to prioritize upcoming repairs, be prepared with a plan of action, telemetry was put in either in 2005 or 2006, update the software and prepare for the future.
Mr. Anthony Locke, from the audience, suggested auto bill pay.

Mr. Knot recognized Attorney Mark Abrell. Mark told the Board that Jennifer Wilson put in a data request in the contract, so if in the future if MSD changes their plan, we can dispute it.

Mark told the Board that he sent a shut-off letter to Jim & Jill Kinder at 9904 E Railroad Street. If they miss any payment in the arrangement, there will be no further notice and it will be automatic shut-off.

Mr. Knotte recognized Engineer Rick Miller. Rick had nothing further to discuss.

Mr. Knotte recognized Superintendent Jerry Zearbaugh. Jerry told the Board that he had a manhole lid knocked off at SR 32 & Gray St. It looked like it was hit with a lawn mower. This manhole is in the State right-of-way. He installed two green marking posts in hopes that it can be seen better.

Jerry also told the Board that he is checking on new trucks. He contacted Marta Moody at the county building to see if there are any grants available.

Jerry suggested that maybe we could establish an ordinance to check to see if homes have illegal sump pumps. Maybe have a surcharge equal to estimated flow per each house. Properties would be exempt if they didn't have a sump pump. Jerry could check the telemetry for area's that have suspected sump pumps.

Mr. Knotte recognized Kathy May. Kathy asked the Board if they would write-off a balance on a property at 1007 S Winnere Ave that sold in either a tax sale or sheriff's sale. The amount is \$1,737.79.

Mr. Devine made a motion to allow Kathy to write-off balance for property located @ 1007 S Winnere Ave in the amount of \$1,737.79. Mr. Reinke seconded the motion, vote by roll call, motion carried.

Mr. Knotte seeing no further business adjourned the meeting.

Liberty Regional Waste District
Kathy May / Office Manager
October 15, 2020
Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 p.m.