

SOUTHWEST LICKING COMMUNITY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 215, ETNA, OH 43018

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2015

1. OPENING

The November 10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District was called to order by Mr. Kretzmann at 1:00 pm. Mr. Kretzmann, Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Meade were present at roll call. Also present were Don Rector, Kathy Killen and Bobbie O'Keefe.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Kretzmann made a Motion to adopt the Agenda. Mr. Carlisle seconded. Vote, all aye. Agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting Minutes: Mr. Carlisle moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on October 27, 2015. Mr. Kretzmann seconded the Motion. Vote, all aye. Minutes were approved.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Kretzmann made a Motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meade, to pay the bills as presented. Vote, all aye. Motion was approved.

5. COMMUNICATIONS/WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Water Main Breaks/Leaks: Mr. Rector reported that there were a number of water main breaks and leaks within the past few weeks that have been keeping staff busy. Mr. Rector indicated staff are staying on top of the problems and repairs are being done promptly.

b. Hydrant Flushing: Mr. Rector stated that the hydrant flushing program is moving forward; however, there have been some complaints regarding discolored water, which is not uncommon when hydrants are being flushed. He indicated that these issues are being worked out. Mr. Carlisle told the board that a homeowner called the township because her water had turned black. Mr. Rector indicated that this was manganese falling into the water during the flushing process. Mr. Carlisle stated the woman was very pleased because the problem had been remediated very quickly. Mr. Rector said that the next area to be flushed is in Harrison Township.

c. Development: Mr. Rector informed the board that he was invited to a meeting with Pataskala regarding potential development of the JRS site. He stated there was a flurry of activity in that area.

d. ODOT Bridge Project: Mr. Rector reported that he had been working with ODOT on the line relocation project. He identified areas that reduced the amount of utility lines that would need to be moved, especially with the waterline. Mr. Rector reported that ODOT had been cooperating and moving storm drains in order to reduce the water and sewer line relocation requirements. He also indicated that he has not heard back from anyone regarding the letter that was sent by the board. There is not much more that can be done with the plans. The revisions have dropped the cost to the \$300,000-\$350,000 range, which is still a substantial expense. Mr. Kretzmann asked whether the line relocation gives a benefit to the district, and Mr. Rector replied that it did not.

e. Health Benefits Package: Mr. Rector addressed issues relative to the health insurance renewal. He indicated that the district might be able to obtain additional cost estimates through the Ohio Public Entities Consortium (OPEC). The district used to obtain benefits from OPEC; however, each renewal period the premiums were incrementally increased until they became cost prohibitive. Mr. Rector stated that OPEC would quote a very low price for the first year, but then premiums would increase to a non-competitive price. Mr. Meade stated that the deadline is December 1, 2015, which gives the district a little more time before having to make a final decision. He stated that it would benefit everyone to wait if it results in a lower rate. Mr. Carlisle said he has forms from OPEC for employees to fill out. Mr. Carlisle said spouses might be carved out that so that the district would pay for the employee's coverage, but if spouses were to be covered the employee would need to pay for spouse coverage. He further stated that children can be carved out as well, but he does not believe that should be done. Mr. Carlisle also stated that he reviewed both plans as submitted by Wichart Insurance and Burnham and Flowers, and he believes that carving out spouses would save the district money. The cost to employee

for a spouse would be \$469 per month. He stated that Wichart Insurance quoted essentially the same rates as Burnham and Flowers; however, he stated that Burnham and Flowers offered a better rate for vision and dental with more coverage. Mr. Carlisle recommended that the district administration look at the effect a spousal carve out would have on the rates, and then compare those rates with OPEC's rates. He further indicated that carving out spouses equalizes the incomes of staff, because the cost of health insurance is a component of an employee's compensation. He questioned whether it is fair for the district to pay the spousal portion for some and not for others who do not have spouses. Mr. Kretzmann stated the district needs to maximize employees' benefits at a reasonable cost. He agreed that the issue needs further study, but the district should offer a policy to its employees that is reasonable and that allows them to make the most cost effective choices possible. Meade says look at best options we can to make a proper decision for their own circumstances.

6. Plant Shutdown: Mr. Rector reported that the insurance check was received from the accident requiring the water plant shutdown.

7. Water plant and tank site: Mr. Rector indicated that the new plant and tank will not be completed until 2017 at the earliest, assuming the design is done by March 2016. Mr. Rector reported that the district was moving forward with the project, but that the tank manufacturers are significantly backed up. He will push hard to get tank designed.

8. Reports: Mr. Rector told the board that the Tap Fees and High User Reports were included in the board packets. He predicted that new residential development might slow down a bit because there are not many buildable lots available.

8. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

None; Ms. Loomis attended the Chamber Safety Meeting.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kretzmann made a Motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meade, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation with Pataskala. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. The board went into Executive Session at 1:32 pm.

Mr. Kretzmann made a Motion, which was seconded by Mr. Carlisle, to come out of Executive Session. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. The board came out of Executive Session at 1:43 pm.

11. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

12. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

a. Meade: Mr. Meade thanked Ms. Loomis and staff for all their work helping the Hunt family regarding their water leak situation. He stated that the district went above and beyond to help out a family in need, which shows that the district cares about its customers.

b. Carlisle: Mr. Carlisle thanked Mr. Meade for contacting him about the situation and getting him involved.

c. Kretzmann: Mr. Kretzmann thanked Ms. Loomis and Mr. Rector in advance for reviewing and continuing to work on the health insurance package.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Carlisle made a Motion to adjourn and Mr. Meade seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

ATTEST:



John Carlisle, District Secretary