

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2020

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Pat Goodover	Director	PRESENT
Beth Hutchinson	Vice President	PRESENT	Walt Hill	Director	PRESENT
Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Jean Curtiss	Manager	PRESENT	Kim Myre	Missoula Co	PRESENT

Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:04pm, after some technical difficulties had been resolved. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Jean Curtiss requested that the Manager's Report be moved to later in the meeting, after New Business. The agenda was approved as modified.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris requested that everybody stay on point and to make the meeting as productive as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Don Larson (Appendix B)

Tom Morris read the letter from Don Larson. Discussion followed on Don Larson's proposal.

Great West Engineering (Appendix C)

Jean Curtiss noted that this letter gave some background to the EDA grant application.

MINUTES:

August 6, 2020 Public Hearing

Beth Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Public Hearing as presented. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris Aye
Beth Hutchinson Aye
Pat Goodover Aye
Walt Hill Aye
Jason Gilpin Aye

August 6, 2020 Special Board Meeting

Tom Morris moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Special Board Meeting as circulated. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris Aye
Beth Hutchinson Aye
Pat Goodover Aye
Walt Hill Aye
Jason Gilpin Aye

November 19, 2020

Jason Gilpin moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Beth Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris Aye
Beth Hutchinson Aye
Pat Goodover Aye
Walt Hill Aye
Jason Gilpin Aye

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices – November 2020

Felicity Derry reviewed the invoices for the Board. Jean Curtiss added that following conversations with MACo, the recommendation was to pay the MACo deductible invoice.

Beth Hutchinson moved to pay the invoices as presented. Walt Hill seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris Aye
Beth Hutchinson Aye
Pat Goodover Aye
Walt Hill Aye
Jason Gilpin Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution#12172020 To Approve Memo from SLSD Board to Property Owners and Qualified Electors in the District

Dan Semmens reviewed why Resolution#12172020 To Approve Memo from SLSD Board to Property Owners and Qualified Electors in the District would be used to approve the memo, and gave some background as to path that the Board had chosen utilizing the upcoming bond election rather than proceed with the special assessment bonds. The Board had no questions regarding Resolution#12172020 To Approve Memo from SLSD Board to Property Owners and Qualified Electors in the District.

Jean Curtiss reviewed the draft memo and the changes that had been made. Jean Curtiss read the language highlighted in yellow regarding the Health Department. Discussion followed on the language concerning the Health Department and the special management area. Also, whether there were studies showing elevated nitrate levels throughout the Seeley Lake community. Jim Erven joined the discussion and confirmed that there had been continual monitoring in the District, which consistently showed elevated nitrate levels. Jim Erven then reviewed the language used from the Health Department and DEQ to convey the importance of the electorate's decision. Discussion continued on the language used and its accuracy. The Board agreed to the proposed amendments and adding footnotes.

How to refer to the town while avoiding the confusion between the town of Seeley Lake and the actual lake was discussed. The Board agreed that using the core of the District would be helpful.

The Board and Dan Semmens continued to discuss the suggested changes to the memo.

The wording in the "gorilla paragraph" was discussed. The resolution mandating connection and the O&M budget were discussed. The Board agreed upon the amendments to the paragraph.

Jean Curtiss reviewed the reworked "benefits section". Discussion followed on the language used and which type of septic system had been referenced. The Board agreed to the amended language in this paragraph.

Mike Richards was having difficulty joining the meeting and could not be seen in the Zoom waiting room.

Jean Curtiss reviewed the changes to the "vote section". The Board discussed the section's language. The Board agreed to the proposed changes and to bold the first sentence.

The Board discussed the contents of the boxes. The discussion turned to calculating the cost of the GO bonds for businesses. Dan Semmens reviewed how calculate the cost for businesses.

Beth Hutchinson had left the meeting due to technical difficulties and now rejoined the meeting.

Jean Curtiss reviewed the proposed amendments agreed to by the Board, which Beth Hutchinson might have missed while rejoining the meeting. The Board agreed to use equitable in the final sentence in the “vote paragraph”.

Jean Curtiss read the “asterisk paragraph”. Discussion followed on the wording in the paragraph and the Board reached a consensus on the appropriate language that would be used.

Nathan Bourne asked if WRDA or TSEP had commented how a no vote would affect those grants. Jean Curtiss noted that neither funding agency had made a formal comment; however, TSEP was impatient for the District to spend those grant funds.

The discussion returned to the language used in the “asterisk paragraph” and the Board agreed to the proposed amendment in that paragraph. Discussion continued on the wording in the last box.

Pat Goodover had left the meeting due to technical difficulties and now rejoined the meeting.

There was in-depth discussion on suitable language in the final box. Due to the technical difficulties experienced during the meeting, the wording in the final box was reviewed to ensure that no Board members had missed any of the proposed amendments. The board agreed to the proposed amendments in the final box.

The Board confirmed that their phone numbers and emails should be used in the memo.

Jean Curtiss reviewed what would be included with the memo and who it would be mailed to. The District would request a reimbursement for the cost of the mailing from RRGL.

Pat Goodover moved to adopt the resolution (Resolution#12172020 To Approve Memo from SLSD Board to Property Owners and Qualified Electors in the District) to approve the memo as amended. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Walt Hill	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye

The Board agreed to add the footnote with the Health Department and DEQ letters.

The who can vote handout was reviewed and discussed.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Jean Curtiss noted that the report to the LOR Foundation had been completed.

The Phase II TSEP application for \$750,000 had ranked fairly well.

The Pine Drive quiet title should be settled next month.

Jean Curtiss informed the Board that she had learned of a new lawsuit being filed against the District Board. The lawsuit had been filed by proponents of the sewer to compel the Board to get the sewer built. To date the lawsuit had not been served. It would be circulated to the Board once it was received. The Board discussed when Cincinnati Insurance should be notified of the lawsuit. Jean Curtiss had spoken with some of the people involved in the potential suit, to impart that a lawsuit would only hinder the progress of the project.

The Board discussed the best way to proceed. Dan Semmens added that as bond counsel he could not see the upside to a lawsuit during bond financing and that it would stop the funding agencies in their tracks. The Board agreed that Cincinnati Insurance should be notified of the lawsuit.

There was discussion regarding obtaining the filed lawsuit and contacting those involved in the lawsuit to convey the detrimental effect that the lawsuit would have on the project’s funding package. The Board agreed that Jean Curtiss should be the one to reach out on behalf of the District.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: January 21, 2021

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Tom Morris requested that the Board submit agenda items by January 11, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Walt Hill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm. The motion was passed unanimously.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Walt Hill	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary