

**STEBEN LAKES REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2016  
16-02R  
6:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RATE ORDINANCE 2016-01**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Coder  
Jim Kidd  
Lyndon Tucker  
Rob Moreland  
George Pifer  
Jim Van Vlerah  
Chad Wise

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Also Present**

- Bruce Boxberger – District Attorney
- Kenneth Jones, Jr. - Jones Petrie Rafinski
- John Julien - H. J. Umbaugh & Associates

George Pifer: The first item of business is the public hearing ordinance number 2016-01 second restated and amended sewer rate ordinance. An ordinance restating, amending, updating, and combining all previous rate ordinances which outlined a schedule of rates and charges to be collected by the Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District from the property owners served by the sewage works of the District and other matters connected wherein. I think first of all we like to hear some statement from our financial advisor consultant John Julien.

Bruce Boxberger: You are going to make it clear that there is no rate increase.

John Julien: Yes.

Bruce Boxberger: Ok.

John Julien: Um, John Julien, with Umbaugh & Associates. My way of background, we've had the pleasure of working with the District on a number of matters, most recently, we assisted in a financial evaluation of the District in relationship to the start of construction on the Lake Pleasant project, and you may recall the financial planning went back two years, including back to 2014 of the District as part of the process of borrowed money in anticipation of this project. And, um, now that we have final project numbers with results in hand and updated our analysis and prepared a report. Um, the report shows, um consistent with our plans were back in 2014, that the Lake Pleasant project would come in, um, and, um, and in conjunction with, or lending with your existing rate ordinance as it deals with class two customers. To answer plainly, the customers that are in the Lake Pleasant project would come in and pay the same rates that are in effect for the class two customers. So the rate hearings, I'll tell you of something of an

unusual event this evening, in that you are not talking about a rate increase. We're talking about rolling new customers in and paying the existing rate. Um, the rate that we are talking about is, uh, a monthly sewer bill of seventy nine dollars and ninety five cents, I believe.

George Pifer: Ninety five.

John Julien: And, um, ninety five. Yeah, and um, and if the project was done on a stand alone basis, um, the cost of the, uh, rates of the individual property owners would be in excess of one hundred thirteen dollars a month. So the financial planning and the actual ... a couple of years ago were coming into fruition here and would be able to do this project, as a substantial benefit to the new service area. So let me conclude my comments saying while there is no rate impact or rate adjustment in consideration this evening in effect, the ordinance that you have under consideration reflects our recommendation for your financial planning, to take, um, the Lake Pleasant project into the District as uh, a new customer service area.

George Pifer: Fine. Thank you very much, John. At this time, the floor is open for comments from the public. Um, we passed around a list. There is only one person here, but at this time anyone who is in favor of this project would you please come up and state your name and your address, and uh, make your statement within a period of three minutes. Anyone? Those who are opposed, would you please come up and state your name, address, and your opinion in a period of three minutes.

Tim Frederick: I've got an email that we received from an individual that I need to read in for the records.

George Pifer: Ok.

Tim Frederick: Can I go ahead and read that?

George Pifer: Go right ahead.

Tim Frederick: This is from Glen Davis. He says I will not be able to make it to the rate meeting. I would like to share my concerns and maybe you can share my idea at the meeting. Myself and others do not live there full time. A flat rate is not fair for all. I would suggest, I would like to suggest that the monthly rate be computed on a proportional allocation basis utilizing total flow contributing population and or census population for the community. This would benefit everyone when there is a very low flow, the monthly rate for all goes down, and where there is a very high flow rate, all goes up to a capped rate. Please take this in consideration. This system has been used by other sewer districts and with the same challenge. Thank You. Glen Davis, 20 LN 250, Lake Pleasant.

George Pifer: Thank You. If there is no other comments, then this hearing is closed.

Bruce Boxberger: No. We have to, uh, adopt the rate ordinance, so um, you will need a motion, and a second, and a vote on the rate ordinance that you introduced last time.

George Pifer: Do we have a...

Jim Kidd: Jim Kidd, I'll make that motion.

George Pifer: Do we have a second?

Lyndon Tucker: Lyndon Tucker, I'll second.

George Pifer: Is there any discussion? All of those in favor raise your right hand. Seven to zero.

Bruce Boxberger: Now, you can adjourn this meeting.

George Pifer: This meeting is now adjourned.

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--- Kenneth Jones, Jr. - Jones Petrie Rafinski

George Pifer called the meeting to order.

George Pifer read the following statement: At the end of the meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to speak. In the interest of time, each person shall be limited to three minutes. Your comments will be part of the public record of the meeting so we ask that you present them in a professional manner and speak to issues relevant to the business of the District.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

The Board presented minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting for review and approval. George Pifer stated that on the second page under District Business & Other General Matters - to add the following after *Lyndon questioned Ken regarding grinder tank locations*. To be read as follows:

*George Pifer reiterated that the Board in the past had given the directive to the engineering firm to place the tanks as close to the road when it is possible so as to avoid the kind of problems that have arisen in the past as rocks, trees, sheds, etc., being placed in the easement. Jim Van Vlerah also emphasized this point.*

George Pifer also would like to add the following added toward the end of the meeting minutes:

*George Pifer stated that his style of leadership was patterned after General Eisenhower's delegate responsibility and expect accountability. He also said that he sees the merit of consensus decision making. Rob Moreland moved and Bob Coder seconded the motion to accept and approve the amended minutes of January 14, 2016, which motion was unanimously approved.*

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports, check register, project check register, bank account report, and claims, were presented for review. Lyndon Tucker moved, and Chad Wise seconded the motion to accept the financial reports as presented, which motion was unanimously approved.

## BOARD OF FINANCE ANNUAL MEETING

George Pifer opened the annual meeting of the Board of Finance

Tim Frederick distributed a sheet that listed the investments and where they are invested.

Rob Moreland moved and Jim Kidd seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Finance annual meeting, which motion was unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

Purchase One Pump Only for Jet Mix System - Two pumps will be purchased as previously discussed in the January meeting.

Personnel Committee Report - Rob Moreland received comments from George Pifer on the job descriptions, and will be ready for circulation to the Board. Rob discussed whether an outside firm should be involved for helping fill this position or an online search. More to report next meeting. Tim Frederick read a listing of possible sources for advertisement.

## NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2016-02 Banking Signatories - George Pifer stated that three people in the District have authority to sign checks. George stated that Jim Van Vlerah be removed, and George Pifer, President, Jim Kidd, Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Frederick, Superintendent, be empowered and authorized to enter into banking transactions of all kinds, and other District business. Lyndon Tucker moved and Bob Coder seconded the motion to accept and approve Resolution 2016-02, which motion was unanimously approved.

Treatment Plant Operations - Tim Frederick stated that Miller Poultry is flowing through the system and ammonia levels are rising. Miller Poultry will reimburse the District for costs associated with testing. The District has control in regulating the flow as necessary.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS AND OTHER GENERAL MATTERS

### NED Project

A. IDNR Agreement Review & Preliminary Approval - Bruce Boxberger spoke to the Board that the meeting between the DNR and the Board was successful in reaching a proposal. Bruce stated that the District will not have to pay for any easements in Pokagon State Park or any use of the land in the Park. Pokagon will pay no hook-up fees, but will pay a full estimated monthly amount of \$9,975.00, and the District will assume maintenance responsibilities. All of this is subject to full Board approval. Bruce stated that the State of Indiana is negotiating good faith with the District. Bruce stated that he needs full Board approval, and to proceed forward for drafting of this document. Rob Moreland moved and Jim Van Vlerah seconded the motion to preliminarily approve the agreement in negotiation with the State, and to direct the Attorney for the District to proceed with negotiations and draft the final Master Operating Agreement to include that the State will not pay a hook-up fee, but will pay the regular monthly fee calculated according to the District ordinances going forward, which motion carried with one abstention.

Lake Pleasant - Ken spoke to the Board regarding Lake Pleasant and will draft a contract between the District and the low bidder for the Board and Attorney to review. The permit for the toll road has been accomplished. Tim stated that the contract needs to be awarded, and to receive insurance documentation from the contractor to the Toll Road.

Tim Frederick stated that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for National Rural Water, representing Indiana rural water and wastewater systems.

Public Comments - A Lake Pleasant resident questioned the estimated construction timeline. Ken stated that during the March meeting, the contractor will be awarded.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Pifer asked for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.