

ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING*December 15, 2021

Citizen's Square, 200 East Berry Street, Room 035, Garden Level @ 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Zehr, President, called the Board meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

- Absent: Tom Rotering. Board Members present were President: Ric Zehr, Vice-President: Kevin McDermit, Treasurer: Justin Brugger, Secretary: Tim Roy, Trustee: Matthew Wirtz and Ex-Officio: Gary Chapple. ACRWSD Staff: Field Operations Manager: Scott Lee and Interim Office Managers: Judy Gleason and Ashley Faurote. Support Staff: Andy Boxberger of Carson LLP, Ben Adams of Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. There were 04 visitors: Nathan Baggett of FWCU, Steve and Judy Miller of 4814 N. Webster Road (Platter Parkway), and Devan Filchak of The Journal Gazette.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Mr. Roy made a motion to approve the November 22nd Special Board Minutes and the November 24th Board Minutes as distributed and reviewed. Mr. Brugger seconded the motion. **All ayes cast.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Ms. Gleason reviewed the December 2021 bills to be paid; bank balances summary. Mr. Roy made a motion to approve and Mr. Brugger seconded the motion. **All ayes cast.**

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Reported by Mr. Lee – No Board Recommendations

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Field Operations Committee: Reported by Mr. Lee – Committee Activity Report/No Recommendation

Administrative Operations Committee: Reported by Ms. Faurote – Committee Activity Report/No Recommendation

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 12:09 pm Mr. Zehr opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Miller of 4814 N. Webster Rd. address the Board regarding the status of the acquisition of the Allen County Regional Water & Sewer District by the Fort Wayne City Utilities and rates moving forward.

PROJECT UPDATES: Reported by Mr. Adams – Activity Report/No Board Recommendation

- Hoagland Regionalization

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Zehr asked Mr. Boxberger to provide an update on the Fort Wayne City Utilities and District merger. Mr. Boxberger stated that the County Commissioners had convened a meeting the day prior of himself, Mr. Zehr, Mr. Brugger, Mr. Wirtz, County Commissioner Peters, Senator Brown, and Fort Wayne City Council member Russ Jehl to find a way to make this transaction move forward and that

the concerns regarding the Board makeup were raised. Fort Wayne City Utilities will circulate a proposed solution to the Board makeup that would be sent to Mr. Boxberger who would in turn send to the Board for review and other entities to get on the same page and make the transaction work. Mr. Boxberger said that the idea is to get this done as soon as possible. Mr. Boxberger indicated that with the Commissioner's contribution that a new rate schedule went into effect July which included a rate increase on January 2022 which customers will see on the February 1 bill. Mr. Boxberger stated that it would be for a short period of time until a deal could be worked out and then the customers would move to the outside City rate. Mr. Zehr commented that the common rate would be \$121.75.

Mr. Roy asked if the new agreement would need to be brought up at the next Fort Wayne City Council meeting. Mr. Boxberger stated that the agreement would need to be approved by the Board, City Utilities, and City Council and IDEM would need to approve the Board makeup. Mr. Zehr stated that a special meeting may be required to line up with City Council schedule. Mr. Roy and Mr. Boxberger indicated that staffing would need to be addressed if the transaction did not occur.

Mr. Zehr indicated that he asked Mr. Adams and Mr. Boxberger to submit contracts to the Board for services in 2022 and that office staff would be maintained as is using the Shared Services Agreement with City Utilities.

Mr. Wirtz confirmed with Mr. Lee that he had the staffing support needed out in the field. Mr. Lee indicated that Mr. Baggett was going to speak with Mr. Johnson at City Utilities to see if they could help. Mr. Zehr and Mr. Brugger discussed what would be needed to obtain field staff assistance through the Shared Service Agreement. Mr. Lee will send an email to Mr. Zehr with what is needed and then Mr. Zehr will officially ask as the President.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2022 Operations

Mr. Boxberger stated that PHP and Principal benefit policies for employees are set to renew on January 1. The Board agreed that these policies should stay active.

- 2022 Wages

Mr. Brugger stated that in Executive Committee that he recommended a 4% cost of living adjustment. Additionally, Mr. Lee stated that Manuel was due an increase after 6 months of working to what the other field staff were making. Mr. McDermitt made a motion to adjust Manuel's pay to the same level as other field staff and a 4% increase for all staff for 2022. Mr. Wirtz seconded the motion. **All ayes cast.**

- 2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. McDermitt made a motion to accept the 2022 Board Schedule. Mr. Roy seconded. **All ayes.**

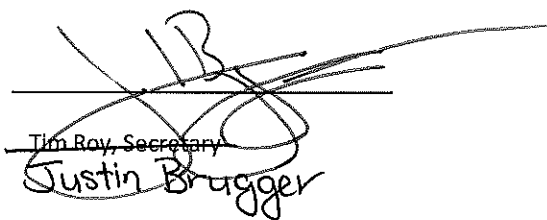
COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wirtz seconded the motion. All ayes cast. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Faurote, Interim Office Manager



Justin Brugger

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