

MINUTES
WINFIELD SANITARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2024
5:00 p.m.

On Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. the meeting of the Winfield Sanitary Board was called to order by Mayor Randy Barrett, at Winfield City Hall, 12248 Winfield Road, Winfield, West Virginia.

ATTENDANCE

Those attending: Rod Burns, member; Clarence Litton, member; Randy Barrett, Mayor; Nikki Phillips, City Clerk/Secretary

Others present: Tim Lafon, City Lawyer

PUBLIC: Jack Ramsey, Engineer

ABSENT: Billy Harper, City Employee

MINUTES

Hearing no comments, the minutes of March 7, 2024, regular meeting were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL

Bill Approval. The bills paid for the month of March in the amount of \$104,946.64; hearing no comments the bills pass as presented.

Income/Expense. The financial statement for the month of March; hearing no comments, the financial statement passes as presented.

Adjustments. The adjustments for the month of March in the amount of \$1,251.18; hearing no questions the adjustments pass as presented.

REPORTS

STAFF REPORT:

Jack Ramsey reported that we have successfully obtained a permit to the landfill in Hurricane. Two loads of sludge have been taken to Hurricane so far. Jack has reviewed Don Hayes subdivision plans that were submitted for his property currently outside of city limits and everything looks fine, he will need to get a permit from the Health Department. Tim Lafon is still waiting for paperwork from Don Hayes to take to the County Commission meeting petitioning to come into city limits.

STAFF REPORT: (cont.)

Mayor Barrett reported on taking the portable generator to Woodbend Cove yesterday and it ran for 6-7 hours. The omni call out system is still not working so there was not a call out when it quit working. Precision is waiting on parts to fix the call out system and they are still working on pumps. Mayor Barrett reminded Tim Lafon that we needed to check with Laura Cox and make sure everything is in for the grant to obtain the permanent generator at Woodbend lift station. If not, we need to get paperwork so that we can complete the process. Jack Ramsey has already done the engineering part for this grand and we have already set aside funds for our match on the grant. The mayor and Billy Harper visited the Expo in Charleston and talked to Precision Pump about a maintenance program for all pump stations. Rod would like for Precision to come to the next meeting with information on this program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Solar Panels.** The mayor gave the update that the solar panel bidding is still waiting for Tim Lafon to award the bid. There has been a slight hold up because Laura Cox went to obtain the FEMA grant on behalf of Solar Holler not the City of Winfield as originally thought. Revolt Energy's lawyer has stated that he believes this is a conflict of interest since Laura Cox also serves as the City Planner.

If asked for a decision today, Tim Lafon would suggest that the City of Winfield NOT move forward with the solar project. The RFP stated that the City of Winfield has the right to refuse any and all bids.

2. **New Hire Wastewater Treatment Operator.** We have reached out to a candidate that came in for a second interview last week and stated that he could start on Monday. Candidate has passed the background check, as of today we have not been successful in contacting the candidate because phones are down from the storm. If he does not accept the job, we may need to restart the search for a new employee from scratch.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Leak Adjustment Policy.** The current leak adjustment policy states that if water goes into the sanitary system, we will not make any bill adjustments. A customer filed a PSC complaint on this policy and Rhonda Boothe from the PSC informed us that we have to give a credit according to PSC Rules 6.4.3.a and 6.4.3.b. Customer must pay 200% of the 12-month historical average, then a leak adjustment rate of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons. If the city decides to raise the tariff rate from \$1.00, they must do so following the same procedures as a rate increase. This PSC ruling was put in effective July 2023, in addition to the current complaint there has been two other customer's denied leak adjustments because of leaky commodes. Rod Burns made a motion to do away with the part of the leak adjustment policy that deals with leaks going into the sewer system and replace it with wording from the PSC Rules 6.4.3.a and 6.4.3.b. Pool adjustments will be the same as previously stated in the current leak adjustment policy of the Winfield Sanitary Board. Credits will be issued to customers that currently have a leak balance on their account and reimbursement check will be cut for those customers that paid their bill in full for the leak.
- 2. WV Municipal Bond.** Nikki Phillips presented an email from Sara Rogers on a Municipal Bond that has an overage in the amount of \$6,402.00. Sanitary Board is going to stay with its original decision to allow the bond to continue to accrue interest.
- 3. Update on Harry Teare Sump Pump.** Harry Teare was served papers stating that he would remove the illegal sump pump from the sanitary system or the City of Winfield would file a lawsuit. Tim Lafon stated that he would file the lawsuit tomorrow.
- 4. Update on Deed for Pump Station (Woodbend).** There was a deal made between a homeowner in Woodbend Cove and Mayor Stone that deeds would be exchanged for the property containing the lift station and a piece of property near the river. The transaction apparently fell through the cracks somewhere over the years because the deeds were not recorded. Tim Lafon stated that Jack Ramsey would need to survey the two pieces of property in question so that he could make deeds to be recorded.
- 5. Change May Sanitary Board Meeting Date.** Rod Burns made a motion to move the next Sanitary Board meeting to May 7th at 5:00 PM.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mayor Barrett asked Jack Ramsey if he had ever been involved with setting up a plant that makes pellets from sludge. Jack Ramsey stated that he has done a Class A Compost Plant that was a bit pricey and labor intensive.

WV Municipal League is having their annual meeting here next month. All board members have been invited to the dinner meeting at Fireside on May 2nd at 5:30PM. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend.

Tim Lafon stated that we are still waiting for supreme court ruling on the Chapman lawsuit. Chapman has requested to resume mediations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Clarence Litton to adjourn at 6:02 p.m.

Randy L. Barrett, Chairman

Nikki Phillips, Secretary