

ADAMS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2019

Board and staff members present:

Jim Franz
Richard Lambert
Don Bergdall
John Carroll
Steve Bailey
Nate Rumschlag
Shannon Smitley

Superintendent, Barry Scherer
Attorney Mark Burry
 Brooke Hindenlang
Commonwealth Engineering: Ben Adams
Baker, Tilly: Ross Hagen

Opening of Meeting

Shannon called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

One correction made by Nate Rumschlag of the minutes from “board” to “bank”
Motion by Jim, 2nd by John. to approve the minutes as corrected. Approved 7-0

Payment of Claims:

Claims were presented totaling \$1,137.14
Motion to pay claims as presented, by Jim and 2nd by Steve. Approved 7-0

Board Discussion and Public Comments on New Sewer Project

Project Engineer - Ben Adams outlines what the project entails:

- Bobo pumps to Pleasant Mills and connection of people along route 33; run force main; people also need to connect along 101
- Time line:
 - Bid quickly
 - Design for Bobo in original but not enough money in original project.
 - Plans for the project will be released in September
 - Bids to be accepted in October
 - It will take a few months for financing to be completed
 - Rate Ordinance may stay the same.
 - Close on financing after the 1st of the year

- Construction should be complete early to mid-summer
- Notice to connect thereafter.
- Homes along US33 may be required to connect sooner than Bobo/101 since the line is already there and only the pump stations are the delay.
- Receipt of a letter DOESN'T mean you are in the project, but is an indication that you are close to the project area and may wish to connect while we are able to finance the connections.

Ross Hagen, Baker Tilley, addresses the financing

- Financing is from the Indiana State Revolving Fund
- Bond to fund the district via grant
- This is great news – Forgivable bond
- Anticipate between January and March

Ben advises that the suggested rate will be at \$93.30.

Public Question/Answer Session

Mark Burry introduces the Board Members

Q. Nancy Cornejo:

If a septic tank has been installed in the past 10 years, will they be exempt?

A. Mark Burry:

Probably not.

Barry Scherer:

Explanation given, asks that the exemption request be given to him for review

Nate Rumschlag:

When are the exceptions due back?

Mark Burry:

Form needs to be filled out; form was included in mailing – due within 60 days of issuance of letter.

Q. Sean Saylor

Why can't you put your own system in before the project starts?

A. Mark Burry:

Explains that if you are within 300 feet then you are required to connect.

Q. Sean Saylor:

Can you avoid it by installing it within 300 feet?

A. Mark Burry:

No

Sean Saylor comments: This is communism

- Q. Tim Light
Explain 300 Feet
- A. Mark/Barry:
If the structure is located within 300 feet of the sewer line the RSD can require connection.
- Q. Unknown
If the structure is beyond 300 Feet do you have to connect?
- A. Mark/Barry
If the system is failing, you can be required to connect by the Health Department.
- Q. Sean Saylor
Explains that his mother-in-law is in the Monmouth area and had to pay a monthly bill prior to connection, why is that?
- A. Mark Burry:
Districts can charge prior to connection based on state statutes.
- Q. Ken Garrett:
What if the structure is past the 300 feet, can they put in their own system?
- A. Barry:
You must have larger amounts of ground; the soil must be adequate for permitting of a septic system.
- Q. Sean Saylor
Doesn't understand difference between new versus old if system is beyond 300 feet, if it is in failure, then you can connect?
- A. Barry Scherer
Any water that is discharged must stay on the property. If your septic system discharges waste/water then it is not permitted and would not be exempt.
- Q. Angie Murray:
What other costs are involved and assessed to the homeowner outside the monthly fee?
- A. Barry Scherer:
 - Gravity Site will include charges for digging the line to the property line.
 - Grinder Pump will include digging the line from the house to the grinder and the electricity to run the pump and installing the electric line.
 - Collapsing the existing septic tank and pumping out.
 - Any restoration of the yard the property owner wants.
- Q. Mike Murray:
Who pays for the power?
- A. Barry Scherer:
Homeowner

Q. Mike Murray:
The homeowner pays to wire it in?

A. Barry Scherer:
Yes.

Q. Mike Murray:
How much will this be?

A. Barry Scherer
Single phase 25 amp and should use about \$3-5/month on your monthly electric bill.

Q. Mike Murray
How often does it run?

A. Barry Scherer:
Depends on the usage. Maybe just one or twice a day.
Ben Adams: 60 gallons in the pump cycle.

Q. Mike Murray
On top of the \$93.30?

A. Ben Adams:
Yes.

Q. Ken Garrett
How noisy is it?

A. Barry:
Not very noisy. You would need to be standing outside by it to even know it was running and he explains alternate sharing.

Q. Mike Murray
Explains where he lives and wants to know if it based on his porch location or what?

A. Barry Scherer:
For your location it would be from the porch to the ditch.

Q. Mike Murray
Who pays for the connection at the road?

A. Barry Scherer:
We do.

Q. Mike Murray
Why are we not getting city water?

A. Barry Scherer:
It would be costly, and the quality would not be good
Ben Adams:
Also, water is developer driven and residents are not required.

Nate Rumschlag:

Septic system is mandated by the State. There is no mandate to provide water to rural homes. The RSD mission is to provide cleanup of failing septic systems.

Q. Mike Murray:
What does it cost to fill in a septic system?

A. Barry:
It depends on who you hire. We will be issuing specifications as we proceed with the project

Ben Adams:
Real cost is having it pumped and treated.

Q. Mike Murray:
The grinders that are located along 33, are those the same?

Ben Adams:
Yes

COMMENT: Jim Franz:
You do have a choice as to who does the work.

COMMENT: Barry stated that you can do it yourself. He also said you must keep the rain water out. He will inspect work before it is approved. It is very important to keep the sump pump water out of the sewage system.

Q. Sean Saylor:
What about the elderly or sole individuals using less than a large family? How can you justify?

A. Ben Adam:
Unfortunately, there is no way to meter the usage by each home. It is what it is. The panels are not that sophisticated.

Q. Sean Saylor:
This is not fair.

Q. Ken Garrett:
When the first project was in the works, they were told that the monthly payment would be going down, is that the case?

A. Ben Adams:
Good question, the rate hasn't changed, but the length of the loan is 40 years.

Q. John Wilson
40 years is how long the loan is, but then who is responsible afterwards?

Ben Adams:
The loan is 20 years revolving loan and once 20 years comes up the board is going to have to make some decisions.

- Q. Karla Morgan:
Who makes the decisions regarding whether it is grinder or gravity?
- A. Ben Adams:
It comes down to the elevation and distances to the connection points. Homes along 101 and 33 are grinders since they only have access to the forcemain, Monmouth is gravity. Much of this is shown in the engineering report.
- Q. Tim Light:
Why do I have to connect in 10 years when my system is 10 years old and I paid \$11,000.00 for this system which is an absorption system?
- A. Mark Burry:
That is the way the statute is written.
- Q. Eugen Butcher:
Which side of 101 is being connected?
- A. Ben Adams:
The west side, but it can be brought under the highway for the east side.
- Q. Kevin Conrad:
So, this project is no longer going down Piqua?
- A. Barry Scherer:
Correct,
Mark Burry:
The will remain as designed.
Barry Scherer:
We would like get sewer to that area now, but there is less pressure to get that area done.
- Q. Sean Saylor:
Regarding the railroad bed, will the shit pit be cleaned-up?
- A. Barry Scherer:
No more sewage should be going there.
- COMMENT: Barry Scherer
If you live outside 300 feet, several want to be hooked up and the advantage is that the District is paying for it now. In doing so, you will not be paying the \$2000.00 tap fee or the \$5000.00 grinder pump.
- Q. Sean Saylor:
Can undeveloped lots have a line run?
- A. Mark S. Burry:
No.
Ben Adams:
But we would be willing to work with you to install housing taps if you pay for the taps.

- Q. Tom Scheumann:
Can it come to my house? (lives on 33 close to Salem Road across from the Cycle Shop)
- A. Barry
We are going to get a line to you.
- Q. Steve Painter:
Are you going to put lines back on my property?
- A. Ben
In your location we want to get sewer back to you with a sewer line.
- Mark
You may want to verify the location and the map after the meeting.
- Q. Russell Cook:
Are you going down 450?
- A. Ben:
Yes, but not all the way down to the rail road.
- Barry:
Church will get the one tap and should have only one bill.
- Q. Unknown:
What about the Amish?
- A. Barry:
They would connect and have a higher surcharge for a separate electric feed.
- Q. Dean Lehman:
Any gravity on 33?
- A. Ben:
No, anyone along the forcemain must pump.
- Q. Unknown:
How do you handle billing?
- A. Barry:
Bills will go to the deeded owner.
- Q. Unknown:
How many of you are affected by this bill?
- A. Richard lives in Bobo and will be in the project
- Q. Scott:
Where does the sewer go and why can't the City pay?
- A. Mark:
The City of Decatur covers the city services. The state set this up as a user pay system. The rates are made up of three pieces and without state grants the project such as this one is not possible. On this project even with 100% grant funds we need to put a large amount of funds back for O&M expenses.

Q. Unknown:
What % of the homes in the county are connected?

A. Barry:
238 users with 75 new homes in this project.

Q. Unknown:
How will you know if something fails?

A. Barry:
There are alarms to let you know. If you see a light or hear one in alarm you will have a number to call. If you have a generator your system will run as normal since it will be on your home power grid.

Q. Unknown:
What is the time to fix a pump?

A. Barry:
The time to replace a pump is about 15 minutes since they are modular. The board has also been considering hiring part time or future help as the district increases in size.

Q. What capacity does Decatur have?

A. Don:
The Decatur plant has a capacity of over 7 million gallons.

Q. Joel Christian:
What are the proposed increases?

What are projected maintenance costs?

A. Mark:
There are 90 districts across the state of Indiana. The rates for failures and maintenance are derived from their data and any increases in the rates will be reflected in the real data we collect from the system. The larger the system is the fewer peaks and valleys we will have. The board will set the rates as low as possible.

Q. Scott:
What limits the City plant?

A. Barry:
Our system flows about 41,000 gallons a day to a plant with over 7 million gallons a day in capacity. Our system is tight and due to that we have a very low impact on the treatment plant. The RSD meter is the monitor of the flow and directly relates to the fees the district pays the city.

Q. Unknown:
So eventually everyone will have to connect?

A. Barry:
Not necessarily.

Jessica – State code does not allow effluent to leave the property. The perimeter tile is to drain rain water and not effluent.

Nate S. – failure of a system is found when it discharges to a creek, solids leaving the property, and a backup into the home.

Q. Joel Christian:
What is the easement for?

A. For access to the grinder stations.

What is the timeframe for repairs?

A. Usually within the day, but we are looking at options to have shared agreements with surrounding municipalities.

What rate increases are you proposing?

A. We will anticipate increases as costs to the district go up. The county council subsidizes the district to the tune of \$60,000 per year to assist in rates.

Q. Joel:
I want to know what the Amish will be paying.

A. We don't know the surcharge yet.

Q. Joel:
What do I fill out for an exception?

A. Barry:
It was mailed to you. Fill it out and submit it to me.

Q. Scott:
Is this to clean E-Coli? I want to see the test results before and after this.

A. When you eliminate the sewage, you eliminate the source. If you want the original test results, contact the health department.

Lewis Brown – When you are taking sewage samples, the color does not tell the whole story. When sampling a clear color can still have 100s of thousands in e-coli. His estimate for connections is about \$1,500 each. Much of the septic systems on previous projects are 60% failure or close to collapse.

Q. Scott:
How do you pick violators?

A. We send out mailers and monitor the systems.

Q. Unknown:

Will you remove old lines?

A. Depends on the lines. We won't take out your leach field.

Q. How long will the pump stations last?

A. We expect 10 or more years.

District Superintendent Report

Insurance audit by Becky.

September should have this ready by 2nd Friday by next board meeting.

Maps of the project areas are here for public review after the meeting.

Engineers Report

None

District Attorney Report

None

Other Matters Presented

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by John, 2nd by Jim. Approved 7-0