

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

April 19, 2018

Attendance:

Mike Boltz	President	PRESENT
Mike Lindemer	Vice President	PRESENT
Bob Skiles	Director	PRESENT
Mark Butcher	Director	PRESENT
Davy Good	Director	PRESENT
Greg Robertson	Missoula Co	PRESENT
Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Kim Myre	Missoula Co	PRESENT

OPENING:

The meeting was brought to order at 5:16pm by Mike Boltz at The County Offices, located at 3360 Highway 83 N, Seeley Lake.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

MINUTES:

March 15, 2018

The minutes for the board meeting held on March 15, 2018 were presented to the Board for review.

Davy Good moved to accept the March 15, 2018 minutes as presented. Mark Butcher seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

INVOICES:

March 2018

Felicity Derry reviewed the invoices for the Board.

Mike Lindemer moved to approve and pay all of the March 2018 invoices as presented. Davy Good seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS:

January 2018

Felicity Derry reviewed the January 2018 financial reports for the Board, noting that it had been a fairly quiet month with the usual transactions.

Davy Good moved to approve the financial reports for January 2018 as presented. Mark Butcher seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Greg Robertson informed the Board that he had been working with DNRC, RD & bond counsel on interim financing. The best option was SRF, which was an EPA subsidized low interest loan. Greg Robertson then explained the sequence for expending the project funds thus necessitating the need for interim financing.

Greg Robertson noted that in Phase I there were four parcels that needed to be acquired for the right of ways and reviewed them with the Board. The District might be precluded from going through the common area next to the private parcel. Greg Robertson gave the Board the history for the parcel of land in Pine Drive that was currently not owned by anybody, and nobody could lay claim to it. The County Attorney and the Surveyors Office recommended to petition to open it as a right of way and the process for doing so was then explained.

Greg Robertson apologized for his absence and wanted to clarify any confusion that had arisen. The alignment of the forcemain had been the same for quite some time. The issue of the creek and getting through it with the restrictions of the easement might make that route impossible. The alternative route was then revisited, which had several advantages. It followed existing right of ways, with the exception of the Pine Drive parcel previously mentioned. It would be easier to serve the high school, and some additional parcels could be picked up. The bridge would easily support the forcemain. Also, the lift stations required would be smaller and not work as hard. The one issue was that it cost a little more, \$350,000. As the notice and protest had already been completed additional funding had to be found. In the omnibus spending bill, there was a reauthorization of WRDA making funds available for projects like Seeley Lake. Greg Robertson was working with Anna Miller, DNRC to secure some additional funding and believed that they would be successful. He was keeping the options open and would explore the nature of the easement with the District's attorney and if they had to abide by it. If the property owner would not grant the District an easement the owner to the south would.

Mike Boltz asked if the District could ask an installer's opinion on the boring. Greg Robertson said that he could talk to them about the directional bore. Discussion followed on the size and the route of the pipe.

Mike Lindemer said that with the hassle of the easements and the boring the alternate route would be easier. Greg Robertson said that it would be easier and would avoid the significant clearing behind the high school and a fairly long bore. The alternative route was a more known quantity. If the additional funds were secured it would make the decision easy.

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Bob Skiles questioned the GWE paperwork that referenced MDT approval for the bridge. If it was not an MDT bridge that should be made clear to GWE. Discussion of the forcemain route followed.

Bob Skiles asked how long the Pine Drive right of way would take. Greg Robertson replied that it would probably take a couple of months.

OLD BUSINESS:

Easements

Previously covered.

Board Election

Walter Hill questioned how individuals that had never attended a board meeting could become a candidate. Also, could the Board members campaign? Greg Robertson replied that they could. Walter Hill said that people should know that there was experience on the board and that they had dedicated their lives to it. Mike Lindemer said that the District had tried to have an educational program for the community. The community had voted down the financial package, which had cost them an additional \$2 million. The rumors and the misconception were wild.

Mike Boltz said that that Dick Lewis owned the piece of property that had the trailer court on it. Mike Boltz had people yelling at him because Dick Lewis had informed the people in the trailer court that their rent would be going up \$100 per month, starting right now, because of the sewer. Mike Boltz had done the math and for the next three years it would be \$2.50 per month per unit, and then \$6 a month when it was complete. The Board discussed Don Larson's fourplex and thought that it straddled two lots. Bob Skiles noted that Don Larson must be a big polluter because he had claimed in the paper that he had half as many septic systems for the people renting. Mike Lindemer added that if there were five trailers on one property it would be charged one fee. The misconception was that it was per unit. Bob Skiles surmised that they were trying to scare the renters.

Greg Robertson said that there would be a concerted effort by the grant staff to apply for CDGB grants. They were intending to make the next allocation available to Seeley Lake. The idea was to assist lower income folks, based on need, to pay off their assessments either partially or fully. Even though it was federal money if it were applied to their individual assessment RD had no issues with it. That would ramp up sometime next year and would be through the County Commissioners. It would be helpful to try to provide assistance for those that needed it the most.

Walter Hill questioned if an income survey was needed for the CDBG grant. Greg Robertson that the grant people would figure that out. They might be able to use census data.

Davy Good said that he had received multiple requests from local residents who wanted to help the lower income people pay for the sewer. Maybe the Community Foundation could set up a bank account for that. Greg Robertson said they were considering opening an account. Mike Lindemer thought that the community was strong enough to pull together and work it out. Discussion on the logistics of a resort tax followed. Walter Hill said that the estimated income from the resort tax could be \$150,000 per year.

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NEW BUSINESS:

FY2019 Budget

Kim Myre noted that the operating budget for the assessment fee had been circulated for the Board’s consideration.

Davy Good moved to adopt the FY2019 budget. Mike Lindemer seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Greg Robertson said that RD required an adopted conflict of interest policy as part of their start up conditions. Kim Myre had prepared one for the Board to review. The policy was discussed.

Bob Skiles moved to adopt the conflict of interest policy as presented. Mark Butcher seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next Board meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2018.

Greg Robertson noted that preparation for Phase II had begun. RRGL and TSEP would be considering grant applications at the end of May. A public hearing was required for input on the question of whether to submit applications for Phase II. It would be held on May 3, 2018 at 5:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mike Boltz adjourned the meeting at 6:13pm.

Attest:

Mike Boltz, President

-And-

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Felicity Derry, Secretary