

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

June 19, 2018

**Attendance:**

Mike Boltz	President	<b>ABSENT</b>
Davy Good	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Juli Cole	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Beth Hutchinson	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Troy Spence	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Greg Robertson	Missoula Co	<b>ABSENT</b>
Felicity Derry	Secretary	<b>PRESENT</b>
Kim Myre	Missoula Co	<b>PRESENT</b>

**OPENING:**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:17pm by Davy Good at The County Offices, located at 3360 Highway 83 N, Seeley Lake.

Beth Hutchinson said that the request that had been signed by three of the directors was misrepresented on the agenda. Felicity Derry asked how. Beth Hutchinson replied that the request dealt with the election of officers for the Board and not the District election. Felicity Derry replied that she had thought they had wanted be sworn in at the meeting and apologized for the misunderstanding. Beth Hutchinson said that it needed to be corrected.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

District Election

Troy Spence moved to elect Beth Hutchinson president. Davy Good questioned if the current president had to be removed first. Felicity Derry noted that the by-laws stated that would be done in November. Beth Hutchinson said that the by-laws had not been updated. When the by-laws were written the election for new directors was held in November. The provision in the by-laws said that new officers should be elected at the November meeting, which would have been the May meeting in the circumstance of the election in May. The intent of the by-laws needed to be followed when the specifics were not brought up to date for approximately twenty-five years. That related to the law passed in Helena. Felicity Derry said that was Beth Hutchinson's interpretation of the intent. Davy Good said that the Board had to follow the by-laws and not the intent of the by-laws. Beth Hutchinson said that the other option was to remove the current president and elect a new president, which would be fine. Beth Hutchinson moved to remove Mike Boltz as president of the Seeley Lake Missoula County Sewer District. Troy Spence seconded the motion. Davy Good said that he would

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not vote for that, noting that the Sewer District seemed to be heading in a different direction. Mike Boltz had done a good job helping it get to this point. The people in the District had spoken and they wanted more communication from the District. He thought that they had failed to do that.

Beth Hutchinson said that she would appreciate being made the president of the Board, it was a key reason that she ran. It was not for ego. She had the commitment and the flexibility of time to do the job. She had a great deal of knowledge about what the project involved and the weaknesses in the process. The Board needed to have leadership that was objective. A person could have an individual opinion and professional objectivity. She came into the situation and wanted to make sure that a sound decision was made. Her opinion was irrelevant to a decision, it would be based on adequate evidence. She could gather that evidence and present it to the community. Davy Good noted that they were pretty far along in the project. In discussions, he'd had with Beth Hutchinson it seemed that she was trying to start the whole thing over. Therefore, he would object to Beth Hutchinson being president. Beth Hutchinson said she felt that some evidence gathered in the beginning needed to be caught up. There was information that had been gathered that needed to be communicated effectively. It might be fair to say in some respects it was starting over. In other respects, it would not. All of the evidence needed to be available to the constituents and the Board before a decision was made. It was a serious proposition. Currently the evidence was not linked to any movement.

Kim Myre questioned if it was correct to proceed with the discussion at this time because it had not been posted as the election of officers on the agenda. Beth Hutchinson said that it was, because that was what had been requested. Kim Myre noted that was not what had been posted. Beth Hutchinson said that was an error that was not made by the Board. Kim Myre noted that it was an error. Felicity Derry noted that she had misunderstood what they wanted to so it was her error. Beth Hutchinson said that the longer certain things were pushed off the closer to the deadline when decisions had to be made. They did not want to operate that way. Several of them would not be able to make an objective decision without more evidence. It was a possible loss of a month. Kim Myre said that she understood that but wondered about the technicality of the discussion.

Fran Trexler asked if Mike Boltz wanted to be president. Multiple discussions followed. Bob Skiles noted that it did not matter as there were three people to vote against Mike Boltz. Beth Hutchinson said that they could remove him in a different manner.

Dan Smrdel said that the District by-laws that were in effect had the election set for November. If it was noticed properly the by-laws could probably be changed and to do it after the fact. The officers being elected was not noticed properly to anybody so it was an invalid meeting until it was noticed properly. As a member of the Board you could ask the questions and the get the answers. You did not have to be the president or vice president. The meeting looked to be invalid. It was not noticed properly. It should be stopped tonight and done properly. If it was done legally the first time you would not have to do it a second time. Juli Cole said that the by-laws stated that any officer could be removed at any time upon the majority of the board of directors at any meeting.

Bruce Hall said that Montana law stated that if it was not on the agenda it could not be addressed. Davy Good said that notice as to the nature of the meeting had to be given to other members of the board. Discussion followed. Beth Hutchinson said that the memos were addressed to Mike Boltz at the PO Box. Felicity Derry confirmed that she had received them and had notified Mike Boltz. However not about that specific item as she had misunderstood what they had wanted on the agenda.

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She had thought that the new Board members believed they had to take the oath at the meeting. Beth Hutchinson said that was not what they had thought nor said. They had already been sworn in. Felicity Derry noted that was her misunderstanding.

Coleen Krause said that she lived in Arizona and Beth Hutchinson was one of the smartest people she had met and had put a lot of time in. She would do a tremendous job and be very fair. She had worked in other communities on big projects and could lead the group in a calm way. They would benefit from her leadership.

Beth Hutchinson said that she withdrew her motion.

Tammy Lewis questioned if the whispering by Board members was normal. She had been to a lot of board meetings. If Beth Hutchinson was a Board member to make a motion, it was not usually done that way. There was a lot of whispering and it was hard to hear.

Dan Smrdel said that a director should speak clearly so everybody could hear. Beth Hutchinson said that she would inform the person next to her (Troy Spence) it would be legal and appropriate to move to remove the current president. The by-laws said at any meeting.

Dennis Clark asked if it was properly noticed for him to do that. Bruce Hall suggested that they look at the Montana open meeting laws. Beth Hutchinson said that they had looked at it and she was at a loss. Most boards would have the capacity to call their attorney to get advice. The bottom line was every effort was made to do it properly. The purpose for doing it this evening was to avoid starting out a regular meeting with chaos.

Bob Skiles said that he did not hear the part about her being sworn in. Was it automatic? Beth Hutchinson said that the Missoula County Clerk had directed her to be sworn in by the notary republic in Carbon County on June 1, 2018. She had sent her papers to the Missoula County Clerk and to Felicity Derry. Felicity Derry confirmed that she did. Juli Cole said that she was sworn in by a notary republic and they had mailed it back to her. Bob Skiles asked if they had to raise their right hand. Beth Hutchinson said that they did. You could get sworn in anywhere in the State of Montana.

Dan Smrdel asked why she was sworn in in Carbon County. Beth Hutchinson said that she owned two properties here, which qualified her for the Board, and lived in Red Lodge. Her intention was to spend one week a month here to talk to people. She was retired but she had to get a job so that she could afford to do that. Dan Smrdel asked where her primary residence was. Beth Hutchinson said that her primary residence was in Red Lodge. She had owned her residence here for approximately 38 years. She had lived here year-round for a total of 10 years. She had gone off to work. It was a challenging community to find enough employment and proper wages. It was a heartfelt issue to her. She cared about the community. She was tired of people putting in all kinds of time only to get it sabotaged. Differences of opinions could be resolved by discussion. The polarization in the community was terrifying. There were people that had good ideas, but there was no mechanism to bring them together. The sewer had driven them further apart. She had hoped that they could remediate it. She had no other interest in it.

Dan Smrdel asked if she had sat on any other boards in Red Lodge. Beth Hutchinson said that she had but was not on any currently. She had been on a Board for the Beartooth Highway and described

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the work she had done. She was also on the board for Kids Corner. A non-profit that had made \$100,000 by recycling clothes and materials and providing grants.

Dan Smrdel asked what her vision for the Board was. Beth Hutchinson said that her vision was to try to gather the information that was necessary so people could have a sound understanding of what the environmental situation was, what the financial situation was and the opportunities of a variety of wastewater treatment options. Also, to communicate with the Board as the Board would have to make the decision. The debt was for 40 years. A lot of the opinion making in town was based on myth rather than evidence. Many things had been said repeatedly for a long time that they had taken on a certain truth of their own when there was no evidence to support things. Evidence needed to be gathered that showed that the problem could be solved effectively in the long run without being a burden to the poor people in town. Without taking advantage of the seasonal people and in a way, that could be productive for business. It could be done. The gain and the misery could be spread. It needed to be communicated to the people.

Davy Good said that as a Board they had been working with Lee Boman, amongst others, so that funding should be in place to help the low-income people with a sliding fee scale. There would not be a sewer bill until 2021 or 2022. The funding package could not be slowed. It was phenomenal and a once in a life time opportunity. If we throw a wrench in it now and loose the funding package the city/county health department/EPA could come in and say we have messed around long enough you are going to put the sewer in but now there is no grant money or funding package. So, people would have to pay \$10,000-15,000 to hook up to it. Beth Hutchinson said that she thought there was merit to it but there was also merit to other solutions. She was neutral until convinced that all of the evidence was there to look at.

Dan Smrdel asked if she intended to stop the project and look at the other things. It was time for action. Was she willing to follow through with it? Beth Hutchinson said that the final engineering would be done in September or October and it could then be put out for bid. A PER was being worked on for another phase. The cost estimate might be high or low. There were no estimates for Phases III and IV. Most people would find it difficult to buy something when at least half, if not more, of the package did not have a cost. Total costs were needed. She thought that information could be got in time.

Mike Richards asked Davy Good if there were no estimates for Phases III & IV. Davy Good said that it was true that there were no estimates for the entire project. There were engineering estimates for most of Phase I and part of Phase II. No contractor had looked at it yet. Mike Richards asked Felicity Derry if it was true that there was no engineer's estimate for Phases III & IV. Felicity Derry replied that there was an original estimate for the entire project a long time ago. But as he knew a current estimate would not be good by then. Mike Richards said that was not his point. He needed to know what the estimate was for Phases I, II, III & IV as well as the cumulative amount of them together. Felicity Derry said that they did originally. Mike Richards asked if that number could be published or discussed as he had never heard it.

Fanny Trexler asked for Beth Hutchinson to give an example of a myth. Beth Hutchinson said that she believed the following were myths: the town would die without a sewer; a sewer would remedy the issue of affordable housing and it would allow prosperity for businesses. Workers were hard to get, not just because of affordable housing. It needed to be analyzed. It was possible to have the

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grants and other support and still get in over our head. There were no sound economic projections for about 40 years. It could be accomplished by an income survey. Could the generation of an income survey support this moving forward? It was a responsible way to behave. The work that had been done so far was not to be degraded. There was a difference in things that were done well in part and things that were entirely missing. That was her largest concern.

Dan Smrdel asked Juli Cole how often the new Board members got together and talked. They were doing it as a group, how did they communicate? Did they have a plan as to what they wanted to accomplish? Juli Cole said that they did not meet this was a starting point. Once they were Board members they did not. They talked by phone, not by conference call. Beth Hutchinson said that would be inappropriate since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Troy Spence added that they were neighbors and they talked over the fence. He phoned and texted Beth Hutchinson. Juli Cole said that they had not met as a group collectively. Beth Hutchinson said that they were in tune because they chose to run to attempt to take over the Board. They were forthright about that. They felt so strongly that the holes needed to get filled and there might be a less expensive wastewater solution.

Rachelle Harman asked if any of them had a background in sewer systems or water district type situations. Or was it all new to them? Beth Hutchinson said it was not entirely new to her. Rachelle Harman asked if they had a background. Juli Cole said that she did not. It was all new to her. Beth Hutchinson said that she had a background in landscape architecture and geology, which was approximately 7 to 10 years old. She had worked on projects that tied into this kind of stuff. Rachelle Harman questioned that kind of stuff, but not exactly sewer district information. Beth Hutchinson noted that she was interrupting. The engineering aspects she could not deal with in experience but she had been trained to read plans. She could find holes and see where things were missing. She also had a minor in economics. Rachelle Harman said that she just wanted to know if they had a background in engineering, or city development that kind of thing. Troy Spence said he did not.

Rachelle Harman said that Beth Hutchinson had said that she was concerned for the low income and seasonal people. She did not mention local residents, the people that lived here year-round and were working day in and out to make a living here. Where was her interest with them? She did not mention that. What about us? Beth Hutchinson said that she did not intentionally overlook it. The low-income people did live here year-round. She was trying to show that there were a variety of stakeholders. If she had left a group out such as the middle class or conventionally working people it was not to neglect them. It was to show the exceptions and bring everybody into balance. Rachelle Harman said that was important because she did not hear that at all. Beth Hutchinson apologized. Rachelle Harman said that they had been here for years and Beth Hutchinson did not live here fulltime. The people that did live here fulltime had vested their time and energy and monies. They were just as important. Beth Hutchinson agreed that they were. Rachelle Harman said that the low-income people would get funding. She did not think that had been stated. They would not be neglected. Beth Hutchinson said that it needed to be in place. Rachelle Harman said that was fine, but somethings could not be in place right now. They had to take time. She wanted to hear that they would work with the progression that had already been made and move forward and work with the people that had worked so very hard all these years. That Beth Hutchinson would not neglect their position and would work with them and not against them or oppose them or delay but keep moving forward. That was what she wanted to hear from all three of them. Beth Hutchinson said that she was not prepared to say that she was anything but neutral. She saw holes. Rachelle Harman noted that it was hard to believe that she was neutral. Beth Hutchinson said that when the holes were filled

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in then she could make a sound decision. She was clear that she did not wish to denigrate the work that had been done.

Colleen Krause said that she had explained things to her. Bob Skiles noted that Rachelle Harman was talking. Rachelle Harman said that it was important that they worked with the people that had the background, the education, the diligence and the drive. Beth Hutchinson should get onboard with them and learn from them and move forward. Then you questioned.

Colleen Krause asked if the other Board members were experts on sewers. Bob Skiles said that he was. Rachelle Harman said that it had been declared. They had announced themselves, their background and education from the very beginning. Beth Hutchinson said that she had also.

Colleen Krause said that without Greg Robertson it would fold. Any meeting that she had been to in the summer, no offense, but the Board sat there. They always referred questions to him. She always thought that Greg Robertson was the engineer. Davy Good said that he was an engineer. Colleen Krause said that he was running the show. Felicity Derry noted that he was the manager and that was what he was supposed to do.

Davy Good said that in the by-laws pertaining to special meetings if the direction of the Board was to remove Mike Boltz then the agenda was supposed to reflect that. It could be stated that it would be at the next meeting. Beth Hutchinson questioned if he was referencing Thursday. Davy Good replied that he was. Kim Myre said that it required 48 hours and there was not sufficient time. Davy Good said that it could be moved to the next scheduled meeting. There was no reason that research could not be done as to where the sewer was heading. Talk to Greg Robertson and try to get caught up to speed. It was an amazing funding package. There were five different funding options to help low income people and he would bring them to the next meeting.

Mark Mizner asked if there was a drop-dead date for the grant money that had been committed to the project so far. Was there a date by which if we do not use the money we lose it? Davy Good said that he did not know the exact date. Kim Myre said that the project had been delayed so many times. The funding agencies had extended so many times, they would not extend anymore. There would be a representative from Rural Development (RD) at the Thursday meeting. Felicity Derry added that it was on the agenda under Rural Development letter of conditions.

Bob Skiles said that the drop-dead date might be Thursday. Kim Myre said that her gut feeling was that they might need a commitment to move forward.

Mark Mizner asked how much money it was. Kim Myre replied approximately \$10million of the \$15million package. Mark Mizner asked what the Board's plan of action was if the current grant money was lost. Beth Hutchinson said that it had never been just one strain but to look at several options simultaneously. If the money was lost and it needed to be regained it would be to file for it again as the materials were still solid to do that. Davy Good said that if the package was lost the District could reapply but they would not get the same package.

Dan Smrdel noted that they were beyond the scope of meeting.

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Beth Hutchinson suggested that the meeting be adjourned and they could sit and talk. Felicity Derry noted that they could not do that because it would still be a meeting unless some Board members left. Beth Hutchinson said that if they wanted to continue to talk about that two of them would leave. It was not a good thing to come to a situation that ended up the way it had and leave frustrated. She would be willing to stay. Davy Good said that they had started to answer the question and they all had to work together. The Board needed to seriously think how they would answer if RD asked if they were going to move forward. It was the most important question they had been asked and they should answer it. Beth Hutchinson said that she would abstain as she did not have enough information. She was elected two to one. She respected the electorate. At this point she did not feel confident in making a decision on that.

Dennis Clark asked if she respected the 60% of the five hundred property owners that would pick up the tab who said to move forward. Beth Hutchinson said that 60% did not say move forward. Dennis Clark said that they did. Beth Hutchinson said that 60% did not protest. She personally knew people who because of the methodology used were afraid to put their name on things. She heard people addressed at this table for the position they took and ridiculed in public. A notice and protest slammed in a certain favor. It should be done with a vote so it was private. She was elected and she was solid on her position. She must make a decision that seemed sound to her. She did not feel that she had enough information to commit the District to the circumstances at the moment. She remained neutral to get more information and felt confident that when she examined it she would be shoved one way or the other.

Dennis Clarke said that she did protest. Beth Hutchinson said that she did. Dennis Clarke questioned that she went from opposed to neutral overnight or in months. Beth Hutchinson said that she did not know what kind of work they were engaged in. Her entire life she had engaged in work where you had to be professionally neutral until you got information. One could still have a private opinion. She would do fine if they got a sewer in Phase IV. She would do fine if she had to put in a septic system. It made no difference. She wanted the decision for the entire community based on every bit of evidence needed.

Dennis Clark said that the campaign advertisements in the paper for the three new Board members were funded by citizens for sensible wastewater. Was she no longer beholding to whoever those people were that funded that? How did she see herself as neutral when that organization paid to put the three people on the Board? Beth Hutchinson said that she might be an odd duck, but she was honest. She was on that group and took money from that group. She was not beholding to that group. She had disagreements with them. She tried to think sincerely and deeply.

Davy Good said that it was a funding package they could not let go. What did Troy Spence think? Troy Spence said that they needed the final price. He would rather sign away the \$10million rather than stacking on the debt they could not afford. Davy Good said that they would find additional funding. Troy Spence said that it had been seven years and they had not found it. Davy Good questioned that Troy Spence would say no and walk away from the funding package. Troy Spence said until he had an overall price of the package.

Tammy Lewis said that she had been following it for twelve years. There was an overall price. Anybody who had done a project knew that when you send it out to get built it could come in cheaper or higher. The engineers gave their best guess on Phase I, and possibly Phase II because it was two

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years out. How could they give a price on Phase IV when it was six to ten years out to the completion of the project? They could give you their best guess. You don't know what the economy would do. If contractors would come in less or more. How could you give a solid number when you could not give it for Phase I at this point?

Troy Spence said when you build a house you tell the bank you want to borrow money to build a one bedroom. If he were to add on four bedrooms they would need an estimate for that. How could they give you funding if they don't know how much you were getting? Tammy Lewis said that the question was would it take you ten years to build that house. That was the question in the room. If you were going to you build the house in one year they could give you a number. It was not a one or two-year project. It was eight years out. How do you get that number? Beth Hutchinson said that it was possible using economic tools. Tammy Lewis said that it was not. Beth Hutchinson said that you take a base number. If you had a number for each phase and you could project ahead and show a range. Tammy Lewis said that was some of what had been put out. Aside to that Beth Hutchinson kept saying that she needed to get educated and look at everything. How long had she been looking at this? For those of us who have been going along with this for so many years and watching. They have looked at lagoons, MBRs, SBRs to see what the most cost effective for the area would be to take care of what was needed for the water. Beth Hutchinson said that they had focused really well on sewer. In the by-laws, it stated all or part of the District. She did not think that had been looked at very hard. There were package sewers and considerably improved technology in septic systems. One option that had been put forth was to look at it from a water shed situation. Everybody in the watershed needed to be working together for the health of the watershed. She believed in wanting health. When people said they would find funding for poor people they believed themselves. They had to get to the point where they could trust each other. That would be in the next meeting. Could they make a single statement that everyone agreed on? Until they came up with ten or more statements they agreed on they would go in circles.

Tammy Lewis said that she hoped for the best. That they really had come with an open mind. From what had been said tonight as well as out on the street, in Rovero's. Some voices were very loud in Rovero's. She did not know that everybody who got on the Board had an open mind. If their agenda was to shut down the funding package she thought they would be doing the town a disservice. They should really look hard before they shut it down. There was a timeline and before they drew the line in the sand really please educate yourselves. Juli Cole said that she had an open mind. Tammy Lewis said that she really hoped she did. She had not always been sold on the sewer and money wise it was a hard pill to swallow. They had to look at the far reaching for our kids and grandkids and really hoped that they kept that in mind.

Davy Good asked if RD needed a majority vote to keep the funding package in place on Thursday how would you vote. Juli Cole said that was a really tough question and she did not expect to give that answer right now. She did not have enough information to say. They were new on the Board and they did not have enough information, she would be going in blind. She could not morally agree to something she knew nothing about. She had no hidden agenda and she was not there to shut anything down. Tammy Lewis asked outside of this had they been researching it. If you read through the stuff she did not understand how they did not know anything about it. She was not at a lot of the Board meetings but she had read Board minutes, read through the PER that was at the library. It had been there for two years and the older version before that.

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Beth Hutchinson said that she had read it fifty times. She found communication holes. The base map was unreadable due to information being overlaid. How could you explain to people using this information? She had been working on knowing about it for over 10 years. She wrote a four to six-page letter expressing her opinion that people needed communication and information. She was willing to do it for free. It was not picked up. She was good at communicating with people.

Dan Smrdel said that Beth Hutchinson had said that if the sewer was a go or she had to put in a septic that would be fine. Did she have a septic? Beth Hutchinson said that she did not. She had an outhouse. Dan Smrdel questioned if she lived there year-round. Beth Hutchinson said that she had on occasion. She kept it functioning properly. Dan Smrdel asked if she had running water. Beth Hutchinson said that she did, she was hooked up to the water system but it was currently turned off because it was not economically sensible for it to be running. She got water from friends. She used to have electricity until this winter when a tree took it out. Dan Smrdel asked what she utilized for her wastewater. Beth Hutchinson said that she did not use much soap. She washed her hands in a bowl and then used it to water her plants. She bathes at friends' houses. She used the facility at the Filling Station. You could live that way. She had lived on an island off the coast of Maine for four years where there was no water available from November to May.

Rachelle Harman said that most people did not live like that.

Bob Skiles said that Beth Hutchinson had said that she was totally honest. He says contrary to that. She had said a lot of bad things about him in the paper. Beth Hutchinson had said a lot of bad things to his mother-in-law when she called and asked her to vote for her. She had accused him of profiteering and that he did not do his job when he was on the Board. That was not true. If Beth Hutchinson had ever sent a 46-page letter to the Sewer Board they wouldn't have read it anyway. He was on the Board and he did not see a 46-page letter. Beth Hutchinson said that it was four to six pages which she read out loud at the Board meeting. Bob Skiles said that was immaterial. At one time, there was an engineer's estimate for \$8-13 million. Then it went to \$13-20 million for the entire project. They couldn't go to the voters with that and that was one of the reasons that it was divided up. To make it more affordable. It was against the law for the treatment plant cost to be spread further. As far as the vote and such she should not accuse the Board of sliding something in. The County Attorney told them that was what they had to do. Greg Robertson knew the laws and kept them out of trouble. The wells and lake had been tested since 1992. Last year they started testing the Lions Club pond for a year. The first thing she said was that she wanted to stop the testing because it was too high. It was in the minutes.

Beth Hutchinson said that was incorrect. Bob Skiles said that it was not incorrect it was in the minutes. Beth Hutchinson said that it was incorrect in the minutes, she would never have said that. Beth Hutchinson said that it was incorrect. She was not calling him a liar. She had asked for the opinion of whether to continue the testing. Bob Skiles said that she had said stuff to his mother-in-law that he would never say. Beth Hutchinson said that she did not say anything. When she was calling around campaigning his mother-in-law had told her who she was and Beth Hutchinson told her she was running against him. She said nothing much more. She gave her the information and she said she would vote for her. She was more than honest and considerate with her.

Bob Skiles said that the \$91 a month was not what everybody would be paying. That was what they had to tell the funding agencies because you could not exceed that. The real figure is in the \$60s. You

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could not say they had low income people and were only going to charge \$30 per month. Greg Robertson would say that it was an estimate. The \$91 was two things added together and it was a ploy to get funding. It was not carved in stone. They do not know how much it would cost until it went out to bid. Nathan Bourne said that it was based on the engineer's estimate. He was right until it was bid and ultimately until it was built. You had to put a number on it to tell the voters so they knew what they are getting into. Bob Skiles said they had repeatedly said \$50-60 per month. Beth Hutchinson said that could not be said without evidence. The \$91 was in papers put out by the sewer.

Troy Spence said that Bob Skiles attacked her about putting out lies and he was not going to call him a liar. He asked if Bob Skiles was for clean water. Bob Skiles replied that he was. Troy Spence asked if he had purchased a lot with a faulty septic on Riverview Drive. Bob Skiles said that it did not have a faulty septic it did not have a good lid. He had put a different lid on it which was concrete rather than wood. He did do that.

Mark Mizner said that if the project did not move ahead had they considered that the feds might move it ahead. If so what would that mean to the community? Juli Cole said that she had thought about that. Davy Good added that it would be without the funding package. Mark Mizner asked what responsibility the Board would have with that. Juli Cole said that she did not know that they were going to be down to the wire on Thursday. Davy Good said that they did not know that for sure. Davy Good said that he had talked to the new Board members individually and everybody understood that the funding package was a huge deal and he hoped they were brought up to speed in time. Davy Good said that the Board always said, although it was not always portrayed in the Pathfinder, that people could not pay that much money, it was too much. Nobody in the Sewer District could pay \$90, the Board had always said that. The Board always knew they would have to find additional grants and they talked about many different options through foundations and grants to help with the cost. It was not much money. Say there was \$500,000 in a bank account and there was a sliding scale based on income as to how much you would pay. It would pay for every single place, and it would pay the entire bill for three years. Juli Cole asked what happened after three years. Davy Good said that the Board could say no and in order for them to vote yes it had to be a 25-year package. Troy Spence said that as Bob Skiles had said that was not the right number. What was the number? Colleen Krause said that it would be about \$200 per month. Kim Myre said that it could not go over the number in the notice and protest. That was the worst-case scenario. Tammy Lewis said that was why they needed to educate themselves. That was what education did. Come to Board meetings.

Beth Hutchinson said that she was still concerned about Phases III & IV. She had measured using digital technology where everything was supposed to go. A request for Greg Robertson was to have the engineers break it out to show the distribution of the effluent cost, the plant cost, the force main cost, the main collection system cost and the cost to connect with the individual houses. It should be able to be done within a few hours. Then there was the capacity to compare with the rest of the District so you could get a novice's idea of where things might go. The way the costs were laid out for Phase I there was no chance to get parallel figures for other areas. The community wanted that information. Some people did not feel a need for it. There was a difference of opinion. There were a lot of people in the community with different needs that needed to be understood. It was possible to start with one thing that you agreed on and get the information so you could then move closer to agreement.

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Tammy Lewis said that as long as they were not waiting for a concrete number that could happen. But if they were looking for something set in stone the Board was sunk. Beth Hutchinson said that it needed to be a number on a piece of paper that was related to something. It should be realistic in a range. Tammy Lewis said that they had done that kind of thing in the past. The problem was if it had been built ten years ago that number would be way different than it would be now. Beth Hutchinson said it needed to be done again. Tammy Lewis said that there had been numbers. If they were looking for a concrete one in the middle. If it had to be redone that would be more engineering and more money and the District would lose funding. Beth Hutchinson said that it was math. Everybody was unwilling to get the math done. If it took them three days to do it. She had done it and knew how long it took. Tammy Lewis said that Beth Hutchinson did not believe Phase I then why would she believe Phase II, etc. Beth Hutchinson said that she did not say she didn't believe it. She wanted it broken out. There was an alternative possibility that it might not work. To move where it was being done. To use purple pipes to send it after it was clean, and Bob Skiles was ready to drink it, back to the houses. It would go through their septic systems in the winter and could be used for irrigation in the summer. It was legal in the state. There were other opportunities to use it to beautify the town. Davy Good said that was starting over. It was twice as much pipe. Tammy Lewis said that current septic systems would not take that, so you would be putting in new septic systems for everybody. Mark Mizner asked was there a figure for that proposal? Beth Hutchinson said that she did not have one because she needed the other figures to work from. She had expressed that to the paper many months ago. Tammy Lewis asked if she had sent it to the Sewer Board or the engineers.

Dan Smrdel asked how she was going to fund the new project. Beth Hutchinson said the same way others were being funded. Communities were repeatedly asking for grants. Dan Smrdel said that she would have to start over. Beth Hutchinson said that she did not want to sound disrespectful, but they were not going to gain anything by going around again. Dan Smrdel said that the meeting should be adjourned because it did not meet the noticing. They needed to get in the books from 1990 to 2018 and how we got here. They should look at the entire project to date so they could make an informed decision when the time came. The meeting was not noticed properly, so it was basically a waste of time.

Nathan Bourne said that there was another item on the agenda. Were they going to move on to discuss the by-laws?

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### District By-Laws

Beth Hutchinson said that she had asked her colleagues to put this on their request for the meeting because they had not been formally altered in twenty-five years. There were many inconsistencies. She had not intended to have a final dealing with the by-laws tonight, only to become acquainted with it. At this time Beth Hutchinson circulated a draft with some modifications she had made. Beth Hutchinson then explained her draft.

Mark Mizner asked what was required to change the by-laws? Beth Hutchinson replied that the directors had to be given the changes in writing seven days in advance.

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Rachelle Harman said that the by-laws should be revised every several years to keep up with any relevant changes. Beth Hutchinson said that should be added as a section. Nathan Bourne seconded that the by-laws needed to be updated, they were very confusing. The legislature met every two years and changed the laws that often. Beth Hutchinson said that her intention was to have the Board review the draft. It should be broken up into pieces and gradually tidied up. The parts that could cause issues, such as the November election were a major deficit. The three of them should have been put into place in May. That was the intention.

Dan Smrdel said that by-law revision was a lengthy process. The updated by-laws had to be discussed and voted on, and they needed to flow and be consistent.

Beth Hutchinson outlined for the Board how to review the by-laws.

Franny Trexler asked what was on the agenda for the Thursday meeting. Beth Hutchinson outlined the agenda. Felicity Derry listed the locations that the agenda was posted. Beth Hutchinson suggested that there should be copies of the agenda for the members of the public. Felicity Derry said that there had been some on the table.

Davy Good noted that the next scheduled meeting was Thursday June 21, 2018 at 5:15pm. Felicity Derry asked the new Board members where they would like their packets delivered. The Board agreed the Rovero's would be easiest. Beth Hutchinson said that she had hoped to get the packets a little sooner, maybe three to four days ahead of time. Felicity Derry noted that it would be hard when there were three or four meetings a month to get the minutes completed that far ahead but some of it could be circulated. Beth Hutchinson said that it was mainly information that needed to be studied. Felicity Derry suggested that information could be emailed also. However, in order to do that she needed contact information.

Franny Trexler suggested that the District use name cards for the Board. Also, members of the public stating their name and address not only helped the Board but also the public and suggested putting instructions on the agenda regarding members of the public stating their name and address. Nathan Bourne noted that at a public meeting people did not know who Greg Robertson was. Kim Myre who was part of Missoula County was involved also so her comment had more weight. He suggested including Kim Myre and Greg Robertson in the name cards.

Beth Hutchinson suggested that the table configuration be rearranged so that Kim Myre and Greg Robertson could sit at a table that was not the board table. Also, to allow for more seating capacity. Davy Good noted that Greg Robertson, as the manager, and Kim Myre usually sat with the Board. Beth Hutchinson said that they should not sit with the Board. The Board sat apart. Kim Myre added that she and Greg Robertson usually sat opposite from the Board. Discussion on the layout of the room followed.

## **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

The next Board meeting was scheduled for June 21, 2018.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Davy Good moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. Troy Spence seconded the motion.

Attest:

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Davy Good, Director

-And-

| SEAL |

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Felicity Derry, Secretary