

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
June 28, 2021

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Pat Goodover	Director	PRESENT*
Beth Hutchinson	Vice President	PRESENT	Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT
Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Jean Curtiss	Manager	PRESENT	Kim Myre	Missoula Co	PRESENT

*Joined the meeting at 6:09pm
Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The hearing was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:08pm. The meeting was held at the Barn and remotely via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris requested that everybody be respectful. The hearing was being held to hear protests regarding the FY22 assessment methodology and to adopt the resolution setting the assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

Jean Curtiss noted that six written protests had been received. There had been some confusion that multiple properties with the same tax id had been individually assessed. Jean Curtiss reviewed the statutes governing sewer district assessments and why multiple lots that had been combined under one tax id were still assessed per lot. Jean Curtiss also reviewed the procedure to consolidate lots into one property.

Tom Morris requested comments and protests from the public.

John Richards commented that the sewer project had been voted down because of the cost. He owns six lots and would pay \$1,500 and after paying the assessment for years, there was no sewer. John Richards recommended that the District review alternatives and outlined the best way to reduce the pollution from septic systems. John Richards felt that nobody was getting anything for the \$245 assessment per lot.

As a septic system installer, John Richards knew the issues and felt that every system needed to be tested. Then to figure out who the polluters were, perform dye tests and clean up those who were identified with substandard systems.

Tom Morris thanked John Richards for his comments and noted that the hearing was to listen and the Board would then respond later. Jean Curtiss added that John Richards' written protests had been received and met the qualifications.

Nathan Bourne asked if any protests had not been completed correctly. Jean Curtiss noted that Dan Semmens had reviewed the protests and found that they met the qualifications. Beth Hutchinson and Jean Curtiss discussed whether the received protests met the statute for protesting. Jean Curtiss added that Dan Semmens felt that the received protests all met the qualifications.

Tom Morris asked for any other comments or protests. There were none.

Kim Myre noted that she had received a call from a person that was upset about the assessment and felt that they were throwing their money away each year on something that they would never see. Beth Hutchinson added that the hearing was for the assessment methodology only.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of Written Protests received

Tom Morris noted that all of the protests had been posted on the website for public viewing.

John Richards commented that the methodology was for equal assessment, but every lot was not equal. The lake properties were worth a lot, the vacant lots were not worth much and that was why he was protesting the methodology. Tom Morris noted that none of the assessment methods were fair to everybody; however, the equal assessment methodology was the fairest to the most people.

Resolution# 06282021 Setting Assessments

Beth Hutchinson questioned the title of the resolution. Jean Curtiss noted that the attorney had reviewed the language and approved it. The Board reviewed and discussed the resolution. Tom Morris read Resolution#06282021 Setting Assessments.

Cheri Thompson moved to adopt Resolution#06282021 Setting Assessments for Seeley Lake Sewer District. Tom Morris seconded the motion. Cheri Thompson noted that the assessment was the same amount that had been paid in 1980, when adjusted for inflation. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING:

Tom Morris adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary