

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD WORK SESSION
July 28, 2020

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

* Joined at 7:44pm

Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:01pm. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conceptual Discussion of Bonding Options Based on a Preliminary Analysis

Jean Curtiss reviewed Dan Clark's comments from the board training workshop regarding the responsibilities of the Board.

Presentation by Dan Semmens, Dorsey & Whitney Bond Counsel for the Seeley Lake Sewer District (Topics may Include: General Obligation Bonds, Revenue Bonds and Other Tools)

Dan Semmens introduced himself and gave the board some background on how long he had been involved with the District.

Dan Semmens explained what bonds were and outlined the different kinds of bonds available to water and sewer districts. Also, the different methods each used to assess the cost within the District to repay the bonds.

Dan Semmens reviewed examples of a general obligation bond, a revenue bond and a combined general obligation bond and revenue bond, explaining how the cost for each would be spread within the District. Also, how the change in taxable value effected general obligation bonds.

Discussion/Questions – Board Members

Dan Semmens outlined how the Board could proceed to a bond election and inform the public. The discussion moved to how a general obligation bond would affect customers' monthly payments.

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Seeley Lake Sewer District

Board Work Session

The election/notice and protest requirements for the various bonds were discussed.

Dan Semmens outlined the options available to the Board and recommended that the Board evaluate their fundamental financing concerns and the mixture of bonds that could best address them.

The Board discussed the feasibility of putting a District bond election on the November 2020 ballot and the requirements of such an election.

When and how a deficiency tax could be levied was discussed.

The Board discussed the bond options available and the importance of having the correct figures to present to the public. Also, how quickly the Department of Revenue (DOR) could provide the District's taxable value to facilitate this being placed on a ballot was discussed.

The possibility of presenting two options on a ballot was discussed. Discussion turned to when the Board would discuss a bond election and placing it on the ballot. The Board agreed that a bond election should be added to the August 6, 2020 meeting agenda. The Board discussed the procedure for moving towards a bond election and the optimal time to schedule it.

The fine line between informing the public and not influencing them in the event of an election was outlined and discussed.

Voter turnout in past Sewer District elections and public education were discussed. There was further dialog on the Board's bond election discussion that had taken place at the August 6, 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nathan Bourne asked if the Board went forward with a bond election would it eliminate the current methodology. Dan Semmens confirmed that the bond election would replace the current notice and protest and assessment methodology.

Discussion followed on the agenda items for the August 3, 2020 meeting and when the insurance company's request for reimbursement of the litigation expenses would be addressed. It was confirmed that the primary focus of the August 3, 2020 meeting was to be prepared to present, if needed, a resolution and a notice of hearing for an alternative assessment methodology. When the litigation expenses would be addressed was discussed further.

Preparing the documents for the alternative assessment methodology and what would trigger the Board to change the assessment methodology were discussed.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: August 20, 2020

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Walt Hill seconded the motion, which was then passed.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary