

North Kent Sewer Authority

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Grimm called the meeting of the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present were Chair Steve Grimm (Cannon Township), Jean Wahlfield (Alpine Township), Cameron Van Wyngarden (Plainfield Charter Township), Charles Porter (Courtland Township) and Dave Jones (City of Rockford).

Also in attendance were Mark Prein, Jim Scales, Director Scott Schoolcraft, Collections Superintendent Gary Seger, NKSA Treasurer Linda Lehman, Plainfield Township Public Services Director Rick Solle, and Plainfield Township Supervisor Robert Homan. Also present were Tom DeBoer and other members of the Cowan Lake Park Association.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Van Wyngarden moved with support from Porter to approve the April 6, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. The chair announced, absent objection, that the Board would proceed to first consider item 9.A.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business - Proposed Sewer Connections from Cowan Lake. Mr. Tom DeBoer and other members of the Cowan Lake Park Association were present. The Association is looking for options for sewer service for Cowan Lake, located in Oakfield and Grattan Townships. Mr. DeBoer inquired whether capacity was available in the North Kent Sewer Authority to provide service to the lake, which at present has about 85 residences.

Possible routes of connection would be along 10 Mile Road to the Brower Lake Area, or near Bostwick Lake. Concern was expressed regarding the existing carrying capacity of the Cannon/Courtland sewers, and the feasibility of the relatively small number of customers bearing the cost of making the connection to the NKSA system. The Association is working with Prein & Newhof to study the feasibility and will continue doing so. No decisions were made.

TREASURER REPORT

A. A written cash summary was presented by NKSA Treasurer Linda Lehman.

B. Linda Lehman discussed the SAW grant refund, and presented a proposed allocation among the communities. Because these represent funds of the NKSA itself, it was discussed whether to direct these refunds, in the total amount of \$46,802.97, to the NKSA capital account, as opposed to refunding it to the units. Following discussion, Porter moved, with support from Jones, to direct the SAW grant refund to the capital account. All voted in favor.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Schoolcraft presented a written report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Mark Prein reminded those present that the joint system connection fee to be charged by each local unit and remitted to the NKSA – currently in the amount of \$3,420 for a one inch or smaller connection – is based on meter size according to meter equivalent factors set forth in the Second Amendment to the Sewage Collection and Treatment Agreement approved in 2014. The NKSA connection fee is not an REU based connection fee. For the typical single-family residence with a one inch or smaller meter or meter equivalent, the result would typically be the same as the previous practice of levying connection fees on an REU basis. For multi-family or commercial properties, however, the NKSA connection fee methodology could give a different result from past practice. Also, if meter size is increased due to expansion or change in use of a business, an additional NKSA connection fee must be paid.

Each community may charge usage fees or other connection fees, like trunkage fees, on an REU basis at their option. However, it is important to remember that the NKSA connection fee is charged under a meter equivalent basis, even if other fees are charged on an REU basis.

C. Director Schoolcraft reviewed the typical cost of living increases for the City of Rockford and other communities. Following discussion, Wahlfield moved, with support from Van Wyngarden, to set the upcoming annual cost of living increase at 2%. All voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

August 3, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Attorney Jim Scales
Acting Recording Secretary