

North Kent Sewer Authority

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steven Grimm called the meeting of the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) to order at 2:00 p.m. at the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant, 4775 Coit Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Present were Board Members Steve Grimm (Cannon Township), Terry Bartels (Courtland Township), Jean Wahlfield (Alpine Township), Cameron Van Wyngarden (Plainfield Township), Thad Beard (City of Rockford; arrived after approval for sale of Vactor Truck).

Also in attendance were NKSA attorney Jim Scales, Director Scott Schoolcraft, Mark Prein, P.E., and NKSA employee Jeremy Pitsch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A correction was made to the November 2021 minutes to refer to Cameron Van Wyngarden was the Vice Chair. Motion was made by Cameron Van Wyngarden, seconded by Jean Wahlfield, to approve the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Scott Schoolcraft presented a written report.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Motion by Van Wyngarden; seconded by Bartels to adopt the “Resolution Amending FY 2021 General Appropriations Act” in the form presented to the Board. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Director Schoolcraft explained that the Authority had determined that it was inefficient for it to continue to own the Vactor Truck and perform sewer cleaning services with Authority personnel. Two proposals were received to purchase the NKSA’s Vactor Truck and a 2004 Ford F450 also used for sewer cleaning services. Motion by Van Wyngarden, seconded by Wahlfield, to sell the 2000 Vactor Sterling chassis and 2004 Ford F450 to Plummer’s Environmental Services, Inc. on an “as is” basis for \$82,750 for both vehicles. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- B. Director Schoolcraft presented a proposal for a 6% increase in employee compensation for 2022. It was noted that the current wage rates had been set based on a study performed approximately three years ago and were considered fairly current. It was also noted that this suggested increase reflected the current high rate of inflation and tight labor market. Motion by Van Wyngarden, supported by Bartels to approve the wage increases as presented to the Board, and in addition to conduct a wage study to be presented in mid-2022 of comparable wages in the area. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
- C. Potential grants from the State Revolving Fund Program for PFAS remediation for wastewater systems were discussed. It is anticipated that any financial support would be in the form of loan forgiveness. Motion by Van Wyngarden, supported by Beard, to authorize and direct Prein & Newhof and Director Schoolcraft to set the parameters for a possible application for funding, and to authorize the Director and/or Chair of the Authority to file a notice of intent for participation in the SRF Program. Motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mark Prein noted significant increase in construction costs, exceeding estimates by 20% to 30%. He also noted long lead times for pipes, structural steel and other construction materials.

Director Schoolcraft noted significant increases in the cost of chemicals.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 3, 2022.

Jim Scales
Acting Recording Secretary