



Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities

Meeting Minutes

Country Squire Lakes Clubhouse

August 10, 2022

President Brian Hatfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll call was performed. The following members were present: Brian Hatfield, Michael Gerth, Marshall Jenkins, and Dale Boyd. Also in attendance: Jeff Maddux (Utilities Superintendent), Andrew Klescht (Assistant Utilities Manager), Kayla Zimmerman (Attorney), and two (2) member(s) of the public and one (1) member of the media.

The July meeting minutes were presented. Brian Hatfield called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Marshall Jenkins requested an addition to include, **This decision is based upon the voluntary resignation of Mr. Wooton in May of 2022**. As to why no further payments are to be made to DB Wooton Consulting. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the minutes as presented with the addition. Mike Gerth seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved **(4-0)**. The July 12th, 2022, executive session minutes were presented. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed **(4-0)**.

Utility Superintendent Jeff Maddux Presented a verbal report. Jeff discussed different events that took place throughout the month. Jeff informed the board that the screen in the headworks building has been fully repaired and brought back online. It was asked if we had to have the worked done by a third party and Jeff informed them that we did the work in house. He then explained to the board the issue with the film building up on the grit tank and how it is needing to be cleaned each week. The quote for Merrell Brother's cleaning of the lagoons was given to the board members to take under consideration, next was the letter from North Vernon Utilities that was received by customers formerly in the JNRU service area (phase 1 expansion). The issue is who is responsible for the failed lines that were partially installed by JNRU but were then forcibly abandoned, this area was then annexed by the city of North Vernon and new sewers from the city were installed. Brian Hatfield is on the North Vernon City Utility Board meeting's next agenda to discuss possible remedies. Jeff brought up the PLC failure of the non-potable lift station at the wastewater treatment plant and how it needed to be fixed to maintain the proper function of the lift station at a cost of \$1,650.00. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the repair and going forward to allow Jeff to approve emergency & vital repairs up to \$2,000.00 without the need for pre-approval from the board. The motion was seconded by Mike Gerth and the motion passed



unanimously (4-0).

There was discussion about getting a debit card for emergency and one-off expenses, and having an ordinance written allowing for usage of the debit card. After discussion it was determined that Jeff Maddux would be the primary and Andrew Klescht would be the secondary person of responsibility for the card's usage. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to acquire a debit card and have Jeff and Andrew as responsible charge. Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

There was discussion regarding the Simple IRA. After discussion, Mike Gerth made the motion that JNRU will put all employee deductions and employer matching contributions, up to the 3%, into each employee's Simple IRA following each month. Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Various perks of the field employees were discussed, the board asked for a list of current and former perks to be presented at the September meeting. The accounts receivable report was discussed. Decatur mold moving their sewer line to be serviced by the city and no longer by JNRU was also discussed. Marshall Jenkins brought up the possibility of the county taking over the currently private road owned and maintained by JNRU that runs from 300 N to Country Manor Street. Robert, from the public, discussed issues with the Queensville gate and why it is not opened for public access unless there is a flood event and why it could be problematic if the highway in front of CSL's main entrance is closed when the project starts.

Treasurer Michael Gerth presented the treasurer's report.

The claims were presented and discussed. Mike Gerth made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Marshall Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the payroll claims and Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Old Business:

Kayla Zimmerman read in the ordinance about vehicle repairs. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to table the adoption of the ordinance until September's meeting, Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed (4-0).

New business:

Mike Gerth discussed no longer needing pre-approval for every transfer. Mike made the motion to have two people initial transfers and only emailing as confirmation of the transfer rather than for approval. Marshall Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Mike discussed that he has been in contact with the bond holders and the last bond payment was in March of 2020 for \$20,000.00.



Mike asked for a motion to make a \$20,000.00 Bond payment. After brief discussion Mike Gerth made a motion to make a \$20,000.00 bond payment and Marshall Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously **(4-0)**.

Brian Hatfield discussed the desire to hire two new employees, one for the field and one for the office. Mike asked for up to 60 days to work on the budget before moving forward. No action was taken.

There was discussion regarding employee PTO and how it is accrued. Discussion was then had regarding INI events in the collection system.

Brian Hatfield discussed having an executive session, it is tentatively planned for Aug 18th at 1:30 PM at the JNRU Office.

Assistant Utility Manager Andrew Klescht presented the details of the judgement of the person who hit the JNRU office building, he has failed to make timely payments of his restitution. After brief discussion it was determined the board would not move forward with more legal action as there is already a judgement in place.

Kaylan Higgs, reporter from the North Vernon Plain Dealer & Sun was present and had questions for the board. After brief discussion, the board gave details regarding the Waterworks Bond. Marshall Jenkins gave a brief breakdown of some of the financial changes that have recently been implemented. Brian Hatfield discussed the desire to one day put JNRU in a position that JNRU could be able to expand the sewer district and be able to serve a larger area.

Adjournment:

There was a call for adjournment of the meeting. Dale Boyd made a motion and Marshall Jenkins seconded the motion; motion passed **(4-0)**, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Brian Hatfield
President

Attest:

Marshall Jenkins
Vice President
