



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - www.JNRU.org

Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities
Meeting Minutes
Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities Office
September 13, 2023

President Brian Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

Roll call was performed. The following members were present: Brian Hatfield, Marshall Jenkins, Mike Gerth, Dale Boyd, and Judi-Johnson Stevens. Also in attendance: Andrew Klescht (Utilities Manager), Jeff Maddux (Utility Superintendent), Cindy Summerfield (Office Manager) Kayla Zimmerman (Attorney), and (0) members of the public.

Approval of Minutes:

The August 2023 Board minutes were presented. The August 9th regular meeting minutes were presented. After review, Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, Dale Boyd seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

The August 9th executive session minutes were presented, after review Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the minutes. Judi-Johnson Stevens seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

The August 22nd special meeting minutes were presented. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Judi Johnson-Stevens seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

Members of the public: There were no members of the public present.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Maddux

Jeff Maddux gave a verbal report. He discussed the report he received from IDEM after his most recent wastewater treatment plant and sewer inspection.

The first marginal item that was discussed was the need for an alarm system at the wastewater treatment plant. We currently do not have an alarm system that will call out in the event of a failure. Since the report was issued Jeff has had Toric do an on-site review and inspection of what we currently have. Both an option for an upgrade to our current SCADA to be retro-fitted with call-out abilities, but with no guarantees or warranty, and a new computer system to integrate our SCADA and be able to integrate into a new plant in the future.

The next marginal item in the report was not having a 24-hour composite sampler for the raw influent flow. The first quote Jeff was able to obtain was for a new HACH sampler. The price is roughly \$11,000.00 for a new sampler. We are going to attempt to repair the one we currently have. If repairs fail, we will also seek other quotes and bring them to the next meeting for further review.



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Manager's Report: Andrew Klescht

Andrew Klescht gave a verbal report for the month.

Andrew discussed the need to start getting the skid steer and the excavator on a routine of servicing. A basic service is roughly \$600 for each piece of equipment. This will start being done annually.

Currently, the county highway department is paving several roads within CSL. Many of the trucks that are hauling asphalt are using our private drive, it is not suited for the excessive weight from the trucks, we are responsible for the maintenance of the drive, and it is not something we are able to currently maintain. Andrew will reach out to the county highway department and ask them to use other roads, if possible, for the remainder of the project and future projects. We will also seek to transfer the drive to the county's possession.

Tentatively we will be flushing hydrants in the third week of October.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Gerth

After discussion and review of the monthly financials, there was a call for a motion to approve the claims as presented. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve the claims as presented, Judi Johnson-Stevens seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

Treasurer Gerth discussed the possibility of opening an account for some of the proceeds of the land sale in an interest-bearing account. Although slightly higher rates would be possible with a CD, it would reduce flexibility. He recommended opening a money market account with our current bank, JCBank, the interest rate is currently 4.75 %. Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve opening the account and funding it with \$400,000.00., Judi Johnson-Stevens seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

Old Business:

Reedy Financials initial findings on the rate study were discussed. Vice-President Jenkins explained to various options available to us. Currently, the recommendation will be to change the rate structure entirely. With the current present proposal, there will be a smaller base charge for all customers and billing would begin at 100 gallons and not 0-2000 gallons that we currently use. After more discussion, the proposal that is currently under discussion would save lower users a significant amount, while pushing a larger burden of the rates to heavier users, to be as equitable as possible.

There were several attempts to get possession of the rate study Jennings Water Inc. carried out before they increased their water rates. After many attempts, Jennings Water Inc. presented JNRU with an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) that must be passed and signed by the board of trustees for the rate study to be released to JNRU and its representatives. Judi Johnson-Stevens made the motion to sign the NDA and Mike Gerth seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

President Hatfield discussed JTL, currently who are on a \$5,000 limit to aid and assist in the creation of a master plan for JNRU. After discussion we will hold steady with JTL currently,



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this may change in the future depending on the outcome of meetings with USDA and Terry Goodin. A county master plan had discussions started at the meeting in August where CSL, JNRU, and USDA had representatives present. On September 21, 2023, President Hatfield along with representatives from other various agencies, and groups within Jennings County will attend the County Commissioners meeting to gauge interest in a county wide master plan to address infrastructure needs. Groups that may be in attendance include North Vernon, County and City TIF, and JNRU. Other needs that could be addressed for JNRU could include money for our INI and possibly refinancing our debts, regardless of the larger outcome of the other meetings.

New Business:

No new business was presented.

Jeff Maddux:

Members of the Board presented Jeff Maddux with a plaque of appreciation for 30 years of service. Mike Gerth made a motion to approve a lunch budget of \$250 and to close at noon on September 29, 2023, for an extended lunch and safety training workshop. Judi Johnson-Stevens seconded the motion, the motion passed (5-0).

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Judi Johnson-Stevens and Dale Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed (5-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Members

Signatures

Brian Hatfield

Marshall Jenkins

Mike Gerth

Dale Boyd

Judi Johnson-Stevens

ATTEST: October 11th, 2023

Marshall Jenkins, Secretary