

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE  
DAMON RUN CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
AUGUST 12, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Damon Run Conservancy District met at 5:00 P.M. on August 12, 2013 at its offices at the Valparaiso Public Library, 103 East Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, Indiana. Directors present were Jack Barko, George Grace, Richard Hardin, and Jennifer Beauchamp. Don Wilhelm was absent. Also present were Bill Ferngren of Ferngren Law and Eric Walsh of Umbaugh & Associates.

Mr. Barko called the meeting to order.

The meeting minutes from February 19 and May 28 were presented. Mr. Hardin made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Beauchamp seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Beauchamp presented a list of claims. Mr. Grace stated that it was good to see the accounts payable amounts declining. Mr. Grace made a motion to approve. Ms. Beauchamp seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Ferngren gave an update on communications with the three outside properties regarding the IURC order and the change in billing methodology from PILT to user fees. There have been multiple attempts to contact the park attorney with no response. The attorney for the school has responded and is fine with the change so long as they have the same agreement as the hospital. The hospital attorney has pushed back a little bit on changing the contract.

The board will need to adopt a new rate ordinance showing the change for any outside properties reflecting the new calculations and user fees. Currently the District is not receiving any funds from the benefitted properties in regards to PILT or increased user fees until the new rate ordinance is approved. This will require two hearings, an introduction and a public hearing. The board wants to move forward quickly with the new rate ordinance and get it in place as soon as possible.

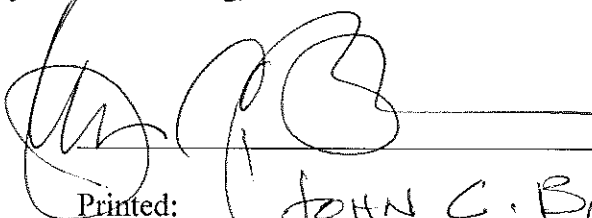
Also to be included in the new rate ordinance will be the 1.) increase in rates that Portage enacted in June changing from \$5.22 to \$5.64. The district passes these dollars through. 2.) Outside user connection fee to match the IURC order, 3.) Process for rate reduction for swimming pool filling, and 4.) Summertime fee reduction


Mr. Walsh presented the updated district plan reflecting the changes required by the IURC order. The calculations show that with the change, the District will be revenue neutral and the benefitted properties will pay the same as they were through PILT. This change will likely require the District to amend their rate ordinance annually in order to keep the payments in line for the benefitted properties and in district freeholders. The tax rate trend continues to be downward as was anticipated during the budget process last year.


There were discrepancies found in the I&I report that shows much more flow is going into Portage than what is being billed. Ms. Beauchamp has already found several discrepancies in the billing and is continuing to investigate.

Mr. Ferngren gave an update on the Fox Chase Farms. A hearing is scheduled in order to appoint a receiver for the wastewater at the IURC. It does not appear that we need to attend this hearing however we may be moving to a point of negotiation including SRF grants and funding.


There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Beauchamp moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Grace seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

  
Printed: JOHN C. BARKE

  
Printed: RICHARD W. HARDIN

  
Printed: Donald H Wilhelm

ATTEST:

  
Printed: Jennifer Beauchamp