

## WRWSD Board of Trustees Saturday Meeting – 11/12/2022

President P. Levermore called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

**Roll Call:** Present: Armstrong, Buskey, LaPlante, P. Levermore, S. Levermore, Moore, Wales, Mgr. Cahall

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by LaPlante to approve the 10/31/22 minutes as read. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report** (P. Levermore): President P. Levermore read the following into the minutes:

### **Waynoka Regional Water and Sewer District Statement of Facts Regarding the EPA Drinking Water Notices**

Property owners have asked for more detailed information about the drinking water notices which they received in the mail recently and some comments about the notices have been posted on social media that are inaccurate. We would like to share the facts and the timeline regarding the situation with our customers. First, the WRWSD Board has taken this issue very seriously and wants all property owners to know that our water is NOT contaminated.

- We had an inspection of the plant, with the Ohio EPA present, in July. The results of that inspection were reported to us that everything was okay – no violations by our Class III operator.
- Due to a personnel issue, we shut down our water plant and went to Brown County water on 9/2/2022. (See WRWSD meeting minutes of 9/10/2022.)
- Due to the same personnel issue, our Class III licensed water operator was let go on 9/7/2022. (For liability reasons, the details of personnel issues cannot be discussed in public.)
- We entered into a contract for the services of a new Class III operator and started the process of ensuring everything was in proper order before we put the water plant back into service. (More detail given in the Board meeting minutes of 9/10 and 9/12.)
- As part of our process of inspecting everything before restarting the water plant, the contracted Class III operator discovered and reported to WRWSD on 09/30 that there were some reports on turbidity (cloudiness) taken in June and August that he believed may have not been reported accurately to Ohio EPA by our previous Class III operator. Revised reports were submitted to the Ohio EPA on 9/30.
- The Ohio EPA issued violation notices on 10/07. This was not an emergency but they required notices be sent informing the public of the situation within 30 days of their notification to us. We sent to EPA drafts of violation notices to be sent to customers.
- On 10/17 EPA gave us final approval and authorization for the notices to be sent to customers.
- The notices were mailed to customers on 10/19.
- We feel we have dealt with the challenging issues responsibly, transparently, and proactively while at the same time ensuring the safety of our customers.

Additional note: Some people have expressed a concern about the sewer plant capacity. This issue has been discussed for some time and on November 29, 2021, the Board authorized the General Manager to seek an engineering firm that could prepare a preliminary proposal for expanding the plant. On March 28, 2022, the Board entered into a contract with CT Consultants for a study to expand the plant. The Ohio EPA typically notifies a company when they need to expand their plant, but WRWSD elected to begin this process before the EPA 'triggers it'. For more detail, see the Board minutes of 11/29/2021, 3/12/2022, 3/28/2022 and subsequent meetings. 11/1/22.

**Treasurer's Report** (S. Levermore):

- 84% through the year. The income is on track as are expenses but we need to make some minor adjustments. I will be making a motion to approve an amended budget. We will be adding \$12,017 to income mostly due to the sale of the old truck and adding \$119,173 to expenses mostly due to the WPOA service contract true-up, Brown County water service charges and expenses occurring from getting the water plant up and running. *Please see Motions below.*
- We have three cd's coming due this month. First State Bank for \$104,000 water account, State Bank for \$103,000 water account and Peoples Bank for \$17,800 for legal. Treasurer S. Levermore recommends rolling them over. *Please see Motions below.*

**Manager and Plant Superintendent Report** (Paul Cahall):

- The cold weather is good for the lagoon to kill any algae. We are scheduled to open the valve between November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There were no major repairs needed for the water filters.
- Due to the holidays, we have pushed back reopening the water plant to the first week of December.
- The online pay option is up and running.

- The Board entered into a contract with Greg Wilson Consulting to provide a Class III operator for the foreseeable future.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Motions and Resolutions:**

- A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by Moore to approve the October 31<sup>st</sup> financial statement as distributed. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by LaPlante to rollover three cd's. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion #2022-25 was made by Buskey and seconded by Moore to amend the 2022 budget. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. *A copy of the amended budget is available at the office.*

**Board Member Concerns:** None

**Membership Concerns:**

- Doris Kitchen – asked if the time has come to have a town hall meeting with residents to discuss switching to Brown County water permanently as lots of towns are doing. She is concerned about water issues hurting property values and wanted to know why people in the campground did not receive letters. Mgr. Cahall said that he has met with Brown County many times. The towns have switched over because they did not keep their equipment updated and ran out of money. He stated that, financially, it is not a good idea to switch as we will have zero control over the water and sewer prices. Brown County water is significantly higher and we would only be saving on personnel. President P. Levermore said that the Trustees were elected to oversee the water and sewer plants and provide clean approved water. The Board has been transparent with recent events and taken the appropriate action necessary following all EPA guidelines and suggestions by the consulting firm. He does not feel a town hall meeting is needed as the monthly meeting is open to the public and they are welcome to attend and present their questions.
- Tom Kiser – asked about the size of the pipe coming in for Brown County water. Mgr. Cahall said he believes it is 6”.

**Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made by Moore and seconded by LaPlante. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:58am.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary