

WRWSD Board of Trustees Saturday Meeting – 11/9/24

Vice President Moore called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Roll Call: Present: Armstrong, Feil, Harper, Kost, Moore, Wales, Mgr. Wilkin

Absent: Levermore and Mgr. Cahall were excused.

Minutes: A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Harper to approve the 10/28/24 minutes as distributed and read. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report (Levermore): President Levermore put together the following statement to keep residents up to date. The WRWSD Board of Trustees is focused on controlling costs and keeping water and sewer charges competitive. For 2024, a homeowner's combined water and sewer bill is \$76/month for a minimum usage of 3,000 gallons. This includes \$29.50 for water and \$46.50 for sewer, which can be found on the back of your monthly statement. With community growth pushing our sewer system to average running at over 80% of its annual capacity, we have begun the process to identify necessary upgrades. An engineering firm has been hired for this purpose, but we expect a significant increase in sewer charges to fund the work. The WRWSD Board will try to do our best to keep you up to speed on the project status and projected impact to rates as key milestones are met. The planning phase of the project, which we are now in, is expected to take 4-5 months. The design phase is then expected to take 12-15 months followed by the 3-4 month bid phase. It is not until this phase completes, in late 2026, that we will be able to give a more accurate impact to the sewer rates. The construction phase of 18-24 months will then follow. This means the sewer expansion project is expected to not complete until late 2028. The 'ballpark' cost for the sewer expansion is \$10million, but this is very preliminary, and it could easily go up as the process moves forward. The WRWSD is now not eligible for grants due to the community's median income exceeding the qualifying threshold. To reduce the amount we need to borrow for the project, we plan to increase our reserves starting in 2025. At this point we will target the sewer rate to increase by \$20 in 2025, with an additional increase the following year. The exact loan amount, term, and future sewer assessments are still undetermined for the reasons stated in the above paragraph. While building reserves can mitigate the impact of future fee increases, it will not eliminate them entirely. Expanding the sewer plant is necessary as there are no alternatives. Septic systems are not permitted, and Brown County does not offer sewer services to our area. Water reserves may also need to be increased in the future due to rising demand, requiring additional changes to the water production side of the plant. Brown County Rural Water (BCRW) is a short-term solution for Lake Waynoka and not a sustainable option, as its production capacity is committed elsewhere for the next 15 years. To keep the community informed about the sewer expansion project and its progress, the WRWSD board will share updates on the Lake Waynoka website in the "Documents" section. Community members who have subscribed to this service will receive email notifications whenever new documents are uploaded.

Treasurer's Report (Feil): None

Manager and Plant Superintendent Report (Mgr. Cahall/Mgr. Wilkin/Supt. Wilson): We have requested a scope comparison document from two engineering firms. This document details specific pricing for the Board to compare. We are all working to keep the pricing accurate for the expansion to sustain the growth of the community.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motions and Resolutions:

- Motion #2024-22 was made by Wales and seconded by Harper to amend the 2024 WRWSD budget with an increase in total expenses of \$49,681.72. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Concerns: None

Membership Concerns: None

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Armstrong and seconded by Kost. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary