

Thirty Nine North Conservancy District

February and Annual Meeting

February 8, 2020

Board Present  
John Knoll  
Ed Arnold  
Mark Childress

Staff Present  
Karl Cender  
Gary Radtke  
Jeffery Haw  
Donna Perdue  
(An)Drew Bender

Public Present  
Ken Ucho

The meeting was called to order by President Knoll. All rose for the Pledge to the Flag. The Board and Attendees then introduced themselves. The Annual Meeting was called to order.

Announcement was made that since there was only one certified Nominee for each of the Board Positions, no balloting was necessary. Mark Childress is the Board Member from District 2; John Knoll is the Board Member from District 3 and Ed Arnold is the Board Member from District 5. The District 2 and 3 Board Members are serving the remainder of the normal term of their district because of having been appointed at the last Annual meeting to the positions until this Election was to be held. Their next regular election dates are: District 2 is 2023 and District 3 is 2022.

The Board Selected the officers for the next year with a nomination by Ed Arnold: President, John Knoll; Vice-President Jim Laughlin; Secretary Ed Arnold, Treasurer Scott Harris. Mark Childress seconded, all voting in favor.

Financial Advisor Karl Cender administered the oath of office to the Board Members for their positions.

Ed Arnold then made a motion to continue Susan Knoll as Financial Clerk, Second by Mark Childress, all voting in favor.

Ed Arnold made a motion for Resolution 2020-01 for salary for Susan Knoll to be hourly pay at \$20.00 per hour, with no benefits. Mark Childress seconded all voted in favor.

Ed Arnold made a motion for the Board to continue with \$0.00 payment for their work attending the monthly meetings and other Board Functions which come up from time to time. Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

Clerk Knoll asked for a motion of approval for submitting the conflict of interest form to the State Board of Accounts registering that Clerk Knoll and President John Knoll are husband and wife and are both associated with the District Board, but do not both sign any forms or checks by themselves. Ed Arnold repeated the motion, Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor, John Knoll abstained.

Signers for the year were discussed. Mark Childress made a motion to have the signers stay as they are: Two signers are required. Susan Knoll, Ed Arnold and Scott Harris. And Mark Childress will continue to audit the Banking Reconciliations each month for submission to the State Board of Accounts for the Gateway Report. Second by Ed Arnold, all voting in favor.

The Professional Staff Contracts for 2020 were considered next.

Friedman and Associates contract was the same as last year in scope and payment. Ed Arnold made a motion to continue with Friedman and Associates as Legal Council per the contract. Mark Childress seconded, all voted in favor.

Cender and Company contract was the same as last year, but added E-Verify for new hires provisions to their scope within that contract. Ed Arnold moved to retain Cender and Company with this contract, second by Mark Childress, all voting in favor.

V/S Engineering Contract: Gary Radtke spoke about the history of the District with him, through the beginning with McMahon Associates in Valparaiso to start the District; continuing as he formed Radtke & Associates and finally Radtke Engineering and Surveying. V/S Engineering is partnering/buying the current entity. Jeffery Haw and five other employees are hired by V/S and Gary will act as a Consultant. Drew (Andrew) Bender is the V/S Engineering COO who is going to be the hands on person with the local office at this time. (Introduction) Gary thanks the Board and Staff for all the years we have had together. Drew spoke about the contract and about the fact that V/S is a 40 year old company based originally in Indianapolis. They will be establishing an office probably in downtown La Porte in the Spring. If they are questions please bring them to him. And if there are problems with the contract, which follows a Engineering Standard Form, please bring them to him for clarification and discussion.

Ed Arnold then moved to accept V/S Engineering as the District Engineer, second by Mark Childress, all voting in favor.

President Knoll opened the Investment meeting

Clerk Knoll distributed a sheet showing the beginning investments for the District January 1, 2019; maturities, interest paid at maturities; New purchases after maturities, and current investments held at December 31,2019. With no further questions, Mark Childress moved to accept the investment report. Ed Arnold seconded and all voted in favor.

Ed Arnold moved to close the investment meeting, Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

With no further business, Ed Arnold moved to close the Annual meeting. Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

President Knoll continued the regular February meeting.

The minutes from the December 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 regular meeting and December 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 special meeting were reviewed. Ed Arnold moved to accept both of the minutes as written. Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

The financial reports for December 2019 and January 2020 were reviewed. Ed Arnold moved to accept the December 2019 and January 2020 financial reports, Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

Bills for payment were reviewed for December 2019 and January 2020. Ed Arnold move to pay as presented or if in normal amounts, Mark Childress seconded and all voted in favor.

Old Business: Reports

Mr. Friedman was not available to make a report.

Donna Perdue from Aradise Productions spoke to the Board about adding to the Website and Marketing projects that have been covered over the past months. We have more or less reached the end of trying to do a billboard. The signage at the entry to the District has been on hold as proposed through the County Redevelopment Commission. Donna believes that working on the use of Social Media (Facebook particularly) should be an avenue for improvement of our ability to reach those searching for development opportunities. She will begin to branch out with those thoughts. Discussion was held on additional information to add to the website. The Board decided that using the financials with the minutes of the meetings might be an additional bit of information that could interest prospective developers. That information will be sent to Donna/Tony for use in the future.

V/S Engineering – Gary discussed the Shady Grove Annexation. They are alone now in the annexation process. On March 12 at 2 PM La Porte Court House, we need a presence to support this petitioner. There will be no cost to the District. The Sewer extension will be to Shady Grove and the Singh property. Plans will be distributed to all of us, but will be at the cost to Shady Grove and Singh. John Perilli will have a commercial strip mall on part of the property as well as the trailer park being hooked up.

The odor control project: Ed made a motion to approve the verbal agreement he has established for a \$5000.00 payment and relocation of a sign and flag pole to be able to construct the mechanism for odor control on the near easement property that is at the edge of this property. This would be the legal paperwork for the property owner to sign. When all this is done, we will be able to move forward on the project. Mark Childress seconded, all voting in favor.

Water tower. We are working on the fees needed for the water tower.

Ed Arnold told that a road blister is needed for a turn around on the highway. He wants to see about INDOT doing it for all who turn without it now and have it for a dry hydrant turn around also, should that become a reality. Ed Arnold made a motion to approach INDOT about this possibility. Second by John Knoll, All voting in favor. Drew Bender said they have a good working relationship with INDOT because of their work with them throughout the State. Ed Arnold will get a plan to Drew so that he can talk to his contacts.

Gary Radtke handed out a written pamphlet to estimate the cost of 4000 gallons of water used in the district. Members have a copy to review.

New Business:

Clerk Knoll spoke to the Board about the poor condition of the copy machine. It malfunctions after about three pieces of paper so that copying for this meeting was done at the Office Supply store. The Office Supply store in town has a good used machine, which copies, scans, collates and does 2 sided papers. They sold it, then took it on trade with another local business and know that it is a good machine. We can buy it for \$600.00. Ed Arnold moved to purchase the used machine from Kemps to replace the old machine.

Next meeting will be Friday March 6, 2020 at 8 AM at the Electrical Union Office Meeting room.

Mark Childress made a motion to adjourn, Ed Arnold seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,,  
Susan E. Knoll, Financial Clerk