

Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District

Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2024

Board Members Present;

Mark Childress, Ed Arnold, Cheryl Reinhart (attending via Zoom)

Professional Staff;

Shaw Friedman, Karl Cender, Gary Radtke, Sue Knoll (attending via Zoom)

Public Present;

John English, Jason Attwood, George Bailey, Mr., and Mrs. Mistretta

President Childress called the meeting to order, and then asked all to stand for the Pledge of allegiance.

President Childress then called and recorded the roll call.

The board was asked to review the minutes from the February annual meeting, Ed Arnold made a Motion to accept the minutes. Cheryl Reinhart Seconded all voting in favor.

The board then reviewed the financial statement. Cheryl Reinhart made a motion to approve, Ed Arnold seconded, all voting in favor.

President Childress asked the board to review the bills for payment. Ed Arnold had concerns over the water bill that had exceeded the sewer bill this month. He stated that he could not ever remember that happening before. President Childress offered to monitor this on next month's billing before making any inquires. President Childress then discussed a billing issue with Radtke Engineering and referenced an adjustment to made on one of those invoices before payment would be issued. President Childress then discussed the invoice from Environmental Leverage Inc. and reminded the board that this was approved at our last meeting and the first treatment has been completed at the lift station in front of A&A Sheetmetal. Ed Arnold made a motion to approve all normal bills including the invoice from Environmental Leverage Inc. and to allow President Childress to negotiate with Radtke Engineering on the final total on invoice # 24112. Cheryl Reinhart seconded, all voting in favor.

Old Business,

Reports

Shaw Friedman, Friedman and Associates,

Discussions continue with the City of LaPorte in regards to their progress on Annexation. It seems the final remonstrance date was not February 29th 2024 but possibly sometime early March.

Discussions about the interlocal agreement between the District and City seem to be moving forward and we hope to have a first draft in the first week of March.

Mr. Friedman asked that we complete our plan for credits and that led to a discussion of hiring a person to invest time at the county offices to obtain the information necessary to create a credit formula to discuss with the City of LaPorte. Ed Arnold made a motion to hire a person part time to do the required research at the County offices not to exceed \$500 dollars. Cheryl Reinhart seconded all voting in favor.

Gary Radtke, Radtke Engineering,

Mr. Radtke discussed the installing of the Bacteria in the lift station. Ed Arnold has taken on the responsibility of adding the bacteria to lift station bi-weekly. Shady grove extension is connected but not in use. Family express is the only active entity using the lift station at a volume of 600 gallons per day. We hope to re-test pump/pipe flow in the next three months or so.

Karl Cender, Cender & Dalton municipal financial advisors.

Karl Cender presented the Annual Financial Report for 2023 and discussed how it has now been uploaded to the DLGF website. This is a report that all government entities are required to electronically file each year.

President Mark Childress;

Discussions were held about our on-going search for a financial clerk/secretary. Three resumes' have been submitted; two applicants are now longer eligible. The third applicant is directly related to a member of our board. Shaw Friedman advised that, this alone should not disqualify her as an applicant and should the board choose to go that direction, we would have her fill out a Conflict of interest wavier to satisfy requirements of the DLGF and State Board of Accounts. Ultimately the board will continue advertising to fill that position. A motion was made by Cheryl Reinhart to have Aradise Productions post our job advertisement on the website and other online sites. Seconded by Ed Arnold. All voting in favor. Should we not find a qualified person to fill the position we will revisit consideration of the existing applicant.

Discussions continued about requesting Erica Arnold to do the required research at the county offices as previously discussed. President Childress will request a conflict-of-interest statement be filled out and returned to the district before she starts that task.

President Childress asked if there is any additional business, hearing none, moved to public comment.

Public comment

Mr. Mistretta asked about our knowledge of the proposed expansion of Hickman Williams. President Childress commented on the building size of approx. 75,000 sqf. and the three rail spurs. Discussion moved to a scheduled meeting downtown about a required variance due to a parking concern.

President Childress announced the next meeting will be April 5th 2024

President Childress then asked for a motion to adjourn, Ed Arnold made the motion, Cheryl Reinhart seconded all voting favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Childress, President

