

Thirty Nine North Conservancy District
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2023

Board Present
Mark Childress
Jim Clarida
Ed Arnold

Staff Present
Shaw Friedman
Gary Radtke

Pubic Present

By Zoom Internet
Cheryl Reinhart

Karl Cender

Lisa Pierzakowski

The meeting was called to order by President Childress. He then led the Pledge to the Flag. Clerk Knoll called the roll for those present in person and by Internet.

The minutes from the February/Annual meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Cheryl Reinhart, second by Ed Arnold and all voting in favor.

The Financial report was reviewed. Clerk Knoll acknowledged that she needs to double check the final tabulations. Jim Clardia moved to accept with the check being done, Ed Arnold seconded and all voted in favor.

Discussion was held on investing some of the money on hand. Rates were available and it was moved to invest \$100,000.00 in a 6 month Certificate of Deposit at Flagstar Bank by Cheryl Reinhart, second by Jim Clarida and all voting in favor.

Bills for payment were presented. Clerk Knoll reminded that there were a lot of items not yet billed because of the early date of this month's meeting. Ed Arnold moved to pay bills as are presented and as are normal and customary when received. Second by Jim Clarida, all voting in favor.

Reports:

Shaw Friedman: introduced Lisa Pierzakowski, Center Township Trustee who was attending via Zoom. The Township would like to work with the District on a solution to the annexation problem with the City. She feels that there is not understanding in the way the Council members are being informed on the annexation issue. She would like to see a combined effort going to the City Council Meeting on Monday 3/6/23 to try to bring some of the issues to their attention. She believes the Council and the public are not getting the complete story before there is movement to go forward with the City forcing the Annexation.

She further believes that Mr. Haney, County Commissioner, has been getting information from the residents that they do not want to be annexed.

Attorney Friedman brought up the fact that it is a very difficult/intricate process to annex and cited the Michigan City situation that all of the necessary processes were not considered and planned for in the initial Annexation work in 2018. It was just recently that Michigan City had to find 5 million dollars to cover the incorrect estimates that had not been/or

were wrong in the original cost of their process. Is the Council aware of the Capital and non-capital improvements of Annexation?? They need to be told before the fact.

Board member Arnold asked that we make sure all "hidden" taxes also be revealed. The wheel tax comes to mind, and how it would affect those owners of multiple vehicles. What would happen to some who house vehicles?(Kindig)

Along with the discussion to attend the Council meeting to have an open forum for trying to make the Council and City residents more aware of coming consequences to an annexation, President Childress asked for a motion to move District Council to have the ability to bill hourly @ \$150.00 (One hundred Fifty dollars) for annexation work which would be in addition to the normal non-litigation retainer for monthly fees. Ed Arnold Moved the same, Jim Clarida seconded, and all voted in favor.

Engineer Radtke:

Nothing to report on Annexations for the Golecs from Tiffany Woods, or Jarec Batchelor from W. 300 North who have recently been in contact with the Engineer about sewer problem relief.

Jeffrey can not be here because of back problems. He relayed that he has the information for more items on the water study and they are still waiting for spring weather to gather the last information they need for the other items. All of the information will go into the model they have built and he will then be able to finish the project.

Springville Mobil Home project. – additional info by Attorney Friedman - the project is on hold because of the annexation issue.

Water tower - Gary reiterated that there is no need for a 500,000. Gallon tank. The office of Rep. Murvan is still trying for the Ear Mark process (now Community Projects) for our water tower project. The next amount of money will be coming out in the near future, and we are trying to get on the list. Jim Clarida noted that he might be able to help with extra contact with Rep. Murvan from his personal contact with him.

The generator project may have weather delays right now but no one needs it for use now. President Childress asked Gary not to let the project get set aside, get it done as soon as possible when weather permits.

Shady Grove still has 8" sewer to lay along US 20 and the Grinder Pump station at Shady Grove to install. They should be done when weather permits.

There were some talk still on with Singh's

President Childress.

This month we have had to work some with IDEM as they have been apprised of our existence and want us to be identified as water providers separately from the City. This means a change in our testing. We requested involvement of the additional testing of the City as part of the maintenance and operations per our contract which is not expiring until May of -2025. However, they have said they make such a change. A Certified Operator is necessary to do the testing and do additional monitoring and testing on a daily/weekly basis.

Attorney Friedman reported that as close as SoCo in Westville is another instance that a Conservancy "hook-on" was forced to become their own entity by IDEM. Discussion was then brought up of talking to MCO who does this kind of work in our area. Gary said he could talk to Nathan Howell of MCO.

Cheryl moved to check on MCO to be contracted to do the Water testing. Jim Clarida seconded and all voted in favor.

Next meeting will be April 7th, 2023.

Karl Cender reminded that we have finished and filed the A(nnual) F(inancial) R(eport). It is online at the DLGF information site. He will send the Board a Final copy and it can be approved at the April meeting.

Move to adjourn by Cheryl Reinhart, second by Ed Arnold. All voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Susan E. Knoll, Financial Clerk