

Town of Lake Lure – Utilities Board

- Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting – April 2, 2019

The Utility Advisory Board held their regular meeting at the Town of Lake Lure Municipal Center on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Members Present:

Wayne Hyatt (Chairman)
Richard Glassen
David Diorio
John Chapman

Bob Cameron – Liaison

Others Present:

Linda Ward – Board Clerk
Shannon Baldwin – Town Manager
David Arrowood – Public Works Director

Members Absent: Don Cason

General Meeting Actions

Call to Order – Chairman Wayne Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Consider Approval of the March 5th Regular Meeting Minutes – Richard Glassen made a motion to approve the minutes, David Diorio seconded and the motion carried 4 - 0.

Chairman Wayne Hyatt skipped to New Business b. at this point as he wanted David Arrowood to speak with the board as he would only be available for a few minutes. Please see below.

Old Business

a. Low Pressure Sewer System Update – Chairman Hyatt asked Town Manager Shannon Baldwin to update the board on the LPS System. Mr. Baldwin reported that he and Mayor Kevin Cooley, Town Engineers Harlow and Jeff Brown, and Public Works Director David Arrowood met with Tim Heim and Landon Davis with DEQ in Black Mountain to discuss what the Town wants to / or can do relative to the fines that we are receiving from the state. He mentioned that these fines are a little over \$1000 a month and are for going over the sewer treatment plant permit limits. Shannon also said that they wanted to see if the Town could obtain another S.O.C, but that DEQ did not seem interested in that. The State said to let the fines rack up, keep asking for forgiveness, and see once the system is fixed, if they might be able to give some relief to those fines.

Shannon told the board there is an 18" line, and an old pump station, that may be the original pump station, in one of the barrels at the base of the dam. There is a junction box in there as well that T's into the pump station and a manhole. This is located downstream of the dam out of the water. He mentioned that it has been determined that when they open the floodgates, the water backs up into this space and gets into the sewer and that the graph shows that this is when we go over the limits, and is causing at least part of the problem with overage. David Arrowood mentioned Within 20 minutes of lowering the flood gates or raising them you can see where the increase is coming and going.

Shannon said there are a couple of challenges. One being that the state has been wanting the Town to replace the valve in the 18" line for some time. And that we have asked Stepp Construction to put in a valve rather than replace the old valve that's at the base of the dam. They will put the valve across the river next to the new pump station. To remove the threat of the old valve breaking and dropping down into the 18" line, they are thinking they need to drill the top of it and pin it in place so it will never drop. The second challenge is dealing with a manhole they believe is sucking water. Shannon said that he and David Arrowood are working on a way to seal that manhole and junction box with concrete. David said he has to get in the manhole to look at the junction box to see what he finds and he has spoken with a concrete person and will be meeting with him next week to see what they can do.

Shannon said that the other option is to pay Stepp approximately \$250,000 to come in and replace that from the base of the dam all the way to where the new valve would be. And that all of this would go away once the LPS system is in.

Shannon mentioned that they will be asking council for money to put in a flow meter for the flow coming into Lake Lure's system from the lines in Chimney Rock at the April council meeting. Chimney Rock does not think that they have an INI issue, but the town thinks they may and this flow meter will help determine whether they do or do not. There is some talk about the possibility of some drain water in CR going into the sewer line also. Shannon mentioned that if there is INI, and it is not corrected, council would have to come up with a structure to charge them based on volume. He also mentioned that there may also be a need to smoke tests some areas for drain infiltration.

Richard Glassen mentioned that the pipe size for lps systems usually cannot handle huge INI. He said that they are usually designed with smaller pipes to take a small amount of continuous flow, and that Chimney Rock's pump station will need to be looked at carefully, and that they may need to have a holding tank for excess flow, to keep from having a spill that would then enter into the lake.

Shannon mentioned that we could also monitor the flow coming in from RBR as Richard Glassen mentioned they are gravity and could have infiltration as well. The board discussed the flow meter calibration and keys to the flow meters at RBR for us to look at. They discussed the town needing to be able to read that flow meters. The board was not sure if the locks have been removed or if it is being calibrated. Bob Cameron said that he would check up on that.

Shannon also reported that the State sent a long list of things that needed to be corrected in the Sewer System Engineering Report, and that the Town sent that list to Brown Engineering, who then submitted the changes without the town seeing them. Shannon said that he made it clear in their meeting that the Town did not know those changes had been submitted. We are now waiting to see what the states response is to those changes.

New Business

a. *Pump Suppliers Reference Checks and Assignments* – Still need to send a letter to the suppliers to get their references and start calling them to ask the questions and see if they can supply LL with a copy of their ordinances. These steps will provide fact over bias.

The board agreed that they will ask Mayor Cooley or Town Manager Shannon Baldwin to write a letter to the references, given to us by the suppliers, which will also let them know that board members will be calling to follow up with some questions. Richard Glassen provided a list of eight questions that he will touch up for the board members to use, and they will take notes and compile a report from those to make a recommendation to Brown Engineering and Council. The board agreed that it would also be a good idea to see if the references would share their sewer use ordinances with the Town. This would help create Lake Lure's new Sewer Use Ordinances concerning the new lps system.

John Chapman mentioned that he would like to get down to person that handles the complaints at the locations of the references and that he would like to see that question added to the list to help find the weaknesses.

One of the things that Richard Glassen would like to narrow down is whether grinder or centrifugal pumps work better. He mentioned that they are totally different pumps that run dramatically different and is the board should know.

The board asked to be told when the letter goes out so that they could make their calls shortly thereafter.

b. *Potential Sewer Usage Ordinances and Recommendation to Council* – Wayne Hyatt asked David Arrowood to share with the board some ideas about sewer use ordinances as he has had experience with Spindale in this area. He said that eventually we would like everyone close to the line to be connected and we would need to write our ordinances according to that. He told the board that in his past experience, if there is an ordinance in place and a line goes by a property, and that property owner went to Rutherford County to update their septic system, the County would require them to tie on to the Town's system rather than update the septic tank. He said that the County would rather see properties on public systems than putting in septic tanks if possible. David mentioned that if a property owner went to County for a new septic permit they would also require them to connect if the Town line is near their location. But, he does not think that the County would allow the Town to require someone that is close to the line, and has a working septic system, to connect. He said that Spindale was told that by the County years ago.

The board followed with a brief discussion concerning these points and the fact that the County does not have records for all of the septic systems in Lake Lure.

Wayne Hyatt asked David Arrowood to see if he could get a copy of Spindale's sewer use ordinance so the board could look it over. John Chapman mentioned the possibility of getting a copy of the ordinances from the folks on the references list as well to look over.

Open Comments/ Discussion – None

Public Comments – Property owner David Lusk asked what will happen to those who already have a grinding pump lift station. It was mentioned that it will depend on if the pump meets or exceeds what is required, what the storage tank is, etc. May need to pump from what you have in place to another pump. Those types of decisions will still need to be worked out in the planning process.

Adjournment

There being no further business, John Chapman made a motion to adjourn, David Diroio seconded and the motion carried 4 - 0. Meeting was adjourned 3:04 p.m.

ATTEST

Wayne Hyatt, Chairman

Linda Ward, Clerk