

**CLARKE COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2024
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Mr. Roderick DeArment, Chairman

Mr. Lee Coffelt

Mr. Bryan Conrad

Mr. Bev, McKay, Liaison for the Clarke County Board of Supervisors

OTHERS:

Mark Inboden, Inboden Environmental Services

Mrs. Mary Meredith, Staff

Ms. Brenda Bennett, Joint Administrative Services

Ms. Nancy Warczyglowa, Joint Administrative Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:20am noting there was a quorum.

II. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Budget & Rate Review

The first point of discussion was the revenue received from the cell phone companies that lease space on the water towers and how that money has been divided in the past to help subsidize the sewer fund.

Ms. Meredith estimated that a new vendor may begin leasing space on the White Post Water Tower as early as May or June 2024. She noted that this estimated new revenue is not included in the FY25 draft budget as the lease is not complete yet.

Ms. Meredith stated that the cell phone revenue helps pay for the water debt expense and that she shows an estimated surplus of \$14,954 on the water debt fund that could be moved to the sewer fund. If the new vendor were to enter into a lease agreement, this additional revenue could be moved to the sewer fund at the Board's discretion later in the fiscal year.

The Board discussed how there were not many new connections forecasted which means that the revenue stream from availability fees would likely be less than in past years.

Mr. DeArment noted when you look at the total revenue compared to the expense the fourteen thousand will not help offset the gap. Ms. Meredith

noted that a large portion of the expenses is associated to the utility master plan and recommended maintenance and repair for current equipment and facilities. Ms. Meredith deferred to Mr. Inboden to see if anything can be delayed.

Mr. Inboden noted that currently the only item that can be removed at this time is the repairs to the McDonald's lift station since it is currently vacant. The remainder of the items need to stay budgeted for this year.

The Board reviewed the Waterloo Commercial District. The Board discussed the existing infrastructure and what would be needed in the future if additional connections occurred.

The Board discussed future operating and capital needs for the sewer plant that were recommended by Inboden Environmental Services in the Master Utility Plan. Mr. Inboden noted that there were several repairs needed at the Sheetz Lift Stations. Mr. Inboden recommended that the old controls be gutted and that the CCSA purchase an auto-dialer and another submersible pump.

The Board discussed how the HandyMart Lift Station does not connect into the McDonalds Lift Station. The sewer line from the HandyMart Lift Station goes underneath Route 50 and ties into a force main after the McDonalds Lift Station and then flows into the Sheetz Lift Station.

Mr. Inboden estimated that approximately \$15,000 in repairs were needed to the Sheetz Lift Station.

Mr. Conrad stated that delaying the capital needs in the Master Utility Plan would put the Board in the same position next year and would likely be more expensive. Mr. DeArment stated delaying the capital needs could increase the chance of a major problem or emergency occurring.

Mr. McKay discussed the need for recoating the tanks at the sewer plant and asked when they were last recoated. Ms. Meredith stated that they had never been recoated. Mr. Inboden stated that the life expectancy of the tanks are about thirty years and the sewer plant was constructed in 1995. Mr. Inboden stated that the major cost driver for this project is the amount of time and work needed to work around and process the wastewater while a tank is down for recoating. This may include renting portable trucks.

The Board discussed how these projects would be funded. The Board agreed to have representatives of the Authority discuss the need for additional funding with the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. The Board agreed that there should be look into possible grants that may be

available to help with these projects. There was also a discussion about how bidding these projects out could help lower the estimated prices through competition. The Board may also look into the availability of ARPA funds with the Town of Boyce.

The Board also discussed the need to review the usage fees for water and sewer due to inflation and increasing operating expenses.

III. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.