

**CLARKE COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2022
FINAL MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Mr. Roderick DeArment, Chairman
Mr. A. “Dan” Mackay-Smith, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Tom Bauhan, Treasurer, (via Teleconference)
Mr. C. Wayne Armbrust
Mr. Lee Coffelt
Mr. Bev McKay, Liaison for the Clarke County Board of Supervisors

OTHERS:

Mr. Paren Crawford, Inboden Environmental Services
Mr. Mark Inboden, Inboden Environmental Services
Chris Boies, County Administrator
Jamie Royston, Building Department
Mrs. Mary Meredith, Staff
Max Emma, Locke Store
Ruth Emma, Locke Store
Daniel Bell, Locke Store
Alan Johnston, P.E., FHC Engineering, PC
Additional members from Locke Store not introduced by name.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. DeArment noted we are here to discuss the ongoing issues with Locke Store that is currently threatening our system. Mr. DeArment continued, stating that Ms. Meredith distributed material since discussion first began with issues on Locke Store, dating back to December 2020. There were issues with replacing numerous pumps caused by materials entering the wet well and have since seen a rise in the grease levels. There was a meeting on March 7, 2022 to try to resolve the issue before it reached critical level. The next step is the action of terminating service, due to the extreme conditions developing in our line down in Millwood. This is a critical environmental disaster to be dealt with.

Mr. McKay read a letter with the support of the other Board of Supervisor members. It stated;

The Sanitary Authority was created under the authority of the Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act. The powers granted under the act note that we provide essential governmental functions to provide for public health and welfare. Were

the protectors of our system, which provide essential governmental functions of water and sewer for public health and welfare. Our articles of incorporation further place the responsibility of operations and maintenance of our water and sewer system on this board. It is imperative that we take this responsibility seriously. The Rules and Regulations of the Clarke County Sanitary Authority permit us to discontinue service for;

Willful and indifferent actions that introduce foreign material into the sewer system.

Failure to protect and maintain the service piping, fixtures, or drainage system on the prop of the customer in condition that satisfactory to the Authority.

While shutting off service to any business or household should be our last resort, we have to protect the integrity of the entire system. Efforts to correct this issue have been slow and have not yield the results we require. We cannot continue to place risk on entire system.

Mr. Bauhan spoke next; reiterate what Mr. DeArment commented on, this is an unmitigated environmental disaster that is not just affecting Locke Store, but Millwood, and our entire system. This started back in late 2020; we worked diligently with Locke Store with extreme patience to seek mitigation and resolution to this. Mr. Bauhan questioned how you could produce by-products like this continuously for over a year that enter our system and threaten the community. It is unfathomable to him that an organization has full knowledge of this and does not attend to meetings, respond in a meaningful way to correspondence, or work to resolve the issue.

Mr. Mackay-Smith noted he agrees with what has been stated thus far. He commented that the system used to be fine and has gone downhill, with grease and other material entering our system that should not have been placed in there to begin with.

Mr. DeArment requested review of the material. Ms. Meredith noted that Inboden Environmental Systems on behalf of the Sanitary Authority has performed the grease inspections as well and provided analysis of the grease testing. A control chart was passed out this morning showing the history of grease samples going back from June 2022 to present. There is also information in the packet prior to June 2022. In August 25, 2021, they were the highest in our system, and while not over the limit of 100 mg/L, we were having issues that caused us to replace six grinder pumps in roughly eight months. Ms. Meredith reviewed all the levels from the grease testing June 2022 to present. The most recent level it was 5,564 mg/L, which was completed right after a pump and haul. Going forward if the numbers continued to be lower, it would be indicative of the grease interceptor working. Ms. Meredith reviewed the pictures as well and showed the current picture that indicates that not all lines are running through the grease interceptor prior to entering our system. Mr. Inboden confirmed that not all lines and appurtenances

are going through a grease interceptor prior to entering our wet well. Mr. Inboden also noted that he has concerns regarding the temperature of the water in the three-compartment sink that drains into the grease interceptor. After our visit last week, the temperature on your hot water heater indicated 140°F. This is in excess of what it should be. At that temperature, you will dissolve any grease in any form allowing it to pass through. His recommendation is to lower it to below 120° if that is allowed per the Department of Health. He also recommended contacting the manufacturer of the grease interceptor and discuss with them some of the issues to see if they have recommendations as well.

Mr. Armbrust noted that the grease levels are still over 60 times that of the limit. He stated that under these conditions, service should not be continued.

Mr. Armbrust made a motion that service be discontinued and that the five days' notice be given. If there is sufficient correction done and it appears to be functional, that the board consider changing the outcome. Mr. Bauhan seconded the motion.

Mr. DeArment opened the floor to Locke Store. Mr. Emma thanked the board for their time and consideration to listen. Mr. Emma noted that they have invested currently \$30,000 and are on the third grease trap to try to resolve this issue. The current grease trap is designed to actively remove grease throughout the day. Mr. Emma noted that the wet well is not locked, and the riser lid is cracked requesting that the county repair to prohibit someone from accessing the wet well. This new grease trap is pulling off more grease than any of the previous grease collection systems they had. Discussion continued regarding the grease accumulation. Mr. DeArment inquired to Mr. Inboden, how this grease trap is different from that of the type of system at Sheetz. Mr. Inboden noted that there are grease traps and grease interceptors. What is installed at Locke Store is a trap, what is in the ground is an interceptor. The difference would be instead of one component going through a grease-mitigating device, the entire system flows through a grease-mitigating device before entering our system.

Mr. Armbrust noted that communication was a major issue with this issue. We had been forthright in our communication; however, the board had not received the same from Locke Store.

Mr. and Mrs. Emma noted that they worked diligently to train staff, remove wipes and things that were in place during COVID. We also believed information provided regarding the different grease collection was going to work to resolve the issue. Mr. Bauhan asked who was brought in to assess and evaluate based on the product used, the volume, and what would be the solution to that. Mrs. Emma noted that they brought in and MEP who can come to speak.

Mr. Emma inquired how we could determine if we are testing the same grease or if we are getting an accurate read since the new grease trap installation. The wet well was not being steam cleaned in the past and has been now. Mr. Inboden noted that what they use is a jet of water from about 38,000 psi. We advised them last Friday to have a company come in and provide this service. This picture from

this morning is showing that the wet well has been properly cleaned. Mr. Inboden also noted that having a company come in, jet out the lines to the wet well, and then pump the wet well. Mr. Inboden noted it is a complex situation, but at the end of the day, the 100 mg/L is the requirement.

Discussion continued at length regarding prior to the wet well having been steam cleaned, the grease being pulled was an accumulation of the historical grease. Mr. Inboden did not deny the accumulation of the grease in the wet well. If a pumping company does not come in and remove that grease when it cools, it will form layers. Having the complete rinsing of the equipment will help. Judging by the photo from this morning, we would have to pull a sample, but it would not be below the 100 mg/L.

The board discussed the flow of Locke Store and Ms. Meredith commented that they are averaging 650 gallons per day. Mr. Inboden added to that stating that most other commercial entities in the system, have a lot of other flow outside of commercial kitchen. In Locke Store, it is the reverse; they have high commercial kitchen and no other flow. This makes it very concentrated. Mr. Inboden noted that the goal would be to knock down the concentration through dilution possibly. Conversation continued regarding a resolution to bring the grease levels continuously below the 100mg/L threshold. Mr. DeArment stated that at the March meeting, it was recommended and the board felt the response was that an underground grease interceptor would be installed. Mr. Emma inquired wouldn't that be the same as one under the sink. Mr. Inboden clarified that if it was an interceptor in the basement of the building or underground, that all flow would travel through it before entering the wet well versus currently only one appurtenance. Mr. DeArment followed up noting that it was never communicated to the board even after requests for updates, which the direction for grease collection installation had changed from the information provided in the March meeting.

Mr. Johnston approached the podium to discuss his firms' involvement with this ongoing issue. He noted that one year ago he, at the request of Mrs. Emma, walked through to review what was in Locke Store's kitchen. What he saw was what you would see in a commercial kitchen without an external grease collection system. The board asked if he was directly involved in the design and construct of the new system. Mr. Johnston said he was not aware of it and did not advised them to get it. Mr. DeArment asked whom Mr. Emma was working with. Mrs. Emma stated that it was a plumber not an engineer.

After ongoing dialogue, Mr. Inboden stated empirical data would tell us a lot of pertinent information. He recommended taking a sample after the grease trap, after the grease trap with the water drained by pulling the plug, along with the other appurtenance in the kitchen, and at the wet well.

Mr. Armbrust noted that the motion is formed and we discussed each of the points, lack of response; continued excess readings over the 100 mg/L, and lack of positive action to resolve. However, there has been some action to resolve, it has not been effective. Also, failure to respond and communicate changes with the

Sanitary Authority. Mr. Armbrust requested that the current motion be tabled until the next meeting on September 2, 2022. Mr. Bauhan agreed to tabling the motion.

III. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is September 2, 2022 at 10:30am. Our regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.