

Tippecanoe & Chapman Regional Sewer District Board Special Meeting Minutes

North Webster Community Center – P.O. Box 572 North Webster, IN 46555-0572

The Tippecanoe Chapman Regional Sewer District Board met for a Special meeting which was held at the North Webster Community Center Banquet Room located at 301 N Main St., North Webster, IN 46555 on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 12:30 pm.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Jon Tyler.

Roll Call:

TCLRSD Board: Jon Tyler, Brian Davison, Bob Weaver, Chuck Simpson, Kim Hathaway, and Jeff Thornburgh were all present. Ed Ormsby joined the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Carson, LLP: Atty. Andrew Boxberger
JPR: Ken Jones, Steve Henschen, P.E, Jennifer Ransbottom

Interview – Aqseptance – AirVac:

Sawyer Stephens and his associate presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board showing their vacuum system and explaining their operation and maintenance. Air-Vac provided the board with a preliminary layout of both Tippy and Chapman using both a vacuum system and pressure system. Chapman could serve approximately 70-80% with 2 vacuum stations and the remainder would be pressure sewer. Tippy could serve approximately 60% with 3 vacuum stations and the other 40% would be pressure sewer. Questions were asked by board members and those attending the meeting.

Old Business:

Discussions from JPR were presented to the board that were previously mentioned that we are at the point where we need to decide soon to move forward as planned with pressure sewer, or if the board wanted to step back and further consider vacuum sewer. Which if going with vacuum sewer means we will not be going out this fiscal calendar year with the funding agency.

Steve Henschen and Ken Jones commented that they would want to spend additional time to review and closely scrutinize the preliminary vacuum system and the stations, as they were relying solely on AirVac and their information. Ken Jones mentioned that the low-pressure sewer flexibility is significantly higher – we can make predictions, run our own engineering models, and feel comfortable with a few feet elevation difference because the flexibility is built in the system. Ken Jones mentioned that with a Vacuum system they would have to spend time understanding the system and determine exactly how much of the system would need to be dewatered. That is not a small task, and you cannot just throw in a number of 50%, to be conservative. They would have to have a very careful terrain study of the land and a design profile of the pipe to get to that answer. JPR would also want to review their concept number for vacuum stations which was determined from online resources and profiling the road. At this point in the project there is enough aerial photography and mapping resources completed to figure it out-the project has advanced to that point.

Tippecanoe & Chapman Regional Sewer District Board Special Meeting Minutes

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When asked by Ed Ormsby if after the presentation today had they seen anything that changed their mind – Steve Henschen indicated that he had not and confirmed the same concerns and research and additional time needed as Ken Jones previously mentioned. Steve believes there are risks and costs associated with the terrain and not being able to stay with the 4'-6" depth, and the cost will increase.

Ken Jones mentioned that the property owner flexibility that the board has been striving for and working on with the placement of grinder pumps will not be reachable with the vacuum system. The number of lifts for the vacuum system is determined and is real math. They would need to review and confirm where the board is on that topic alone once they reviewed the information. Ken Jones commented that he does like the Air-Vac concepts and if the project were 6 months earlier, he would be taking time to analyze the vacuum sewer.

Board members asked when Air-Vac was made aware of the project and if they had adequate time to provide information. Steve Henschen indicated that they were provided information last fall and they have had even more-so information than anyone because he relies on them as the vacuum system to provide information to him. Whereas, for pressure system he already knows the information and can prepare it without reaching out.

Attorney Andrew Boxberger asked if they went with Air-Vac if they would be the only vender and therefore, they are taking their price as-is. Steven Henschen mentioned that they would ask for a "negotiated purchase" by asking what their last 5 publicly bid projects were with Federal funding and their unit pricing and let them know their costs cannot be more than 3% higher.

Jon Tyer discussed that they could spend a year and another half million on the engineering to discover that the pressure sewer is still the best option. Ed Ormsby commented that back in January 2021 they commented that it was not just the cost but also the functionality, the aesthetics (tearing up the neighborhood and yards) and customer destruction. Which if they went with the Vacuum system, they may have to take a step back from working with the property owners which they have made great strides in doing so far.

Steve Henschen indicated that with a Vacuum system there is continuous trench to open cut the entire route to install the system. A Pressure sewer system you can have an excavation pit and directional drill every 500' to pull the SDR 11 pipe through and not disturb as many yards restoration.

Ed Ormsby indicated that he believed it was time to come to a decision if they were going to confirm their previous decision to go with the pressure system based on their expert's consideration. That it was clear all the bidders had the same opportunities and the board had considered more than just the cost when reviewing and deciding on which system of the 4 – 6 were the best.

Ed Ormsby made a Motion to reaffirm the board's previous decision to install pressure sewer. The Motion was seconded by Kim Hathaway.

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Kim Hathaway wanted to indicate that the vacuum system was 2-3 million upcharge and still has some questions and unanswered questions and the way to deliver to our customers a year earlier is to go pressure.

There were no further questions or comments.

Motion was approved by Jon Tyler, Brian Davison, Chuck Simpson, Kim Hathaway, Jeff Thornburgh, and Ed Ormsby. Bob Weaver abstained.

Old Business:

Attorney Andrew Boxberger informed the board that the name Tippecanoe and Chapman Regional Sewer District name – Lakes – is not in your name and the County will not let us record a d/ b/a, it is only for an individual, sole proprietor, partnership. Only way to officially change your name is with IDEM. Attorney Boxberger spoke with IDEM, and they will do it, it is probably just some paperwork. The board decided to wait and see if this becomes an issue as it will not be an easy task to change their information with checks, etc.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.