



J & K Excavating	\$2,550.00 (Brush Mowed Force Main)
Cummins	\$246.88 (Generator 2 Battery)
Cummins	\$294.24 (Generator 2 Service)
Cummins	\$294.24 (Generator 3 Service)
Cummins	\$321.39 (Generator 1 Service)

Chairman Novello stated that he reviewed the credit card bills before they are paid. Office Assistant Gappa stated she has the receipts at the meeting so anyone could review them. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the March 20, 2017 meeting and Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

**Pivot Irrigation** – Director Broadstreet explained that the farm was purchased in 1995 and the pivot is probably 30 years old. The life expectancy of a pivot is 20 years. A quote for repairing the system is \$29,930. Director Broadstreet gave the Directors a list of the expenses incurred in repairing the system since 2014. He stated if the system is repaired again, BLCD would have spent \$45,626 on a 30 year old system. He also mentioned that a neighboring farmer would purchase the existing system. Vice Chairman Collura asked about the tires that were purchased 2 years ago for the system and Director Broadstreet stated they would remain the property of BLCD. Vice Chairman Collura also asked about the acreage planted as the current system does not cover all of it. Director Broadstreet stated a new system would cover the full acreage. He stated that Wappels have a 5 year contract and this is the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Director Broadstreet checks the soil each year and there has been an improvement over the past few years making the farm a desirable rented property. Vice Chairman Collura asked if a new system could be installed before farming season and Director Broadstreet explained a new system could be ready by the end of April. Director Broadstreet met with Engineer Nagai last week and Engineer Nagai made a recommendation to the Board about the kind of system he'd advise BLCD to use. Vice Chairman Collura asked about the cost of a new system. Director Broadstreet explained that the cost would be around \$100,000. 2 bids have been received from Goetz and Chester. The lower bid is about \$92,000. Attorney Lowe stated that for proper documentation, 3 bids would have to be received. He also said a decision should be made about having the arm as part of the bids. He stated that if the existing system is sold outright, then sealed bids need to be taken for it. He explained that a spec sheet is needed for the bidders and he would work with Engineer Nagai or Director Broadstreet or Plant Manager Jordan to provide one. He advised sending a spec sheet to 3 or more bidders and then having a special meeting to select a bidder for the project. It was decided to do as Attorney Lowe advised.

**LARE Grant** – Director Broadstreet reported on the progress of the LARE grant that BLCD is applying for in 2017. The grant was approved for \$25,600. \$21,600 is for milfoil and \$4,000 for plant management. The plant management cost is \$5,100 and the state pays 80% or \$4,000. 2 companies have already confirmed they will bid on the spraying. Vice Chairman Collura complimented Directors Broadstreet and Blais for their work on the LARE grants.

**Highway Department** – Plant Manager Jordan informed the Directors that the Starke County Highway Department Superintendent is planning on repaving County Road 210 from Highway 10 to Highway 10 in the next 5 years. There are 75 manholes and 4 lift stations that will be affected by this so Plant Manager Jordan thought that might affect the rate study. The cost to BLCD for this could be around \$100,000 if this plan proceeds. Chairman Novello asked if the County has the right to do that. Attorney Lowe replied that if there isn't a written agreement with the County, then the County has the right-of way and BLCD has to abide by that. Chairman Novello asked if the cost per lift station is \$2,000 and the cost per manhole cover is \$1100. Plant

Manager Jordan replied that was the cost in 2012 when it was last done. After discussion, Chairman Novello explained that he would talk to Umbaugh about this situation as the County may not repave this in the next 5 years.

**Rate Study** – Attorney Lowe stated that he and Chairman Novello were able to meet with Jeff Rowe from Umbaugh to address the issues of rate ordinances for the campgrounds, Purdue’s aquatic research facility, and the use of pole barns and detached structures with plumbing facilities.

Mr. Rowe will be sending information on how other conservancy districts deal with campgrounds and detached structures so BLCD can finalize the amendment to the sewer rate ordinance. The plan is to introduce the amendment at the April meeting and then to have a public hearing and adopt the amendment at the May meeting. Vice Chairman Collura asked about a trailer at Rannell’s Park that now has a building around it. He stated that other trailers may also have buildings around them and he asked if they should be billed as a trailer or house structure. Plant Manager Jordan will check with the County Inspector to see if permits were issued to change the structures from trailers to houses. Plant Manager Jordan asked if detached structures would be charged and Chairman Novello stated that any detached structure with plumbing facilities would be charged.

**Tom Jordan’s Report** - Plant Manager Jordan reported that he had looked at alarms at both B.L. Anderson and Flow-Tech locations. The 3G service will end in 2020 and Flow-Tech already has 4G service. B.L. Anderson will not charge to upgrade to 4G service. Flow-Tech is still lower than B.L. Anderson, but B.L. Anderson has more things that can be printed. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to accept the bid from Flow-Tech for lift station monitoring for \$35,986.40 for 4G service, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Beach and Pine Street work completed and home is hooked up.

Bielava Campground installed lines for 10 new hook-ups so the rate will be changed.

He will install a new rain gauge at Lakewinds.

Plant Manager Jordan brought up the possibility of installing a small generator at the plant office. He will have quotes for the next meeting.

The rainfall for the last month was 1.59 inches and snowfall of 8-10 inches recently.

**Attorney’s Comments** – Attorney Lowe stated that he had received comments from Purdue on the wastewater agreement at the aquatic research facility. Purdue would like a 45 day period to pay the bills. There also is language that if either Purdue or BLCD caused damage to the other’s system, then the offender would be responsible for fixing it. There is also a stipulation that BLCD would have to make sure no contractor sex offenders are working on Purdue property. There is an insurance requirement also. Plant Manager Jordan will measure the flow when the discharge occurs. Attorney Lowe will have the agreement ready for next month’s meeting.

It is time to plan for the 2017 annual election of Directors. Both Director Broadstreet (District 3) and Vice Chairman Collura (District 4) are up for election. It was decided to have the election on Sat. July 1, 2017.

Applications for absentee ballots must be presented to the township trustees within the boundaries of the district. Director Blais made a motion to approve the application for the absentee ballots as presented by Attorney Lowe, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. Attorney Lowe also explained how the absentee ballot system works and the dates involved. He will publish the legal notices in the local paper.

**Office Assistant's Comments** – Office Assistant Gappa stated that 2 new accounts have been set up and 1 tap-on fee paid. There is a problem with a house sold on Boa Dr. The house was sold at foreclosure and the previous owner does not know who bought it so Attorney Lowe will research this so a new account can be set up.

**Comments from the Board** – Vice Chairman Collura stated he had been contacted by TCU Insurance for submitting an insurance policy for BLCD. Chairman Novello explained there were problems with the current insurance company as the renewal is submitted after the policy has expired. He asked TCU to contact Vice Chairman Collura. He also recused himself from any further contact with TCU Insurance as he works for TCU. Chairman Novello asked about changing the July meeting date to July 10 instead of July 17. The conversation about this was tabled until all 5 Directors are at the April meeting.

**Comments from the Audience** – None.

Director Broadstreet made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2017 at the BLPOA building.