

DISTRICT MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Gene Novello
Director Jerry Broadstreet
Office Assistant Mariann Gappa
Plant Manager Tom Jordan

Vice Chairman Larry Collura
Director Russ Blais
Attorney Ethan Lowe
Engineer Lee Nagai

ABSENT: CPA Firm, Umbaugh & Associates Jeff Rowe (not required to attend)
Director Dennis Krafator

Chairman Gene Novello called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – Chairman Novello stated that the September minutes are correct in the content, but he made a comment about the BLCD not being responsible for the lake level and that is incorrect. Attorney Lowe responded that originally BLCD was not responsible, but several years ago a petition was presented to the Starke County Circuit Court for BLCD to assume responsibility for the lake pump and that was granted by the court. The additional purposes of the lake pump and weed control were not part of the original BLCD. The reading of the minutes from the meeting was waived and Director Blais made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2017 meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Financials – Chairman Novello gave the financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$1,508,204 and the total receipts have exceeded the total expenditures to date by \$9,679. Operating expenditures are under budget by \$48,838 so the net operating receipts are over budget by \$3,698. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial report from September 30, 2017, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:

NIPSCO	\$136.76 (Plant)
NIPSCO	\$274.71 (Lake Pump)
Prime Pay	\$3900.68 (09/24/2017)
Prime Pay	\$3464.12 (10/08/2017)
Prime Pay	\$184.97 (September Charge)
TCU	\$61.70 (September)
TCU	\$461.42 (T's Credit Card)
TCU	\$7.20 (M's Credit Card)
Blachy, Tabor, Bozik	\$756.25 (Legal Fees)
Gloria Kijewski	\$49.10 (House Sold-Credit on Account)
Npes	\$700.00 (Engineer's Fees)
HML	\$32.00 (1 Week Testing)
Umbaugh	\$1735.00 (September)

Apheus	\$12.95 (Computer)
Flow-Technics	\$672.40 (Pump Alarm)
Evoqua	\$3134.95 (Bioxide)
Davis Well Drilling	\$12,210.00 (New Pump)
Les Jensen	\$750.00 (Parking Lot Sealing)
Harry Szabo	\$25.46 (Refund on Account)

Director Blais made a motion to approve the bills as presented and read into the October, 2017 minutes, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Lake Pump - Plant Manager Jordan reported that the cleaning/maintenance of water well was done, the new lake pump installed, the top shaft replaced, and the discharge head replaced. He also reports to the state annually. The alarm on the pump will be hooked up soon. Director Broadstreet stated that it takes 40 days of the pump running to raise the lake level 1 inch. He had a survey done and that determined that it only takes 30 days to raise the level 1 inch. Audience member Jerry Taylor asked if anyone else other than Dalton Davis had checked the well. Plant Manager Jordan replied that only Davis had done it since he has worked for BLCD. It was suggested that BLCD have a back-up in case Davis was unavailable.

Part Time Employee Hire - Chairman Novello stated that he and Vice Chairman Collura would be working on a job description for a part time hire.

State Permit Meeting Report – Director Broadstreet reported that he had attended the state permit meeting on October 4, 2017. The meeting lists what is needed for weed control for 2018. He sent a water sample to Aquatic Control and is waiting for them to explain the results.

Jordan’s Report – Plant Manager Jordan reported that 6047 and 6049 SR 10 are now separated and 6047 has its own line now. Rainfall for October is 3.12 inches so far and it was 1.68 inches in September. The pump is done now. After much discussion, it was decided to turn the pump off on November 1, 2017 for the winter. Vice Chairman Collura asked about the trees and growth at the weir. Plant Manager Jordan replied that the state has to clear the trees by the weir. He will check with the DNR about cleaning up the area.

Attorney’s Comments – Attorney Lowe had nothing to report.

Office Assistant’s Comments – Office Assistant Gappa stated that 3 new accounts had been added. She talked to TCU Insurance and they will be covering the bonds for her and Plant Manager Jordan now. She is still sending out over-payment letters as many people are still sending in checks for the old rate of \$58.65. She also mentioned that there are letters in the folders about the Starke Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and BLCD is a member. Vice Chairman Collura asked about a letter from a concerned citizen about drains in the lake and Plant Manager Jordan replied that they are storm water drains and have been there for many years and BLCD has nothing to do with those drains.

Comments from the Board – Director Blais commented that he had complaints about fewer fish in the lake and smaller ones. Vice Chairman Collura stated that he had updated the website concerning the November and December meetings being on the 2nd Monday of the month due to the holidays. Notices will also be posted at the BLPOA building and the plant office.

Comments from the Audience – Audience member Jim Tolone asked about the significance of the water level at the weir. The weir cannot be any higher than what the court has established. In the 60's some residents took the state to court over the water level as their homes were getting flooded. The weir was then lowered at the order of the court. Vice Chairman Collura stated that all the information on constructing the weir is available. Audience member Ken McCormick asked about the DNR officer assigned to Bass Lake. The previous officer has moved and he wondered if Director Broadstreet is in contact with the present one. Director Broadstreet responded that he is. Audience member Jerry Taylor mentioned that at the last BLPOA meeting, a owner asked about having a study done of the lake. He stated the cost of such a study would be around \$50,000 and the BLPOA did not have the money and BLCD is not authorized to pay for a study. Vice Chairman Collura stated that the property owners could apply for a grant for a study of the lake. Audience member Candance Schilz asked who has the authority to adjust the level of the weir and would that affect the shoreline. Vice Chairman Collura stated that the weir was repaired last year and the pump wasn't turned on until July. Heavy summer rain caused hydrostatic pressure that was pushing water back into the lake. Audience member Ken McCormick mentioned the level of the lake again.

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be November 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA Building.