

MINUTES
HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL UTILITY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 13, 2025

Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center
Commissioners Courtroom
One Hamilton County Square
Noblesville, Indiana

President Mark Heirbrandt called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. declaring a quorum present of Christine Altman, Steven C. Dillinger, and Mark Heirbrandt.

Approval of Executive Session Memoranda

Dillinger moved to approve the executive session memoranda for January 13, 2025. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Dillinger moved to approve the minutes of the December 09, 2024, meeting. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

General Manager's Report

Mr. C.J. Taylor stated, the plants are not operational yet, of course. We will be proposing a Phase 3 extension project to you in the near future. A proposed 2025 Annual Operation Budget for the district. I would like your review and approval of that today if you so desire. I will submit that to the auditor for an appropriation from the county council.

Trustee Heirbrandt mentioned, that is what was discussed in our joint council commissioner meeting.

Mr. Connor Sullivan commented, that is correct, and this will ultimately be included in the eventual interlocal agreement between the utility district and the county as a reimbursement.

Altman moved to approve the subject to provision of reimbursement. Dillinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor added, the last item I have is, we have an update that we have the MaintainX system purchased. We are doing user training, and we are creating the database. I have reached out to ISS to create a district website, an email address, and requested a separate phone line to be ran into the planning office so we can keep those district businesses separated.

Trustee Altman asked, where are we with the rates and connection fees, etc.?

Trustee Heirbrandt, Mr. Wessler brought this up and he can go over that in his engineer's report.

Trustee Altman stated, because right-of-way seems to be costing more and I think we need to concentrate on some of the direct access points.

Trustee Heirbrandt, moving on to the engineer's report.

Engineer Report

Mrs. Katie Castro Jackson, Wessler Engineering, I will start with the engineer's report for the construction side. Phase 1, they are approximately 75% billed with the budget on that. Water and sanitary is almost completely installed. Wastewater treatment plant, we are working on miscellaneous items of hand rails, some misc. concrete, mostly trying to get electrical in so they can start working on the controls for the plant. Phase 2, they are at 60% billed. They have water ran from the treatment plant all the way up to the armory so we can meet those contractual deadlines. They are working on the lift station and the water tower at 276th Street. The structures have been set for Lift Station 4 at that location and they will be starting to work on the chemical building soon.

Mr. Marty Wessler, on the rate ordinance, all of the numbers and the system development charge, the EDU calculations have been furnished to Christina at Bondry. She has developed the preliminary rate options for the board to consider. She did not have a system develop charges in her previous rate study which was before the holidays. We will need to get with her and have that finalized and sent out.

Trustee Altman, can we have as a board, that information before we start spending money on consultants?

Mr. Wessler, certainly.

Mr. Connor Sullivan, *addressing Trustee Altman then Mr. Wessler*, I think that we need that as soon as possible because we will have to have a public notice and a rate hearing. Trustee Altman, correct me if I am wrong, I think we need to give it to them in adequate time so they can review and approve it especially if there are different options. I would say within the next five to seven business days.

Mr. Wessler, what would be the ideal timing? Would it be ideal to have the rate hearing at next month's meeting? Is that possible?

Mr. Sullivan, it is going to depend on how much time we give them to review the numbers. I think the latest date we can plan for is March but if we can get the numbers to them relatively soon...

Trustee Altman, I don't know if it permissible or not, but I would like to explore a couple of concepts before we start finalizing.

Mr. Sullivan, we will set up a call with you, Trustee Altman, Christina, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wessler, and myself to go through those with them.

Trustee Altman, because all of these go through the IRUC, correct or do we set our own?

Mr. Sullivan, we set our own.

Trustee Altman, well that gives us flexibility. We can then go on with an expediated basis with the hearing, etc.

Mr. Wessler, I don't believe that you have to submit this to the IURC. I would look to Chris Janak for the final confirmation.

Mr. Sullivan, we do submit but they do not have to approve it.

Trustee Altman, they just hold it as a public record?

Mr. Sullivan, yes, there is not a review or approval process unlike other utilities. We just have to send it to them for the IURC for their review. Not an approval, denial, or adjustment.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Connor Sullivan stated, we will work on helping set up a phone call with the rate consultant. We will make sure Chris Janak is on that call and Trustee Altman, we will make sure that it will work with your schedule.

We are finalizing the contract for operations soon. I believe the TriCo contract is close to being fully completed. There may be a few minor adjustments that I know Chris Janak has been working with Mr. Taylor and the Wessler team to finalize the Indiana American contract. I anticipate those would be in front of you at your next meeting in 30 days. Once they are completed, we will send them to you fully ahead of time for your review.

Public Comment as per IC 13-26-4-8

None...public portion closed at 10:21am

Next Meeting Date

February 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Dillinger moved to adjourn. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Heirbrandt reopened the meeting at 10:22am for another item.

Mr. Sullivan stated that Indiana American presented Mr. Taylor and the Wessler team with a CTA for a sewer/septic area just outside of Sheridan. It is technically near our jurisdiction that is why they put us on notice. It does not interfere with our current boundaries or any possible expansion areas at least in the very near future. They sent that to us per statute to notice us. Either the trustee members can sign off on it or you can authorize Mr. Taylor as your general manager to sign off on it.

Trustee Altman, why do we sign off on it?

Mr. Sullivan, that it has been received.

Mr. Taylor, it is a Certificate of Territorial Authority (CTA) for Indiana American to extend their territory into this area. *Mr. Taylor referring to a map, this is their area, and this is our area.*

Trustee Altman, ok, so it is just an acknowledgment that the letter was received.

Mr. Sullivan, by statute, they have to do that on record.

Dillinger moved to approve Mr. Taylor to sign the CTA letter. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Final Adjournment

Dillinger moved to adjourn. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Present

Christine Altman, Trustee

Steven C. Dillinger, Trustee

Mark Heirbrandt, Trustee

Connor Sullivan, Attorney

Marty Wessler, Wessler Engineering

Steve Wood, Buildings & Grounds Superintendent

C.J. Taylor, General Manager

Annette Harlow, Secretary

HAMILTON COUNTY REGIONAL UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date Approved: February 10, 2025