

Ledgewood Beach Water District

Monthly Minutes

Meeting date: July 15, 2015

Call to order AT 5PM

Commissioners attending: Shellenberger, Young, Gladhart

Public attending:

Bob Martin
Darla Wright
Paul Dwight
Joann Blalock
Bill Bradkin
Gerald White
Carol White
Garry Bedford
Jack Zimmerman
Clive Defty
Mark Skullerud
Pete Berg
Liz Berg
Tim Ayers
Carol Kus
Don Pinter
Sheryl Young
Paul Morris
Becky Wagner

President Shellenberger opened the meeting with the following statement:

“The purpose of this meeting is to take input from our customers regarding the proposed rate increase which the commissioners have disseminated to the community. The meeting is not intended to be a question and answer session. The focus is on getting your input on the proposed rate increase as laid out in the Base Rate Increase Rationale which you should have a copy of. Our objective today is to take input from as many customers as wish to speak.

Oral presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. If you have more information to present than you can cover in 3 minutes, please provide us the balance of your presentation in writing.

No decisions will be made today. The commissioners will take your input into consideration and expect to confirm or adjust the proposed rate increase on Wednesday, 22 July at the next regular commissioners meeting at 7 PM in the Newell Firehouse.

In addition to considering the proposed increase to the base rate, the commissioners will also consider increasing the connection fee for new customers at the Wednesday, 22 July meeting.

We will start with the first person in the first row to our left, move across the row and then move to the first person on the left in the second row and so forth until everyone has had a chance to speak. If you pass when it is your turn, we will not come back, so better to use your 3 minutes when they are available.”

Four emails were received from neighbors that were unable to attend the meeting from:

Keith and Cheryl Knighton
Lorena Wiley
Connie Gavin
Jim Theel

Bob Martin: Glad we have reserves, don't think we need more, would like to know how we arrived at district valuation.

Becky Wagner: Would like to see how valuation was developed

Joann Blalock: if increase is needed, likes the approach of gradual steps rather than a big assessment.

Carol Kus: thinks the increase is “hefty”

Bill Bradkin: would like to see a detail of how the valuation was calculated, would like to see incentives for customer cost savings (e-bills) volunteered to help coordinate this effort. Can the commissioners economize on day to day operations?

Mr & Mrs White: just listening

Jack Zimmerman: been a resident for 30 years, remembers assessment from early years in “four figures”. Doesn't care to see that again. Comment re increased cost of water and hookups as an improvement in home value.

Clive Defty: supports the proposal, thinks it is appropriate to build reserves by rate hikes rather than assessments. Made comments regarding neighboring districts and their frequently higher cost and assessment than Ledgewood Beach.

Mark Skullerud: Supports the plan, told of his cabin on Saratoga beach and the \$500 assessment

Tim Ayers: agrees with proposal, here to listen

Garry Bedford: understands the need for building reserves, told of his involvement in major construction, “\$120,000 doesn't go very far”

Paul Morris: here to listen

Cheryl Young: agrees with commissioners' suggestions

Pete and Liz Berg: attending for support and information

Don Pinter: supports an increase, stressed how little it was in the big picture

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM

Chadwick Gladhart, Secretary