

WRWSD Board of Trustees Saturday Meeting – 6/14/25

President Levermore called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Roll Call: Present: Armstrong, Harper, Levermore, Kost, Wales, Mgr. Wilkin

Absent: Feil and Moore were excused.

Minutes: A motion was made by Harper and seconded by Wales to approve the 5/27/25 minutes as distributed and read. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report (Levermore):

- President Levermore made the first official announcement of a Trustee vacancy beginning in July. Interested candidates should fill out an application for consideration. They are available at the Office.
- President Levermore read a statement from the WRWSD Board.
 - The WRWSD Board is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and managing the water and sewer infrastructure for the Lake Waynoka community. For several years, we have expressed concerns regarding the long-term capacity and sustainability of these systems. Currently, we are working closely with our Engineer of Record, DLZ, to assess and plan for future needs. One significant consideration is the use of grinder pumps. These systems represent a substantial investment, not just in initial installation, but in the long-term maintenance they require-responsibilities that fall to the WRWSD. When a grinder pump fails or needs replacement, the cost is borne by the sewer district. This stands in contrast to a mound septic system, which is the standard for properties located outside of the Lake Waynoka community. These systems typically cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 and when they fail, the full burden of repair or replacement falls to the homeowner. The recent increase in water and sewer tap fees- and ultimately the cost of associated with grinder pumps-does not impact current homeowners. These adjustments are directed at future development within Lake Waynoka. They are necessary to ensure that our community's infrastructure can continue to meet demand while preserving environmental standards and operational reliability. As a community, we are responsible for the proper treatment and disposal of wastewater-not just today, but well into the future. These updates are a necessary step towards ensuring that our sewer systems remain functional, safe and compliant for all residents of Lake Waynoka. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we plan for the long-term well-being of our community.

Treasurer's Report (Feil): None

Manager and Plant Superintendent Report (Mgr. Wilkin/Supt. Wilson):

- We had a group of students from ESC tour the WRWSD plant and learn about careers in water and sewer treatment.
- The GAC filter contains charcoal which filters our water to improve taste and reduce odor. Our surface water contains manganese and this is a side note of the filtration but it reduces the lifespan of the charcoal. Our WRWSD plant was constructed in the 1970s and we have been continually upgrading equipment and improving the plant required by the EPA. That is why costs keep rising.
- Mgr. Wilkin and Supt. Wilson met with Brown County Rural Water authorities to see if there may be an opportunity to have them provide our water in the future. They stated that they have too many commitments/contracts with other municipalities to consider this request. Currently, BCRW provides water to us on an as-needed basis but that can be revoked at any time. President Levermore stated that we cannot depend on sustained use of BCRW and we are researching options.
- Trustee Armstrong asked Mgr. Wilkin to emphasize the higher water, sewer and grinder rates. Mgr. Wilkin explained that this only affects new home builds. This is one-time purchase that includes a lifetime commitment by the WRWSD. A homeowner building outside the lake, would be responsible for all costs to repair their septic system. We are trying to offset future costs and be in-line with other homes in the area.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion #2025-18 (below) discussion. Mgr. Wilkin stated that the 2025 WRWSD budget was based on 20 new home builds for the year 2025. We have since surpassed this amount with 26 new homes for the year. The State Auditor requires that we balance our budget to meet expenditures so this is why you may see budget amendments throughout the year.

Motions and Resolutions:

- A motion was made by Kost and seconded by Harper to approve the May 31st financial statement as distributed. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion #2025-18 was made by Wales and seconded by Armstrong to Amend 2025 Budget as follows: Expenses 9820-01 Purchase Grinder Pumps; Budgeted amount \$125,854.00; Amended amount \$252,106.00; Difference of \$126,252.00. Total expense budgeted amount \$1,846,031.66 and amended amount total \$1,972,283.66. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Concerns: None

Membership Concerns:

- Nancee Klein – understands the reasoning behind the higher tap and grinder installation fees but is disappointed on how it was rolled out. No notice was given to property owners who may have been planning to build a home in the near future. The sudden passage of these increased fees have caught many by surprise. She would like to see the motion revisited and a tiered structure rollout so everyone can prepare properly.
- Dave Trainum – is one of the members caught by surprise at the newly implemented increases. He bought a lot in April, secured a pre-approved loan and met with the builder. He now has to put the new home construction on hold until he figures out what to do. To add insult to injury, he found out about the increases via Facebook and is disappointed that it was not communicated properly.
- Doris Kitchen – would like to see a committee formed to pursue merging with Brown County Rural Water in the future. Mgr. Wilkin reiterated that he had a meeting with BCRW within the past two weeks and it is not an option based on their current commitments to other municipalities.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Kost and seconded by Harper. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06am.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary