

**St. Tammany Parish Sewerage District No.1
Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 7, 2019**

Board Attendance:

**Pete Lee, Chairman..... PRESENT
Mike Franklin, Secretary.....PRESENT
Jay Kahn, Treasurer.....PRESENT
Lori Janosko.....PRESENT**

Others in Attendance

**Jeff Beratoniere, Curtis Environmental (CES)
Mike Hattaway, Project Engineer GEC
Sally Harasty, CCCE Resident
Michael Scales, CCCE Resident
Al Ormsby, CCCE Resident**

Item 1 Board Minutes

Mike Franklin brought the previous board minutes, from the January 10, 2019, to this meeting. Board Chairman Pete Lee called the meeting to order.

Item 2 System Rehabilitation Project Update GEC

Mike Hattaway of GEC discussed the latest on the rehabilitation project. Mike Hattaway also brought a revised proposed design for lift station #5, as requested by the board, to the meeting. Hattaway discussed the proposed design, which also included a picture of what the lift station would look like, and answered questions from board members and residents in attendance, about the design and picture. The design and picture was reviewed, critiqued, and criticized by board members and residents, in attendance. **(See PUBLIC COMMENTS section, Item 7)**

The revised proposed design placed the proposed lift station, exclusively on the existing 25 foot utility easement , where an 8” district sewer main currently is buried, between 153 Bertel Drive and the golf course. The revised design also placed a Cleco 10'x10' transformer platform directly over an existing 4” water line connected to a fire hydrant. Hattaway indicated that this is still an issue, and that the water line would have to be abandoned., before any construction could begin.

GEC still has not submitted detailed plans for the design and path of the force main that would be attached to proposed lift station #5. Also, GEC has not submitted plans, on how Cleco plans to transfer electricity from a power pole to the transformer platform, along with a cost estimate from Cleco. Details about the force main and transformer platform are needed, so a comprehensive discussion about the overall feasibility of the proposed lift station can occur, before the board considers approving this project.

To be clear, lift station #5 is being proposed by GEC to the board. The board is NOT considering it as an official resolution for discussion or to be voted on, at this time. Therefore, NO bids for construction have been requested or awarded, NO construction contracts have been signed, and NO construction dates have been set, regarding lift station#5.

Board Secretary Mike Franklin answered a question about other areas that were considered for lift station #5. He stated the an area on the golf course was considered. Mike Hattaway of GEC, using a map of the sewer system also explained why the general vicinity of Bertel and Golfers was the only area determined to be feasible for lift station#5.

Board Treasurer Jay Kahn displayed information about the property survey for 153 Bertel Drive, indicating a 25 foot utility easement bordering on the south side this address. He and other board members attempted to explain to the property owner of this address why the sewer district MIGHT have a right to place a POSSIBLE lift station, on the utility easement. Jay and other board members expressed their belief the the property's value would not be adversely effected by the addition of a lift station. Board members also stated that fencing and landscaping would be added to the lift station, to help the lift station blend into the surrounding area, IF the lift station project were given final approval.

The board informed the resident of 153 Bertel Drive and others in attendance at the meeting, that the board would seek legal advice and request a legal opinion, from the sewer district's legal counsel, before any approval or construction would begin on the lift station.

Jay Kahn and Mike Hattaway stated they would be willing to show Sally Harasty, the resident at 153 Bertel Dr. examples of functioning lift stations in the community, adjacent to the district, which are similar in design to the proposed lift station.

Item 3 Monthly Report from Curtis Environmental About Routine Issues

Jeff Beratoniere of CES discussed maintenance issues. He discussed routine service calls at 105 Country Club Dr. and 105 South Dr. He also discussed 103 Bertel Dr., where in a cost saving measure, the district used Goodbee Plumbing instead of Roto-Rooter, to handle this service call. Jeff also stated Flow More was called in to jet away an obstruction in the main line at servicing the medical clinic on the service road.

Jeff also discussed a problem with the suction hose on lift station#4, and plans for replacement.. Jeff also stated he found a crack in the suction line pipe and the standpipe, resulting in loss of pump prime at lift station#1. Jeff discussed plans for fixing both pipes.

Lori Janosko stated after multiple attempts to contact Goodbee Plumbing , she had not heard back from them regarding a proposal to repair 100 feet of sewer line near 123 Magnolia Drive. She believes Goodbee is not interested in bidding on this project. The board voted 3-0, with one abstention to authorize Roto-Rooter to fix a broken clean out on the main line, near this same location.

Item 4 Monthly Financial Statements

The district's financials from December 2018 were available, for review, in addition to previous months from 2018.

Item 5 Resignation of Brandon Bridges

Board Chairman Pete Lee , at the beginning of the meeting reiterated that Brandon Bridges has resigned from the board. Board members Mike Franklin and Jay Kahn both stated, they each know individuals who be interested in filling the empty board seat.

Item 6 CCCE Annual Homeowners Meeting January 27

Board Mike Franklin briefly discussed his presentation at the HOA meeting. He mentioned that there were questions and concerns from residents , regarding sewer system, and the sewer system rehabilitation project, including a concern from a resident in the vicinity, of the proposed lift station#5.

Item 7 Public Comments

The meeting was open to the public, and posted as such, at the meeting location. The following are questions and comments posed by members of the general public, in attendance at the meeting February 7, 2019.

Al Ormsby, a resident of 132 Bertel Dr., Covington Country Club asked multiple questions about the proposed designs for lift station # 5 and about the sewer system map. Al wanted to know why other areas weren't considered for the proposed lift station, and the criteria for selecting the site for the proposed location.

Sally Harasty, a resident of 153 Bertel Dr., Covington Country Club expressed her shock and outrage at finding out her property was going to be used for the proposed lift station, during the annual HOA meeting on January 27. (Board Secretary Mike Franklin NEVER used Sally's name or her specific address, while discussing the lift station, during the HOA meeting on January 27)

Also, Sally stated she has lost sleep , since she found out about the lift station project. She stated the board would have to find another location, to build the lift station.

Sally asked questions about the proposed lift station project and design. Sally also wanted to know why other areas weren't considered, and the criteria for selecting the site for the proposed lift station. She stated she would be willing to visit operational lift stations, similar in design to the proposed lift station.

Sally Harasty also expressed her belief that the value of her property would be reduced, if a lift station were placed, on the public utility easement next to her property. She stated she wanted to be compensated, for loss of property value.

Also, she requested a 3 month delay in the lift station project, while she considers selling her home.

Item 8 Next Meeting Date

Before the adjournment of the February meeting it was decided, the next board meeting for St. Tammany Sewerage District No.1 will be held Thursday March 14, 2019 ,beginning at 6 PM, meeting location to be determined.

Mike Franklin, Board Secretary
St. Tammany Parish, Sewerage District No.1