

Gallatin Gateway County Water & Sewer District

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: May 10, 2012

Time: 7:00PM

Place: Gallatin Gateway Community Center, 145 Mill, Gateway, MT

For: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

AGENDA

I. Call To Order

- A. Call To Order
- B. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items¹

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2012

III. Reports of Officers, Standing Committees, and Special Committees

- A. Report of General Manager & Report of Financial Condition
- B. Report of Engineer

IV. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- A. Public Hearing on Levy of a Special Assessment to Fund Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements
- B. Preliminary FY2012-2013 Budget Discussion

V. New Business

- A. Any New Business Which May Come Properly to the Board

VI. Adjourn

¹ The opportunity for members of the public to comment on District matters which are not on the agenda. Time limits may be imposed at the discretion of the President.

Gallatin Gateway County Water & Sewer District

MINUTES OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gallatin Gateway County Water & Sewer District was held in the Gallatin Gateway Community Center, 145 Mill Street, Gallatin Gateway, MT on May 10, 2012. Present at the meeting were board members Merle Adams, Ted Border, David Sullivan, Charlie White and Earl Wortman. Matt Donnelly and Susan Swimley were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President White. Matt Donnelly recorded the minutes of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President White asked for public comment. Six members of the audience expressed a desire to discuss the lot aggregation process. In a roundtable format, members of the audience expressed frustration at the DEQ for a convoluted and unnecessary process imposed on residents who are trying to improve, not degrade, environmental quality in the community. In addition to DEQ, which residents identified as the most cumbersome part of the aggregation process, residents explained that they had to deal with the Gallatin County Planning Office, the Gallatin County Commissioner's Office, the Gallatin City/County Health Department, the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder's Office and the Gallatin County Treasurer's Office to complete the aggregation. The attendees requested that they and others in the community be given more time to complete the lot aggregation process, if they so choose, prior to formal action by the Board.

After hearing the public comment, Director Border moved that Resolution 12-02 be rescinded, and that the public hearing on the matter of levying a special assessment be canceled, and that the Resolution of Intent to Levy a Special Assessment and public hearing be rescheduled for a later date. Director Sullivan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Community members then asked Gallatin County Commissioner Steve White, who was in attendance, to carry a request to the County Commission that the Commission write a letter to the Director of DEQ explaining the community's situation, and requesting that DEQ examine their policies and procedures with respect to communities in this and similar situations, and requesting that a DEQ representative meet with the community in a public forum.

The public comment then turned to a discussion of the DEQ requirement that landowners wishing to aggregate sign an affidavit that they will move their well if the well is closer than allowed by law to an existing drainfield. This requirement, it was noted, is moot if the drainfield is later abandoned. Attendees

told the Board that if they were to address the issue of whether or not everyone in the community will be required to connect to the public sewer system then the DEQ requirement that landowners sign an affidavit would disappear. This would make the lot aggregation process easier for residents with wells in close proximity to neighboring drainfields.

With due consideration for all public comment, Director Sullivan moved that the Board tentatively set August 6, 2012 to be the date for the public hearing on levying the Special Assessment. Director Border seconded the motion. During discussion Susan Swimley noted that working backward from this date the Board would need to pass a new Resolution of Intent to Levy a Special Assessment at the regular meeting on July 2, and that a Notice of Intent to Levy a Special Assessment would then have to be published in the newspaper on July 7 and July 14. President White called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Seeing no additional public comment, President White proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After confirming that all directors had a draft copy of the April 9 minutes, President White asked whether there were any corrections. Seeing none, Director Sullivan moved to approve. Director Wortman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

Matt Donnelly provided an update on the financial condition of the District, reporting that the District had received a \$25,769.45 payment from DNRC. Director Sullivan moved to pay Stahly Invoice 3000-00111-1 and the invoice from the Gallatin County Elections Office for a total of \$25,769.45. Director Wortman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Donnelly then presented invoices from Stahly for engineering work related to the sewer project and from Innovative Engineering for expenses incurred while preparing a response to questions that arose from the CDBG grant application. Director Sullivan moved to approve the Stahly invoice for submittal to DNRC. Director Border seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Terry Threlkeld, who was in the audience, said that he could wait until the District receives word about the amount of the insurance premium before he needs payment.

Mr. Donnelly then presented financial statements to the Board showing a cash position of \$1416 and noted that this will not be enough to cover the insurance premium. Additional expenses that will come due this summer include mailings, legal advertisements, legal expenses and engineering expenses. Most of the aforementioned expenses will be reimbursable by the grant agencies, but

none of the grant agencies will provide reimbursement until the assessment is complete and the discharge site selected.

REPORT OF ENGINEER

Greg Benjamin reported on land acquisition for a wastewater discharge site, which he described as being the focus of the engineering activities at this time. He said that Stahly has held initial internal discussions about the possibility of disposal options other than groundwater discharge, and he mentioned that if land acquisition becomes a significant problem that the District may have to look at these other options.

There was public discussion on the land required for the lift station in platted Salesville. There was some confusion because the Board has been looking for land in and around platted Salesville for a treatment site. A treatment site near platted Salesville is considered to be beneficial, but not necessary. All that is required in or near platted Salesville is a lift station, and this lift station can probably fit in the County road right-of-way.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LEVY OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

The public hearing was canceled by act of the Board during the public comment period earlier in the meeting.

PRELIMINARY FY2012-2013 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Matt Donnelly presented a preliminary FY2012-2013 budget. There was general discussion about the format of the budget. Mr. Donnelly noted that the District's expenditures in FY2012-2013 would likely trigger an audit under Montana's laws governing local government. He further noted that Susan Swimley had been in contact with State officials and is prepared to present the Board with documents to assist the Board in soliciting an auditor when the time comes. Larry Watson suggested that the District contact other similar organizations to find out how they handle their budgeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Seeing no new business, President White noted that the next meeting date is June 4, 2012.

President White then asked for unanimous consent to adjourn. Seeing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Secretary