

Blue Lake Conservancy District  
Annual Meeting  
February 22, 2020

The Annual Meeting of the Blue Lake Conservancy was held at the Blue Lake Association Building on February 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 2:17 pm with a quorum of directors present including President Lisa Waterman, Director Don Greve, Director James Davis and Director Vince Simmers. Director Darlene Ramus was absent.

Also in attendance was Maintenance Supervisor (MS) Rick Hamilton; acting Finance Clerk, Randy and Paula Grawcock, CPAs; Freeholders Mary Davis Wyne and husband, Butch Wyne; and Freeholder Dave Hall.

President Waterman called the meeting to order and introduced all parties present. The printed agenda was distributed to all parties. The first item of business was the swearing in of James Davis as the Area 5 representative to the Board of Directors of the Blue Lake Conservancy District. Waterman administered the oath which was signed by Davis upon the taking of the verbal oath. Davis was unopposed so no election was necessary.

Waterman then provided a "Year in Review" with a District Update of activities namely the website and payment portal; a new logo; the moving of the BLCD office; the naming of a new finance clerk; and completion of a State Board of Accounts audit.

Waterman, along with board members Davis and Simmers, detailed Looking Forward in the district with plans to focus on I & I (Infiltration and Inflows) along with a new disconnection policy that is currently under review. Further, Waterman relayed a required focus on financial matters and ensuring our information was accurate and appropriate.

Waterman then distributed a copy of the Annual Budget, previously prepared by Finance Clerk Sue Hamilton, detailing our areas of focus including a \$10,000 allocation to I & I work, particularly on the south side off Harrold Place and Harrold Road. Waterman noted the largest expenditure of the utility was processing payments to the Town of Churubusco, utility payments to the electric companies serving the area, and bond payments to reduce our outstanding debt.

The last item on the budget was \$6000 allocated to the State Board of Accounts. Randy Grawcock questioned if that was appropriate and Waterman relayed that it wasn't as the State Board of Accounts comes into our offices for an audit about once every 3 – 5 years. Waterman stated that the \$6000 allocation could actually be partially used by bringing the BLCD office up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the computers are out of date (and operating on Windows 7), and we need a General Ledger system. Waterman mentioned she will be requesting a review of these capital improvements to the board at upcoming meetings, but the allocation to the SBOA should be removed from the budget.

The Rate Study Update was provided by all directors present detailing the hiring of Baker Tilly, Municipal Rate Consultants, and their work with Waterman and Simmers in working with the Town of Churubusco to ultimately negotiate a reduced rate along with a 3 year phase in on rate increases. Baker Tilly, in working with the directors, reviewed our cash position, took into account expected increases in costs, but notably, added a capital improvement fund of \$25,000 per year given our aging infrastructure.

The Introduction of the Proposed Amended Rate Ordinance was then presented. Copies of the printed ordinance were distributed to persons present. Simmers read the opening statements associated with the ordinance. Waterman then entertained a motion to suspend the reading of the Ordinance, motion by Simmers to suspend, seconded by Davis. Motion passed. Waterman then summarized the ordinance and stated the increased rate would only apply to the



"processing" portion of the monthly bill. Of the current \$68.20 monthly bill in the BLCD for Freeholders, only \$23.68 is subject to the increase outlined in the Ordinance as the remaining portion of the bill, \$45.52 supports bond/debt repayment and is not subject to increase. Waterman relayed the establishment of the capital improvement fund and relayed the three year phase-in would be effective at the start of the second quarter of each of the next three years, assuming everything passes through review and Freeholder scrutiny. The actual PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the proposed Rate Ordinance is slated for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 6 pm, to be held at the BLCD office at 7491 E 700 N, Churubusco, IN 46723

Waterman then continued the discussion of looking forward for the BLCD through an intense review of I & I. MS Hamilton discussed the issues and potential solutions. Simmers detailed some of the possible remedies and Davis talked about how processing clean water through our system is a waste of our processing dollars.

Freeholder Mary Wyne noted the high level of the lake, and asked of MS Hamilton if any pumps were under water, and if the high water was causing any other issues. MS Hamilton said he was unaware of any pumps under water or having issues due to the high lake water.

Freeholder Dave Hall mentioned how pleased he was with the direction of the BLCD and that he had been seeking this for several years. Wyne, Greve, and others noted their pleasure with the operation of the utility, and in particular, the work of President Waterman and other persons associated with the BLCD.

Waterman commended MS Hamilton for his work and relayed that the BLCD had an effective and committed Board of Directors trying to do their best to preserve the beauty of the Lake by processing the sewage.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Waterman, Recording Secretary.

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2020:

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