

TOWN OF CHESTERTON UTILITY SERVICE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT FOR FOX CHASE FARMS, WHISPERING SANDS AND MERIDIAN WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Members L. Brandt, A. Michel, S. McCord, J. Raffin, J Schnadenberg, Supt. T. Atherton, Engineer M. O'Dell, Clerk-Treas. S. Kuziela , Town Manager B. Doyle, Porter Rep. B. Brueckheimer, Attorney C. Parkinson and Secretary D. Schoenfelt. Absent were Council Member Liaison S. Darnell and Attorney J. Paulson.

1. Attorney C. Parkinson reviewed the legalities of the PER.
2. John Sturgill of McMahon Associates Inc. first gave an overview of the proposed project: the area to be serviced, the current system in place at Fox Chase Farms and Whispering Sands, the problems with those systems and their needs. He also discussed the current and future wastewater flows and went over possible alternative plans of action, which also included no action taken. The environmental impact would be minimal. Lastly he concluded with the selected plan of action.

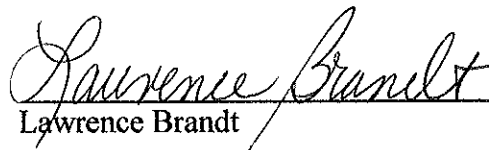
At this time comments were received from anyone in opposition to this project.

1. Ed Gutt first asked how much Fox Chase Farms homeowners will pay for this sewer service and how Chesterton Utility would assess them since they are on well water. He also was bothered by the ordinance that allows Chesterton to provide sewer service 4 miles outside of the town's limits. He asked how the town can tell unincorporated areas what they can and cannot do. He said that motives are different from what a city person or a town person would have.
2. L. Brandt answered his questions by telling him Fox Chase Farms homeowners would pay a monthly rate of \$137 and since they are on wells, which can't be metered they will pay the same rate and Whispering Sands will be metered and will approximately pay \$4,700 per month. He also explained the 4 mile ordinance is to protect the town's investment in the SR 49 utility corridor and not to reduce Liberty Township residents' options. He concluded with the point that we have invested 2 million dollars into this plan, we should be able to protect that investment but we don't mean to tell unincorporated areas what to do.

3. Kris Borsodi from Damon Run then asked if the Damon Run system is already in place, why would the State of Indiana allow an expenditure of \$1.9 million so Fox Chase Farms could go all the way to Chesterton Utility for sewer service?
4. L. Brandt replied that it is a customer driven process and Fox Chase Farms came to Chesterton after looking at two other providers and then Whispering Sands also wanted to connect with Chesterton. He also added that the \$750,000 and zero interest loan shows that the State is in our corner.
5. Kris Borsodi replied that Damon Run was sinking.
6. J. Schnadenberg added that is probably why Fox Chase Farms came to us.
7. Kris Borsodi then stated that the State is coming up with money to bypass a system she is forced to pay into at high prices.
8. L. Brandt agreed.
9. Kris concluded by saying she would have to take her complaint to the State.
10. L. Brandt concluded by reviewing past decisions by IDEM to divide the State into a set number of service areas and they did not want septic systems. Sixteen years ago they then decided to allow cities and towns to provide service to areas outside of their city or town limits. Rates are controlled by the towns.

The Public Hearing was concluded at 7:45 p.m.

S. McCord moved to approve Resolution No. 2014 - 1 U regarding the SRF Loan program and acceptance of the PER concerning Fox Chase Farms, Whispering Sands and the Meridian Road Wastewater collection and transport system, seconded by J. Schnadenberg, approved by unanimous voice vote.


Lawrence Brandt Chairman


Deb Schoenfelt Secretary