

FREELAND WATER and SEWER DISTRICT
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON
Minutes of Regular Meeting – January 12th, 2018

MEETING PLACE - 5585 Lotto Avenue - Freeland, Washington

IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Lou Malzone, Eric Hansen

Staff: Andy Campbell (*Certified Operator*); Terri Campbell (*Finance Manager, Administration*)

Professional Services and Audience: *see attached audience list*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner *Malzone* called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. AGENDA (Addition or Deletions) - None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner *Hansen* moved seconded by Commissioner *Malzone* to approve the *regular* meeting minutes of December 13th, 2017. *Motion approved*

5. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS – None

6. PROJECT REPORTS

6.1 Water System Action Items-

A. Comprehensive Plan Update – *Roger Kuykendall from Gray and Osborne* (Engineers) is working on the final versions of Chapters #1 & #2 and should have it done by the February meeting.

B. Water Treatment Project - *Andy Campbell* reported that the parts for the Water Filter Treatment Plant are presently being built.

C. Developer Extensions –

a) Whispering Firs (Myers) – No Report

b) Evergreen Way (LaChause) – No Report

c) Chipshot (Eagle Builders) – No Report

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

7.1 HWY 525 Property – *Margaret Anderson* and *Richard Boyle* from St. Hubert's Church have withdrawn their request to trade a portion of property between HWY 525 and their six and one-half acres on Fish Road.

7.2 WB Waterworks – *Andy Campbell* reported that WB Waterworks is pursuing other options for their water systems with other potential buyers.

7.3 Water Quality (Nitrates) –

Commissioner *Malzone* presented a “draft” resolution that FWSD’s attorney reviewed that would adopt a policy to protect the District’s well drinking water from nitrate pollution.

Before FWSD sets a requirement by resolution, Commissioner *Hansen* wants certainty of where the nitrates are coming from and questioned *Keith Higman* and *Doug Kelly* (Island County Health Department) what their thought were on what is causing the higher concentrations of nitrates. *Keith* and *Doug* responded by stating the increase of nitrates may not be coming from the septic systems even though increasing nitrate levels are an indicator. *Keith* will talk with his staff to see how much resources can be contributed to find out where the nitrates are coming from. Commissioner *Hansen* wants to move forward to find out where the nitrates may be coming from but the Island County Health Department stated they do not know what level they can move forward and it will take time to get this done. The solutions presented by *Keith Higman* was for the FWSD to “move your wells.”

Commissioner *Malzone* reported that hydrogeology studies were performed on the ground water flow and soil permeability shows there is no confining layer above the aquifer where FWSD obtains its water supply, therefore, the aquifer is not protected. The recorded well logs and water quality test results indicate increasing nitrates in the drinking water wells. His concern is that with the future demand of growth and development, the nitrates may accelerate if there is no action taken. The resolution he presented will ask applicants for water service connections and certificates of water availability within the Freeland Non-Municipal Urban Growth Area boundary to provide proof to FWSD that development on the property shall not result in an increase in the total nitrogen. The property owner or agent thereof, must monitor, record and report flow data monthly to not exceed the approved design flow limits. The regulation would require the developer to install septic systems with secondary treatment for nitrate removal.

The Commissioners tabled the resolution and will hold a workshop with Island County Health Department to have further discussion regarding a hydrogeology scope of work.

8. NEW BUSINESS –

8.1 Harbor Hills Base Rate – *Terri Campbell* presented a spreadsheet on the base rate that Harbor Hills is currently paying. *Terri* suggested that the District lower the base rate to match the base rate of all FWSD customers. The new lower base rate will be retroactively effective January 1st and the changes will appear in the January thru March 2018 billing, billed in April. *Terri* will write a letter to the customers to go out in the next billing letting them know of the new rates. *Motion approved*

8.2 Commercial and Harbor Hills Quarterly Billing – *Terri Campbell* asked the Commissioners to consider the Commercial Area customers and Harbor Hills customers going to a quarterly water billing rather than bi-monthly. Having FWSD

customers bi-monthly and others quarterly does not allow for accurate comparisons of well readings and meter readings. This would also cut costs for FWSD for meter reading, administration, billing, postage and supplies. Commissioner *Malzone* made motion seconded by Commissioner *Hansen* to go to a quarterly billing effective January 1st, 2018 for the first quarter being January thru March 2018 billing, billed in April. Terri will write a letter of notice to the customers in the next billing letting them know of the change. *Motion approved*

9. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – None

10. **REPORTS -**

10.1 **Accountant's Report - (WWS)**

A. **Accounts** – Accounting reports were presented, that included preliminary Income, Expense, and Balance sheets for the month ending December 2017.

B. **Approval of Vouchers** –

After reviewing the vouchers presented for payment, the Board by vote, approved payment of the vouchers dated **January 12th, 2018**. Commissioner *Malzone* moved and seconded by Commissioner *Hansen* to approve and sign the following vouchers and amounts: *Motion approved*

Operation & Maintenance Fund #702 (FW \$9,384.94, HH \$9,329.91, SVF \$106.04)

Construction Improvement Fund #742 (FW \$18,464.19, HH \$3,669.06)

Total Vouchers: \$40,954.14 *Motion approved*

10.2 **Operation's Report - Andy Campbell (WWS)**

A. See attached Operation & Maintenance Report for month ending December 2017

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

12. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business of the District, the meeting of January 12th, 2017 was adjourned at 11:30 PM.

Eric Hansen
Commissioner; FWSD

Lou Malzone
Commissioner; FWSD

February 14th, 2018
Approval Date

FREELAND WATER and SEWER DISTRICT
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON
Workshop – January 18th, 2018
MEETING PLACE - 5585 Lotto Avenue - Freeland, Washington

IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioners; John Brunke, Eric Hansen, Lou Malzone, Operations Manager; Andy Campbell, Engineer; Roger Kuykendall (Gray and Osborne), Island County; Keith Higman, Doug Kelly, Beckye Frey, Whidbey Record; Kyle Jensen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner *Malzone* called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

The first order of business was to discuss the previous meeting to bring Commissioner *Brunke* up to date on those issues regarding increasing nitrate levels in FWSD wells and proposed actions.

There was a discussion of possible sources of nitrate pollution, mitigation methods, and other issues related to nitrates in ground water. The County acknowledged that septic systems are a known source of nitrogen pollution but the degree to which septic systems affect nitrates in the aquifer needs to be studied more regionally. The Health Board is the agency that would need to recognize nitrogen as a polluting source for the County to possibly take action.

Doug Kelly provided maps showing existing nitrate and water table data. The data shows that there is nitrogen present in wells throughout the Freeland area. It was requested that *Doug* provide an analysis based on LIDAR maps to show the aquifer-level flows.

Doug Kelly and *Keith Higman* from Island County explained County regulations and Anti-Degradation Policy in place to determine if a development project requires nitrogen removal from septic flows, normally large projects. Normally, a single-family residence does not need nitrogen removal except for shallow drain-field conditions. The County suggested that an investigation be taken on present larger sources of nitrate water table pollution, in particular, *Maple Ridge* which is the largest water user and discharger of effluent into the ground. *Maple Ridge* effluent discharge is located directly above the aquifer flowing towards the FWSD wells. *Keith Higman* committed to providing FWSD with the permit conditions documentation for *Maple Ridge* so that FWSD can consider a letter to *Washington Department of Health (WA-DOH)* for enforcement. The County and FWSD would most likely arrange a meeting with *Bonaventure*, owner of *Maple Ridge*, the *Main Street Sewer District* Board, and *CHS Engineers* ahead of any agency enforcement request action. The County will also write to the *WA-DOH* if required.

It was suggested by Commissioner *Brunke* that an incentive program might be created to encourage nitrate removal systems for residential septic systems, new or existing.

The meeting concluded with development of a number of questions for the County Hydrologist *Doug Kelly* to develop a scope of work for future studies to address these questions.

Commissioner *Hansen* will coordinate the scope of work with the County and ask Gray & Osborne for their input.

The workshop closed at 11:50

Prepared by:

John Brunke, Commissioner
Freeland Water and Sewer District