

**MINUTES OF THE
GRANT COUNTY SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 9, 2023 MEETING**

A Special Meeting of the Grant County Sanitary Sewer District was called to order on February 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the District Headquarters, One Farrell Drive, Crittenden, Kentucky. Present at the meeting were the following: Chairman Charles Givin, Vice-Chairman Robert Worthington, and Commissioners, Rodger Bingham and Greg Powell. At the time of the meeting, Commissioner Leo Saylor's resignation was submitted to the District and his position has not yet been filled on the Board. Also present were Counsel Thomas R. Nienaber, HR Director Ashley Dyer, Dianne Cook, Amy Ruark and Superintendent Paul Harp. The Special Meeting was properly noticed with an Agenda consisting of two items:

- (1) Discussion of the Rate Increase Application filed with the Public Service Commission; and
- (2) Discussion of the District's billing service conducted on behalf of the City of Crittenden for solid waste services and fees.

The first order of business was a report on the status of the Rate Increase Application filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Mr. Nienaber reported that the District timely responded to the PSC Staff Request for Information. The Response to that Request was very lengthy and comprehensive. In fact, a total of several thousand pages of documentation was provided. Mr. Nienaber also reported that the Response to the City of Crittenden Request for Information was also timely filed with the PSC. Mr. Nienaber reviewed with the Commissioners some of the information being requested by the PSC Staff and the City of Crittenden. One of the main issues addressed by the City of Crittenden in its Request for Information focused on allegations that the District is not requiring individuals currently on the District's sanitary sewer system line to tap-in as required by the Grant County Sanitary Sewer Ordinance ("Ordinance"). Mr. Nienaber briefly reviewed with the Commissioners his Response. The City of Crittenden's Request for Information also focused on the relationship between the City of Crittenden and the District. Mr. Nienaber reviewed in detail the Response to that Request. Mr. Nienaber gave a history of the District from its original creation in 2004 through the present. Mr. Nienaber also reported that the City of Crittenden's Request for Information apparently was the product of a "cut and paste" Request filed in another rate increase proceeding before the PSC. For example, there were some requests which asked for a comparison of the District's "water utility rates" to other "water utilities" in Kentucky and the nation. Mr. Nienaber objected to those requests as being irrelevant.

Chairman Givin asked if the PSC could Order a formal Public Hearing on our Application. Mr. Nienaber reported that the Public Service Commission could order a public hearing within its discretion. He also stated that any party to the proceeding could also request a public hearing. Whether or not such a public hearing would be ordered is in the discretion of the PSC.

Mr. Nienaber reported that the Response to the PSC Staff Request and the City of Crittenden Request are voluminous. Anyone desiring a "hard copy" may request one from Mr. Nienaber's office or go online to the PSC website. Mr. Nienaber asked that Amy Ruark and Dianne Cook place a copy of the Responses on the respective District website with a hyperlink to the PSC website.

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Chairman Givin inquired as to whether or not more information could be requested by the PSC and/or any Intervenor. Mr. Nienaber indicated that an additional Request for Information could be submitted. However, given the volume of information provided, it is unlikely that will occur.

The next order of business was a review of the current billing service which the District is providing to the City of Crittenden for curbside trash/waste service. Chairman Givin reported that the City of Crittenden recently increased its trash/solid waste collection rates with Republic from \$10.82 per month to \$13.60 per month. The District is currently including those charges for trash services on the District's monthly sanitary sewer bill. The District is charging the City of Crittenden \$1.00 for each bill sent. Chairman Givin reported that it has recently come to his attention that District customers are operating under the misconception that the entire bill which they receive from the District is for sewer service only. For example, if a District customer has a monthly sewer bill for sanitary sewer service of \$30.00, they will receive a bill for \$40.82 (i.e. \$30.00 for sanitary sewer service and \$10.82 for solid waste collection). Some District customers believe that the entire \$40.82 is for sanitary sewer service provided by the District. Given the fact that the City of Crittenden is increasing its monthly charge for trash/solid waste collection from \$10.82 to \$13.60 per month and the District will be receiving a rate increase for its monthly charges, the confusion among District customers will simply increase. Chairman Givin also reported that Republic could bill City of Crittenden citizens directly for trash/solid waste services. If Republic billed City of Crittenden customers directly, the monthly charge for trash/solid waste services will be \$15.83 per month. Dianne Cook reported that billing for solid waste collection by the District is time-consuming and problematic in many instances. This confusion is exacerbated when a District customer pays only a partial bill. Dianne Cook reported that the District is not covering all of its time and effort expended in collecting trash/solid waste fees when charging only \$1.00 per month. Chairman Givin opined as to whether or not the District should continue to provide billing services for the City of Crittenden. After considerable discussion, upon motion of Greg Powell and second by Rodger Bingham, it was unanimously,

“RESOLVED: that the District discontinue collecting trash/solid waste fees for the City of Crittenden beginning with the March, 2023 District billing cycle. The District shall notify the City of Crittenden of this termination of service forthwith.”

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There being no further business to conduct before the meeting, upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.

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BY: 

CHARLES GIVIN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


ROBERT WORTHINGTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN