

TOWN OF SOUTH WHITLEY PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDING ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SEWAGE RATES  
118 E FRONT ST. SOUTH WHITLEY IN 46787  
TOWN COUNCIL BOARD ROOM  
FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2017  
6:30 P.M.

Those present were President Randy Cokl, Councilman Les Hoffman, Councilman Bill Boggs, Waste Water Operator/Utility Supervisor Kent Slater, Water Operator Ron Anderson, Town Marshal Mikel VanDevender, Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer and Clerk-Treasurer Janet Howard.

Call to order by President Cokl at 6:30 P.M. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cokl gave a history as to how this came about with the sewage plant being undersized when built. The State is mandating that this problem is to be taken care of and if we do not the town will be fined on a daily basis. In January a long term plan had been approved and this is a ten year plan. The town is pursuing going after the company that built this wrong and we have to find fault with them, prove them at fault and move forward. President Cokl introduced Consultant Steve Carter with Carter Dillon Umbaugh on a conference call to explain how the rate increase was decided. Mr. Carter gave a history of sewage operation expenses and revenue and explained that there is a deficit of 110,000.00 a year for the sewer operation which would be a 21% increase and the additional project would increase it more.

Public Input –

Brock Waterson feels the contractor should be responsible and have to pay for the mistake. He also asked why we couldn't postpone the rate increase and tell the state we are pursuing going after the company. The Council stated that they know this and don't care, that we have to get it fixed. Then Mr. Waterson stated that maybe we should contact State Representative Chris Judy for help.

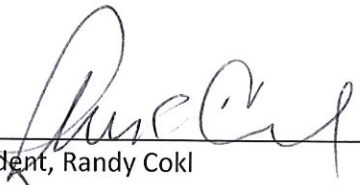
Joe Medley – Mentioned he has lived in several places and this rate increase is the highest he has ever seen and he will be moving his family and parents out of town is this happens.

Scott Peters – Asked if the state signed off the plans for the project back then saying they agreed they were okay. It was stated the IDEM did accept the plans but they along with everyone were given faulty figures. Mr. Peters then asked if there was a possibility of getting with other municipalities that may have same problem and do a class action against them. It was stated this was a good idea to consider.

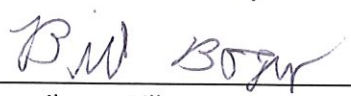
Brock Waterson – Mentioned about getting a grant writer to look for resources to help and President Cokl stated that Lori Shipman will be helping and that he has talked with someone from Churubusco who writes grants to maybe help.

Approval of Amending Ordinance 01-24-2017-01 increasing the sewage rates was made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded Councilman Boggs and carried by unanimous vote 3-0.

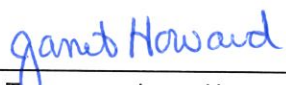
Public Hearing was adjourned by President Cokl at 7:15 P.M.

  
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President, Randy Cokl

  
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Councilman, Les Hoffman

  
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Councilman, Bill Boggs

ATTESTED:

  
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Clerk-Treasurer, Janet Howard