



BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING

Monday September 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Memorandum

Mr. Mills called the meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Carl Mills, Treasurer Jane Merrill, Secretary Michael McDonald, members, Eric Hand, Chuck Ryerson and Jeff Hill, Amanda Foley. Others in attendance were Utility Director Andrew Williams, Legal Counsel Scott Wyatt, Engineering Manager Wes Merkle, Controller Cindy Sheeks and Administrative Assistant Maggie Crediford

Mr. Pittman and Mr. Kimbell were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Dana Hill, 10646 Walnut Creek Drive West, Carmel.

Mr. Hill asked how sewer connections are made and once connections are made, how billing is then set up. Mr. Williams explained TriCo's policies on sewer connection and billing. Customers pay EDU and Interceptor fees to have access to connect to the sewer system. Once a permit is secured the customer hires a contractor to connect their home into the system.

Mr. Hill asked the Board members if they were familiar with the situation at his home. The Board members acknowledged that they were. Mr. Hill purchased the home in 2011, the real estate documents indicated the home was connected to the sewer system and the property was being billed by TriCo (formerly Clay Township Regional Waste District) for service. Earlier in 2021 the Hill's began having gurgling sounds in their kitchen sink. They hired plumbers to assess and address the issues. It was found that the home had never been connected to the sewer system and that it was connected to a septic system that had not been maintained, because it was believed they were connected to sanitary sewers.

The Hills believe TriCo should be responsible for the cost of connecting their home to the sanitary sewer system since they were being billed for service, and believed they were connected. When the Hills contacted TriCo and let them know they were being billed for services they had not been receiving, the Hills were refunded the entire amount of monthly charges they had paid over the ten year period they had lived in the home.

The home was in TriCo's billing system beginning in 1993 after that homeowner filed for a permit. However, the homeowner never followed through and connected to the sewer system yet ended up in the billing system. Mr. and Mrs. Hill believe the liability lies with the Utility for not discovering the property was not connected to sewers during and inspection but began billing the property. The Hills asked that TriCo pay all or any portion of the costs associated with having to connect the property to the sewer system. He Hill indicated that he has spent between \$17,000 and \$20,000 on the connection and original plumber troubleshooting the problem.

Member Jeff Hill asked what the Hills are asking for specifically. It is hard to give consideration to the request without an exact amount. Mr. Kevin Hill said he would prefer that TriCo cover the entire bill.

Mr. Hand asked if the real estate listing showed the property being connected to the sewer system and asked if the Hills had investigated recourse through the real estate agency for the listing information being incorrect. Mr. Hill said the home was purchased in a foreclosure sale. Mr. Hand said the property was purchased as is then, Mr. Hill said yes.

Mr. Mills asked if the Board members had any other questions. There were none.

Mrs. Hill said she is angry that the property was not inspected by TriCo in 1993 to see that the connection was made. She said she felt it was TriCo's responsibility and would like them to help cover the costs they have incurred to make the connection.

Mr. Mills thanked the Hills for coming, and Mr. and Mrs. Hill left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MEMORANDUM

Ms. Merrill made a motion to approve the meeting memorandum from August 9, 2021. Ms. Foley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS DOCKET

Ms. Sheeks said the Plant Expansion project is eating away at the bond funds and there were no other unexpected bills for the month. Mr. McDonald made a motion to approve the claims docket. Mr. Hand seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Wyatt had nothing to report.

UTILITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Williams, the Board and Mr. Wyatt discussed an issue the Utility is having with AT&T regarding a pedestal located on TriCo's property without an easement.

Mr. Williams said Mr. Merkle, Mr. Strong and Mr. Martin gave a presentation at the IWEA Conference in Fort Wayne entitled "Homegrown Asset Management". Mr. Williams heard several compliments for other utilities on what a good presentation the staff gave. Collections employee Brian Vaughn showed his restored truck at the Zionsville Fall Festival. He passed out TriCo informational bags to attendees and won first place for best engine.

Mr. Williams gave the Board members TriCo's newest outreach and education product promoting the "Don't flush the Wipes" campaign the Utility is focusing on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance Committee

Ms. Merrill said the Budget and Finance Committee did not meet.

Personnel & Benefits Committee

The Personnel and Benefits Committee met but had no action items.

Capital & Construction Committee

Mr. Hill said the Capital and Construction Committee did not meet.

Old Business

Mr. Williams provided updated information he has received regarding the Town of Fishers' acquisition of part of the HSE utility. The sale is scheduled to close at the end of the year. We are still not sure on HSE's plans for service in old Union Township, but they have shown interest in a wholesale treatment agreement with TriCo.

The Board discussed the request made earlier in the meeting by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Dana Hill regarding the connection of their property to the sanitary sewer system. After careful consideration, the Board did not support sharing in the Hill's cost to connect to the sewer.

New Business

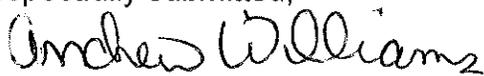
Board members who were interested were taken on a tour to view the progress of the Plant Expansion project.

Adjournment

The meeting portion of the evening adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

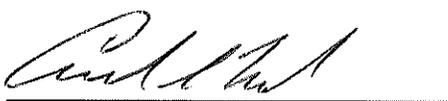
Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Williams
Utility Director

Approved:

 X as Presented
 as Amended


Michael McDonald, Secretary
Carl Mills, President