

NOTES: North Santiam Joint Sewer Project Meeting #41

May 7, 2020 at 6pm

Held by Zoom Conference Call (Due to COVID-19)

Join Online Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82277522193?pwd=UFFKSnpJcTJiOHcyZVBsYWMydVJRUT09>

By phone @ 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 822 7752 2193

Password: 324742

A. Introductions and Announcements: (01:55)

- **Introductions: (02:13)**
 - Members: Ken Woodward, Jeff Yohe, Dale Wiese, Dan Tucker, Tim Kirsch, Shelley Engle, Jeff Smith, Danielle Gonzalez, Janet Zeyen-Hall
 - Guests: Jeff Crowther, Ron Carmickle, Nelleke Knarr, John McCormick, Jerry Marr
- **Announcements:**
 - Zoom technical overview (04:05)
 - Roadmap to Reopen: (08:40)
 - 3 phases
 - Phase 1: May 15 at the soonest
 - Submitting to Governor tomorrow
 - Marion County Dashboard (**Danielle will email link, incl. city hall**) (10:50)

B. Public Comment and Questions (please limit Public Comment to 3 minutes each) (14:00)

- Jerry Mar: What happens if Gates joins later? Discussion: on agenda for later in the mtg.
- John McCormick (acting mayor for Gates): Would like to be recognized later, during discussion
- Ron Carmickle: Unbecoming that people are finger-pointing. Would like to work with Task Force.

C. Action: Review and Approval of Meeting Notes #40 from March 5th meeting (18:15)

- Public Comment (A): change all use of word "Response" to "Discussion"
- Jeff Yohe move; Tim Kirsch 2nd; approve unanimously

D. Action: Bills to review and authorize payment (21:15)

- Attorney bill (tabled from last meeting):
 - Balance due: \$4466. Attorney is approved up to \$25K. This does not include match from Mill City; that balance is approx. \$14K .
 - Jeff Y moved; Dan T. 2nd; approved unanimously.
 - **Tim & Ken:** please send email to Janet directing that the 2/29/2020 bill from the attorney be paid.

E. Discussion: Gates Update (27:30)

- Gates update: (27:35)
 - April: Gates' City Council declined to move forward; IGA was not approved.
 - Mayor resigned after that April mtg.; John McCormick is acting mayor.
 - Currently have 4 council members: 2 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining
- Marion County update: (30:00)

- As of our last mtg., County had allocated \$400K.
- The Economic Development budget is much tighter (reduced approx. 30%) due to COVID-19, small business grants, and projected decrease in Video Lottery funds. Submitted budget still includes the \$400K, but has not been approved yet.
- Infrastructure projects: Important that we are ready. This requires that the design & engineering study gets done ASAP.
- Sen. Merkley's office is still interested in this project.

F. Review and Action: Options for NS Sewer Project

- 1. Move ahead with the 3 cities of Mill City, Detroit, Idanha**
- 2. Give more time to Gates (if so, how long?)**
- 3. Sign a Memorandum of Agreement of no hook-up fees and not mandatory**
- 4. End pursuit of North Santiam Sewer Project**

- Overview of 4 options (Danielle) – handout in packet (37:00, 41:15)
- Discussion:
 - (Jeff Y.) Want Gates to be part of project, but give them a deadline. We need to strike while the iron is hot. (40:10)
 - Clarification on Option 3, memorandum of Understanding: (42:05)
 - This would be a separate document, between the cities, not with the NSSA (North Santiam Sewer Authority) to address whatever the sticking points are for Gates. Would not assign authority.
 - Gates: (43:10)
 - Sticking points (Dan):
 - Positions Gates approved:
 - Hookups not mandatory
 - No hookup fees (during initial phase)
 - No fee for declining to hookup (during initial phase)
 - Anyone who hooks up later, will pay all costs for hookup
 - Other sticking point: concern over monthly fees. Dale has tried to explain cap on increases to concerned citizens
 - (Jeff) Task Force doesn't have authority to decide that, Authority has to be formed first
 - (Dan) Some in Gates want protections before joining IGA
 - Mill City (47:20)
 - (Tim) Concern about money going away if we don't move forward.
 - We had similar concerns, but:
 - City attorney clarified that language needed to be united for all 4 cities
 - Everyone still has an "out" after the engineering study and funding options are developed
 - Mill City's need is pressing, they've already delayed for this project
 - No one wants to further impoverish any community, whether it's Idanha or Gates; want it to be good for everyone.
 - (Danielle) There are potential funding sources & grant writers to help mitigate hookup fees.(52:25)
 - May be extra \$ from pandemic
 - Is traditionally \$ available for infrastructure projects
 - Have to be "shovel-ready"

- Gates: (54:10)
 - (John Mc.): majority of our citizens support moving forward. Expect to address adding another councilor on Monday night and hope to vote again within 1-2 weeks. Understand urgency.
- Detroit: (56:40)
 - (Shelley) If we don't move forward soon, we risk losing \$400K from Marion County (Danielle affirmed).
 - Re: Gates' concerns:
 - Detroit will not require citizens to hookup either
 - Expect there to be grants
 - Also want to keep monthly fees down
 - We need to move forward; we can't wait much longer.
 - The costs to Gates will be extraordinarily higher if they decide to join later.
 - Contractors' favorite words: "while we're at it"!
 - (Danielle) Current requirements for new ATT septic system:
 - Per Kim Aldrich new onsite specialist for Marion County (replaced Claudia): average \$35K per system, plus state law requires a monthly operations & maintenance contract that averages \$52/month.
 - She is planning to gather some info re: how many systems are failing
 - Kim comes from a ODEQ & ODFW background and leans into state and county laws & requirements
 - She worked at ODEQ with Gary Artman and is very familiar with 2000 study he did in Detroit & Idanha.
- Idanha (01:05:00)
 - (Jeff S.) Like to have Gates on board; need to set definite date; 30 days?
 - (Jeff Y.) Concur
- Mill City (01:05:25)
 - (Janet) Lottery is making significant cuts to their budgets. Need to get money while it's still available.
- Gates: (01:06:45)
 - (Dale) New septic systems:
 - In 3 years, cost has increased by 10% and maintenance has doubled.
 - Complexity has also increased, including electronics, which are impacted by power outages.
 - (John) Have been working hard to share information. Expect to have an answer from Gates no later than next Task Force mtg., will try to get one sooner.
- Mill City: (01:11:55)
 - (Tim) we're taking a large leap of faith, turning over their sewer system to NSAA and delaying taking action themselves.
 - Okay with giving Gates 30 days.
 - Unified sewer system is best for whole canyon
- Summary: (01:13:25)
 - (John) Leap of faith for everyone, responsible to everybody
 - What if Gates wants to join later; should they absorb additional cost for attorney, engineering? All agreed.
 - (Danielle) If Gates has not approved IGA by June 4, we'll need to clearly state the date this is effective.

- (Janet) Similar to fire prevention, there may come a point where cities are required to take action within a limited time or be penalized.
 - Consensus of agreement to take Option 2, give Gates until June 4, date of next Task Force Mtg.; and, if they have not approved, then we move to Option 1. (01:17:35)
 - Gates: (John) Appreciate the extra time
- John's background (01:21:30)
 - Father was civil engineer in OK, CA, OR & WA; owned own company and worked for Fish & Wildlife, including designing sewers & water plants.
 - Started working for him at age of 12: office manager, draftsman
 - Was youngest person in OK to be licensed for 2nd class Sewer & Water plants and Sewer Laboratories, at age of 16.
- Jeff C. (Oregon Association of Water Utilities): anticipate funding will be available, need to be "shovel ready" as soon as possible. (01:23:05)

G. Next meetings? (01:24:35)

- No one wants Option 4
- We've come a long way, but long way to go; at least a few years to pipes in the ground.
- This project impacts Gates' clean water from river. **Danielle** will connect with John about related work on this.
- Can someone help draft talking points about worst case scenario for Gates? Shelley volunteered.
- **Danielle** to work on estimate for cost for attorney to make changes to IGA, if needed.
- **Danielle:** will try to get financial projections; American Community Survey site has changed, which has changed numbers.
- Ron C. Feel like manipulation has been occurring in the past. Concerned that no one has been willing to sit down and discuss the issue; focus has been on getting IGA approved. Danielle reviewed some past responses to Gates City Council's requests for addl. information, e.g. Town Hall Mtg., work session, website, written responses to questions, etc. ; adjustments were made. Task Force needs to respond to City Councils as units; can't get involved in issues internal to each council's operations. At this point, there is a deadline.

H. Adjourned at 7:45. Jeff Y. moved; Shelley 2nd.

Upcoming Dates: Sewer Meeting First Thursday of the month

Date	Event	Where
June 4, 2020 6-8 pm	Potential-North Santiam Joint Sewer Project Meeting	City Hall in Mill City
July-NO MEETING		

By the numbers:

41 Sewer Meetings

13 Newspaper articles

2 Radio Interviews and a 7x rebroadcasted Public Town Hall

8 Statewide Public Presentations

11 City Council Meeting Presentations

4 Legislator Meetings

18 Agency Official Meetings

1 Website live since January 2018

1417 Hits to the website

800+ Volunteer Hours

County allocated funds to date: \$128,894 plus \$400,000 allocated next step (not including staffing)

Business Oregon funds to date: \$119,370