

June 20, 2019

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2019**

**SPECIAL WORKING SESSION**

**6:00 P.M.**

The Board of School Trustees met before a special public meeting for a Special Working Session beginning at 6:00 P.M. at the Switzerland County Administration Building located at 1040 W. Main Street, Vevay, Indiana. .

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Board President, Collier, called the special working session to order and asked for the silencing of all communication devices. Superintendent Hite led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Collier, President:	<u>Present</u>	Mr. Cole, Member:	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Deck, Vice President:	<u>Present</u>	Mrs. Combs, Member:	<u>Unable to Attend</u>
Mr. Bennett, Secretary:	<u>Present</u>	Mr. Sullivan, Member:	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Bosaw, Member:	<u>Present</u>	<i>Mr. Hite, Superintendent:</i>	<u>Present</u>

Others in attendance: Dana Keith, Matthew Hocker, Jodi Comer, Keith Smith, Michael J Meyer.

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

Superintendent Hite explained that the Town of Vevay has been experiencing several issues with the Wastewater collection systems over the last several years including the lift station behind the High School has overflowed on several occasions due to control issues with the pumping system. A few years ago, the High School Principal and Science Teacher had a soil sample tested and the sample tested positive for e-coli and other bacteria. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has notified the town that something must be done to correct the issues. The first option, according to the Engineering firm working with the Town of Vevay, was to move the lift station to behind the Administration building, however, an archeological reconnaissance found a significant issue with Native American artifacts.

Therefore, The Town of Vevay presented Switzerland County School Corporation with two other options. Option A: Move the existing High School lift station to the west. Option B: Replace the existing 4" force main from the Harrison Adams lift station with a 6" force main discharging into the existing 8' sewer near the existing High School lift station and rebuilding the existing High School lift station at the present location.

Superintendent Hite stated that the cost to the Town for the sewer project is approximately \$1.5M. He further explained that the Town of Vevay is in the process of applying to the

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Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a \$700,000 grant to assist in making the improvement to the sanitary sewer system. However, the Town needs to show that they have access to the rights of way for the proposed construction. The deadline to file for the grant is June 28, 2019.

Mr. Cole asked about the timeline and is concerned with having construction taking place during cross-country and football. According to Jodi Comer with Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) the Town would not be notified until October 2019 as to whether or not they have been awarded the federal grant and if awarded, they would have eighteen (18) months to complete the project. Superintendent Hite asked if the Town would coordinate a construction start date on when it would be best for the school schedule (i.e. after the close of cross- country and football season). Mr. Meyer said that request would be added to the specifications.

Superintendent Hite asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Bennett stated that his questions regarding timeline had been answered.

Mr. Cole stated that he was concerned with granting easement when we do not know our plans for the future. Superintendent Hite stated that he did have the same concern and asked the Town to go back and research because there has to be existing easements because there are multiple utilities. However, to date, the Town has not been able to locate these and that many of the Town's records have been lost. Superintendent Hite added that the only expansion that he is aware of that the school corporation may consider at some time is moving the transformers located at the high school and then moving the Agricultural building.

Mr. Sullivan asked if there are any problems with getting equipment down to the waste pump currently. Mr. Meyer responded that at this time the only issue is dragging a stand-by generator but if a standby generator is placed on the pump as proposed this is no longer a problem. The only issue would be when it comes time to replace a lift station or pump. Superintendent Hite asked how often the pumps are replaced? Mr. Meyer responded that a lift station is replaced approximately every 50-60 years and pumps every 13-20 years.

Mr. Bosaw asked, if due to the overflow, does anything have to be done to the soil? Mr. Meyer responded that it is not hazardous and is considered biodegradable so it breaks down and nature takes care of it.

Ms. Comer stated that she wanted to make sure that the school corporation understood their rights and they could receive compensation for the easement or opt to donate any required easement to the property. Ms. Comer further explained that in order to move forward with the grant application, all easements and land acquisitions must be finalized before the application filing date of June 28<sup>th</sup> and the Gregory property could be a deal breaker.

Superintendent Hite stated that during the working session it needs to be decided which option to be recommended and voted on during the following Special Board meeting.

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There are two (2) options:

Option A – Move the existing lift station 300 feet west and build a road

Option B – Leave the lift station at the current location and grant a 25-foot easement

Mr. Sullivan stated that he would be more comfortable leaving it as it is since the current location is more suitable to our needs.

Mrs. Collier asked what happens if other property owners do not grant the easement? Ms. Comer explained that there are two rounds when grant applications are accepted and unless all property owners grant the easement by June 28<sup>th</sup>, this application would have to be submitted in the next round later this year.

Superintendent Hite asked if we could grant the easement pending approval of the grant? Mr. Meyer responded that at some time in the future he would still need to request the easement. Ms. Comer further explained that they do not report the easement until the project is funded.

Superintendent Hite asked if the Town could do a special project levy since the cost is under \$2M? Mr. Meyer responded that since this is a utility the Town would need a revenue bond and raise sewage rates.

Mr. Cole asked which option is more beneficial for the Town? Mr. Meyer responded that Option B is cheaper. Mr. Smith stated that the only reason Option A was presented was because that is what the school asked for originally.

Superintendent Hite stated that Option B makes more sense but had to bring it to the Board in a special work session in order to discuss both options.

Mr. Cole proposed the following recommendation: Option B and waive the acquisition fee. Ms. Comer stated that if the Board approved the recommendation, the Grant of Easement would need to be signed by June 28<sup>th</sup> and asked if there was a designee. Superintendent Hite responded that if the Board approved the recommendation there would be someone to sign the Grant of Easement.

Mr. Cole asked for clarification on the number of units and parcels. Mr. Meyer and Ms. Comer believe there are three (3) parcels so there would need to be three (3) waivers for three (3) easements. Brian McAlister will be surveying the property and will be able to confirm the number of parcels.

There were no further questions or comments so the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

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## **SPECIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**6:30 P.M.**

Following the Special Working Session, the Board of School Trustees met for a Special public meeting beginning at 6:40 P.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President, Collier, called the special meeting to order and asked for the silencing of all communication devices.

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**ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. Collier, President:	<u>Present</u>	Mr. Cole, Member:	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Deck, Vice President:	<u>Present</u>	Mrs. Combs, Member:	<u>Unable to Attend</u>
Mr. Bennett, Secretary:	<u>Present</u>	Mr. Sullivan, Member:	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Bosaw, Member:	<u>Present</u>	Mr. Hite, Superintendent:	<u>Present</u>

Others in attendance: Dana Keith, Matthew Hocker,

**OVERALL AGENDA:**

The overall agenda was presented to the Board for approval. Motion to approve: Sullivan / Second: Bosaw / Vote: Unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *This portion of the meeting is limited to fifteen (15) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board. Anyone wishing to speak is required to identify themselves, keep comments to three minutes and address comments only to the Board President. If this isn't enough time, they are free to submit the balance of their comments in writing. The Board will take comments under advisement. If a written response is requested, they may leave an address with the Administrative Secretary. Commenters are advised that specific names be withheld from comments without that person's written consent.*

The floor was opened for public comments. Hearing none, public comments were closed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

It was recommended that the Board approve a 25-foot utility easement to the Town of Vevay on as many parcels as necessary to complete a sewer project waiving the acquisition fee and keeping Option B the current Lift Station and Pump House in place. Motion: Bennett / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)**

Superintendent, Rod Hite made the following announcement:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, July 15, 2019 @ 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:46 P.M.**

Motion to adjourn: Sullivan / Second: Deck / Vote: Unanimous. The Meeting was so adjourned.

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Kathryn Collier, President

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Josh Deck, Vice President

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Joseph Bennett, Secretary

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Greg Bosaw, Member

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Adam Cole, Member

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Amy Combs, Member

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Tye Sullivan, Member

(Board approval: 7/15/19)