PRATT LAKE LEVEL AUTHORITY BOARD
Special Meeting Minutes
Held at Sage Township Hall
August 12, 2021

Meeting called to order by Terry Walters at 2:00p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance was led by Terry Walters

Present: Terry Walters, Ron Taylor, Renee Zelt, Kent Crawford, Chris Meissner, and Lucy Zeestraten
Absent: None

Also Present: Stacy Hissong from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes; Kyle O'Meara from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes; Warren Miller form Spicer Group

Minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

New Business:

Tracy Curtis informed the board that she will be recording the minutes.

Terry is opening the floor for public comment and requested that the public keep their comments to 2 or 3 minutes each.

Someone asked what the special meeting was for? Terry replied that the meeting is regarding moving forward with putting in a stop gate in to maintain the lake level.

Someone stated that they don't see why one should be put in if it's not going to put water in the lake. Why should the property owner pay all that money? Terry responds that we can't put the weir back in, but we need to do something to keep the lake level.

There was more discussion on the structure to be put on the Curtic's property or putting it in at the culvert. Either the culvert or the structure would prevent the lake getting over the 851.4. Meeting that if the lake got higher then the 851.4 that water would go over the structure or go the culvert and flow out through the Foran Drain.

Jon Curtic made the comment that if we did the pilling, we would need easements from him.

There was more discussion on what the Lake Level is. Right now, its 851.4.

Terry asked the board to make a motion to go into close session. Related to the confidential written legal opinion from council regarding Pratt Lake Level MCL 15268H. The public wanted an explanation of what that all means. Stacy Hissong explained to the public what the closed session means. The public want to know what could be confidential. It's their lake and it pertains to them. Kent Crawford stated that if we stayed out of closed session and then it would be on Facebook, and this was our decision, and he doesn't want that. Stacy Hissong explains that no decision will be made in closed session. She will only be giving her legal opinion of the pros and cons on a legal prospective of different options available to the board. No decision will be made in closed session. The board will come out of closed session and may decide to follow or not to follow her recommendations. Stacy Hissong continues to explain that the information needs to be done in closed session

and what closed session means. The public expressed that they were not happy with the choice of time and day of the meeting. They felt that the board was trying to hold the meeting without anyone knowing about it. They feel that the next meeting needs to be on the weekend when more property owners will be up, and more notice needed to be given. Renee Zelt which option did the public prefer either the spill way or the culvert option. Feelings were mixed on which option that was preferred. Someone brought up about the water level gauges. Renee Zelt stated that Spicer Group was supposed to come in and put in a gauge that couldn't be moved. Renee Zelt stated that if it wasn't done it approved by the board to be done. There was discussion if the gauge was correct and if we need to put one in. Warren Miller said he would check with Shawn Middleton and that they did survey it recently and the gauge wasn't that far off. Warren will confirm it with Shawn. Jon Curtic asked when the board voted on Stacy Hissong becoming the boards attorney? Stacy Hissong said there was a resolution and Ron Taylor stated that it was brought to the County Board of Commissioners the beginning of the year and voted on. Tracy Curtice argues that the Drain commissioner has nothing to do with the borrow pit. Terry Walters stated that because we have authority over the lake levels that this is where she comes in. Motion to go into close session and bring Warren Miller from Spicer Group by Renee Zelt 2nd by Ron Taylor. Roll call. All in favor m/c 2:27pm

Motion to close closed session and reopen open session at 3:13pm from Kent Crawford and 2nd by Renee Zelt Roll call Renee yes, Kent yes, Terry yes, Chris yes and Ron yes. All in favor m/c

Ron Taylor motions is to allow the Drain Commissioner to negotiate with Jon Curtice for the right for that property and at the same time to allow Spicer to being to investigate it to see if we can put a tube under the road at lake level. So, we are doing 2 things at once to more it forward. Let Terry negotiate and he must bring it back to the board, so you know what Terry is negotiating. Have Spice see if we can put the tube under the road without having to raise the road to much. 2nd by Kent Crawford

Public comment: Is the board limited to the amount Terry can go to? Terry responded that the board has limited him, and he must bring it back to the board to be voted on. Ron Taylor commented that the next meeting will be held on a day and time that everyone that wants to come can. Terry said we will try to do it on a Saturday.

Mr. Kush started that he had spoken to the road commission, and he started that the tube needs to be replaced. Mr. Kush asked that if the tube needs to be replaced why wouldn't the road commission be involved? Terry replied that he has spoken to the road commission, and they are aware of what is going on.

Question from the public: if one is cheaper than the other one, one way or the other as opposed to putting the one in why wouldn't that be an option also weather the road has to be brought up or not? Terry replied that they are going to look at all the options. Ron stated that the road commission will be involved.

There was comment that the road commission didn't want responsibility because the gate is attached to the tube. Terry has spoken to Dave Petterch and he said they would pay for the tube and Terry said we would work something out. Tracy Curtice asked when Terry spoke to them, and it was after she had spoken to them.

Jon Curtice asked if we were talking about what was discussed with him and his council. He asked if anything has changed. Terry replied nothing has changed.

Someone asked about the road that goes to the public beach and the runoff. Theres a spring there that runs into the lake.

There was a recap on what was covered in the meeting.

Roll call on Ron Taylor's motion. Renee Yes, Kent yes, Terry yes, Chris yes, Ron yes.

Fire department was removing water from the lake. Terry would talk to the chief about removing the water out of Pratt Lake and take it from Wiggins Lake instead. Mike Rajt suggested that they take it out of Wiggins if they need water.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMENTS:

Motion to adjourn by Ron Taylor, supported by Kent Crawford.
All in favor, m/c
Meeting adjourned at 3:22a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Zeestraten, Secretary