

Tropic Town Public Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Public Hearing Meeting
Held Thursday, February 22 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center
Sewer Study Report

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Dennis Pollock, Brook Wiseman, Lisa Johnson, Kelly Shakespear. Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk

OTHERS: Kirk & Annette Chynoweth, Marlin Francisco, Tyson Brinkerhoff, Joe Thompson, Jeff Brinkerhoff, WaLon Brinkerhoff, Kelly & Patricia Shakespear, Steve Lewis, Brook Wiseman, WaLon Brinkerhoff, Reed LeFevre, Toni Foster, Karleen McInelly, George Thompson; Brant Barton, Derrick & Laura Pollock, Alice Wolf, David Roberts, Ruth Baugh, Danny Brinkerhoff, Lowell & Kathy Mecham, Gayle Pollock

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PLEDGE: David Roberts

Sewer Study Report

As the Town Council continued to receive applications for water/sewer connections, a decision was made to commission Jones & DeMille Engineering to perform a sewer study & Sunrise Engineering to perform a water study to determine the number of connections Tropic has for growth; residential/commercial. Along with the studies, an update to the General Plan is also being made. Mayor Brinkerhoff expressed the need for the community's participation to address and resolve the issues at hand.

Jones & DeMille Engineering

An outline on the status of the sewer lagoon was presented by Carson DeMille. Current capacity of the sewer lagoon is adequate for today's needs; to allow growth additional capacity is needed. There are a number of issues needing to be addressed with its current condition; whether the Town allows for growth or not; these include leakage and lack of capacity.

Study revealed Tropic is over capacity; if the scenario of all committed connections were activated the lagoon would be overflowing. A number of options were discussed: Land application, expansion, an onsite treatment plant, and residential septic system, among others; as well as the financial cost and allocation of rate increases.

Engineers Recommendation

Looking at all possible options, Carson recommendation is to build new lagoon cells. The cost to just repair the lagoon, which includes re-lining, restoring pipelines and leakage, etc. would be \$800,000.00; this would not allow for growth, just continue to provide the today's needs. Consequence of just repairs is a financial waste; the \$800,000 could be used toward a two-million dollar project allowing for current and future demand.

Discussed funding, timeframe, acquiring land, etc. Reports on rate increase for both residential/commercial were reviewed, and would be made on which option is chosen to move forward with.

Discussed billing sewer same as water, charge sewer based off water gallon usage. Study showed residents are paying 65% for services and 35% by commercial. All agreed this needed to be balanced out.

Other options reviewed included land applications & treatment facility; both were discussed with details of cost, maintenance, long term vs short term fix, etc.

Comments from the public were in support of fixing the problem, but also to regulate growth; not using all the capacity by building a new lagoon to provide for the next 20 years and having it used up in two years. Toni Foster expressed the need for residential growth to support the schools and community as a whole. The option of temporarily allowing septic systems in residential developments was discussed; be noted when capacity is available, requiring they hook onto the sewer system; as outlined in Town Code.

This is the first of a number of public hearings to be discussed the issue; the other concern is water availability. A public hearing to review the water study performed by Sunrise Engineering will be scheduled and notice posted.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Brook Wiseman to adjourn – Second by Kelly Shakespear. Motion carried.

Approved this 8th day of March 2018
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk