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## Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner's Meeting

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*Dedicated to preserve the purity of your environment."*

### **Commissioners:**

Susan Genzale – President  
William Tracy – Vice President  
Scott Hilsen – Secretary

### **General Manager:**

Ron Hall

### **Consulting Attorney:**

Eric C. Frimodt

### **Consulting Engineers:**

Ken Nilsen- (*Absent*)  
Cameron Ochiltree- (*Absent*)

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## December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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### 1. **Call to Order:**

6:30 p.m.

### 2. **Also in Attendance:**

Ms. Melanie Barnhill, Susan Parker and Gary Parker

### **Changes or Additions to the Agenda:**

No changes or additions.

### 3. **Written Communications:**

No written communications.

### 4. **Public Comment:**

Ms. Barnhill stated that on Dec 2nd a letter was sent to me that said I owed a year's worth of sewer fees. I have never received a bill, late notice or any contact since my calls and voicemails I made in January of 2021 and received no return call. When I spoke with three employees yesterday and today, none of them could tell me what had happened. They did tell me that a third party is used for billing and that this is not the first time this year this has happened. I came to the meeting to urge the Board of Commissioners to look into this issue and consider not using the third party or getting a new one. By continuing to use them and not addressing this issue you may be forcing families during the holiday season to choose between gifts and a payment plan with interest or no gifts and a huge sewer bill. I also believe that this puts the Board in a situation that could be seen by the State and Federal Government as unfair business and billing practices and a violation of customer rights.

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Hall stated that he will research Ms. Barnhill's account and will call her tomorrow with additional information.

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of the Minutes for the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting.
- Approval and Signing of the Accounts Payable Vouchers & Payroll.
- Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on listings that have been made available to the Board. Vouchers are included in the attached lists, and further described as follows:
  - Maintenance voucher numbers 21.1141 through 21.1210 in the total amount of \$284,351.87.
  - Construction voucher number 21.0029 through 21.0030 in the total amount of \$31,574.19.
  - Review monthly Income Report.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Hilsen, seconded by Commissioner Tracy and unanimously approved.

**6. Business Agenda:**

Hall requested approval for continued membership of the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts, with the 2022 annual dues of \$20,955.35, which is an increase of 1.5% from last year. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

Hall congratulated and thanked Tim Berge, Bill Stephani and Jason Richardson and their staffs for being recognized by the Department of Ecology, for both Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, in receiving the 2020 "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance" award. Hall mentioned that it takes dedicated and hardworking efforts from all operations, maintenance, sewer collection, pump station and electricians to meet the standards in being 100% compliant with the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. All three Commissioners congratulated and shared their appreciation to all District staff.

Hall provided final copies of the Washington State Auditors' Office - Accountability Audit Report and the Financial Statements Audit Report for discussion.

Hall requested approval for a temporary grinder pump system installation for a home at 1683 SW 186<sup>th</sup> that had a failed septic system. Hall stated that the home sat too low to gravity to the nearest sewer service line and had no other choice than to install the pump system. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

Hall presented a Scope & Budget in the amount of \$65,310.00 for BHC Engineers to design changing the routing of an 8" sewer line that runs along Des Moines Memorial Drive, for the WSDOT construction of a bridge and culvert structure for salmon passage. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

Hall requested approval for a temporary sewer service connection from a property within Valley

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View Sewer District at 11025 Occidental Ave. South. Hall stated that the septic system has failed and the closest sewer available for the home and ADU is a SWSSD sewer line within 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

Eric Frimodt presented an extended agreement for legal services from Inslee, Best, Doezie & Rider, P.S. (firm) from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, with increased hourly rates. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

Eric Frimodt presented a sixth amendment to the agreement for legal services relating to King County Franchise Ordinance. After brief discussion, M/S/P unanimously approving the request.

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**7. Manager's Comments or Reports:**

Hall updated the Board on the following:

- Thanksgiving Day, Jason Richardson, Milton Myers, Brennan Gantz, Sean Heflen, Ritch Shule, Justin Salgado and Scott DeLibero, all responded to a sewer back up that flooded the basement of a home on Standing Lane SW. Because the plugged sewer line is within the beach between Seahurst Beach Park and Pump Station #7, it took several hours and the appreciated assistance of an additional Vactor crew from Valley View Sewer District. Staff worked from approximately 4:00 p.m. to midnight to unplug the line and assist the homeowner in cleaning up their basement. Hall expressed his appreciation for all the employees who left their holiday family gatherings and responded to the emergency on Thanksgiving Day.
- Hall expressed his dissatisfaction and frustration he and Sewer Department Supervisor, Jason Richardson are having with the way the District's insurance provider, Enduris is handling this claim. Hall stated that he will continue to work with the property owner and Enduris to make sure the property owner is properly taken care of.
- Also earlier on Thanksgiving Day, a jogger running near the entrance to the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, discovered a deceased body lying in the creek. The District is assisting the Burien Police in any way we can and is providing video surveillance of the gate area.

**8. Attorney's Comments and Reports:**

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Attorney Frimodt reported on the status of the King County franchise ordinance litigation matter and the upcoming hearing on King County's motion for summary judgment which is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Frimodt also reported on recent news reports relating to the Governor's office reviewing potential options regarding the State Long Term Care Program that takes effect on January 1, 2022, including the possibility of delayed collection of the payroll tax or possibly calling a special session to allow the Legislature to work on changes to the law. Frimodt also reported that the trial court entered a modified judgment in the Fish Partition matter that reflects the ruling made by the Court of Appeals on the attorneys fee award.

