

Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board Meeting Minutes

Members

Ronald J. Anderson, P.E., Chair
Matthew Buehler
Vonnie Fundin
Nick Vestbie, P.E.
Matt Smith - Alternate
Ray Pezonella, P.E - Alternate

**Thursday September 3, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

**Washoe County Administration Complex, Building B
Health District South Conference Room
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV**

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Ronald J. Anderson, Chair (via teleconference)
Matthew Buehler (via teleconference)
Nick Vestbie, P.E.

Staff present: Herb Kaplan, DA (via teleconference)
Dave Kelly

Members absent: Vonnie Fundin
Ray Pezonella, P.E., Alternate
Matt Smith, Alternate

Ms. Valentin verified a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Those present and via teleconference pledged allegiance to the flag led by Mr. Vestbie.

3. Public Comment

As no public comments were presented, Mr. Vestbie closed the public comment period.

4. Approval of Agenda – September 3, 2020

Mr. Vestbie moved to accept the agenda of the September 3, 2020 Sewage, Wastewater, & Sanitation Board (SWS Board) regular meeting. Mr. Buehler seconded the motion which was approved three in favor and none against.

5. Approval of Draft Minutes – April 4, 2019

Mr. Vestbie moved to accept the minutes of the January 30, 2019 Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Board (SWS Board) regular meeting. Chair Anderson seconded the motion which was approved three in favor and none against.

6. Public Hearing to determine whether or not to recommend approval to the District Board of Health for a variance for APN 023-131-42 section 020.080. –

Staff Representative: David Kelly

Mark Hermann
3620 Plumas Drive
Reno, NV 89509

Dave Kelly, EHS Staff – provided an overview of the request for variance from Mr. Hermann. He stated this was submitted due to a financial hardship as costs to drag sewer from Moana Lane were prohibitive to the project.

Mr. Hermann presented his cost estimate of the mainline sewer extension at approximately \$190k in order to construct the necessary mainline extension. Other elements not included in his estimate had the potential to increase the cost to over \$300k. With his house valued at \$548k and current loan of \$300k it would be a financial hardship to hook up to the City of Reno sewer system. He also indicated that the City of Reno had told him that they would allow him to hook up but that it would not ever really be approved due to other neighbors in the community and the disruption to the city streets.

Mr. Vestbie inquired the reason for this request.

Mr. Hermann informed the board that he was attempting to remodel the house which was in need of repair and add a bedroom to improve the value of the home. He thought that with such an old leach field – in particular with a tree over it – probably needed to be replaced anyways and at that point adding the capacity for a new bedroom would be a good idea.

Chair Anderson questioned the validity of the estimate and wondered if there were other options such as running a pump line directly to the existing main in Moana that might be cheaper.

Mr. Hermann stated that the City of Reno had said that they would not allow for any connection without a mainline extension.

Mr. Kelly weighed in that from his experience working with City of Reno Sewer, Mr. Hermann was correct that a mainline extension would likely be required.

Mr. Vestbie commented to the Board that he had checked with a local excavator and he felt that the general estimate provided by Mr. Hermann was in the ballpark for at least those portions.

Chair Anderson stated he was on the fence and pointed out that no percolation testing or soil profiles had been provided as they would expect to see.

Mr. Kelly explained that because the property had an existing septic system on it, EHS had based the sizing on the original system as was standard policy.

Mr. Vestbie felt that he was inclined to approve the variance as the costs were exorbitant to a level as to make it unreasonable to require a property owner shoulder.

Mr. Vestbie asked Chair Anderson if he would be more amenable to approving if a new test trench and percolation test were conducted and the design was based on that rather than the historical sizing.

Chair Anderson said that he felt it would be more appropriate and he would support that.

Mr. Vestbie made a motion to approve Variance Case #1-20S with the condition that a test trench and percolation testing be performed and the system to be designed based on those results. Chair Anderson seconded the motion which was approved three in favor and none against.

7. Public Comment

As no public comments were presented, Mr. Vestbie closed the public comment period.

8. Adjournment –

At 6:45 p.m., Chair Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Vestbie seconded the motion which was approved three in favor and none against.
