

Dorr/Leighton Wastewater Authority Regular Meeting

May 18, 2023

3:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairperson Wolbrink at 3:00 p.m. at the Leighton Township Hall.
2. **Members present:** Bultsma, Fennema, Perry, Miling, Sewers, Wolbrink, Geers
Member(s) absent with notice: Joe Akers
Others present: Fern O'Beshaw, Brandon Mieras, Andrew Campbell from Baker Tilley
3. **Minutes:** Motion by Miling, support by Geers to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2022 meeting. All members voted yes; motion carried.
4. **Agenda:** Motion by Geers, support by Fennema to approve the agenda with the addition of sign for the plant. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **No Correspondence**
7. **New Business:**
8. **Presentation by Andy Campbell with Baker Tilley:** User rates can be set to whatever is needed to cover operating costs; they are regulatory in nature and cannot be "revenue generating". Some money can be saved, but not enough to put back into townships or save too extensively. Different rates cannot be charged to different customers. Connection charges, however, are highly litigated. Connection charges must simply cover the cost incurred to connect and run properly—there is a formula. Connection charges cannot be assessed with the idea that they have to pay for anticipated future needs or upgrades. EGLE starts to require upgrades when 80% capacity is reached. Connection fees can slowly go down over time depending on the asset to debt ratio and number of users on system. There is the equity and incremental method of determining connection fees. (Equity is REU table x connection chg rate =; incremental is to bill the developer the exact amount incurred to connect them and run correctly). Usually both methods are not used simultaneously. No matter which method is used (but especially if both are used), a developer agreement should be signed to protect us from litigation. Andrew will reach out with information to let us know exactly what our fees should be according to the AWWA standard rate connection charges calculation.
9. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Sign for plant on Division:** Motion by Miling, support by Geers to purchase a sign not to exceed \$2500. All members voted yes; motion carried.
10. **Public Comment:** None.
11. Next regular meeting date has been set for June 21, 2023 at 3 p.m. at Leighton Township.
12. Motion by Sewers, second by Bultsma to adjourn. Motion carried.
13. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Sec'y: _____

Chair Wolbrink: _____

Vice-Chair Miling: _____