



Forest Township

Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Circle Lake Estates Subordinate Sewer District 2020 Meeting

**September 16, 2020
7:00 PM
Meeting minutes**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Ron Gernandt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Ron Gernandt, William Malecha, Charlie Peters, Ashley Anderson

Others Present: 12 residents present in-person; 3 residents present via Zoom; Tom Wirtzfeld from Advanced Septic

Charlie opened the meeting with some ground rules.

2. APPROVE CIRCLE LAKE ESTATES SUBORDINATE SEWER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2019.

Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Bill Malecha seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. 2019-2020 FINANCIAL REVIEW

The operating and maintenance costs are up thus far in 2020 with a total cost of \$28,629.58. Much of the increase is due to new nozzles and the installation of a UV treatment system. The 2019 operating and maintenance costs were \$14,276.12. The income thus far in 2020 is \$18,253.19 with the second half of property taxes to be collected by year end.

Jerry Anderson made a motion to approve the financial report, subject to audit. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Charlie Peters and Tom Wirtzfeld shared some issues, resolutions, and updates that were made to the system over the last year.

The system is built out. There is one lot remaining which does not have a home on it. The fees that Advanced Septic charges have not changed.

Last year, the system had a hard time passing a test, required by state, due to high fecal count. This has been attributed to water softeners and iron filters being discharged into the septic system. To address the fecal, Tom added 3 sets of UV lights, which cost about \$6,000. It states in the Sewer District's ordinance and operating permit that no softeners can be discharged into the system. Tom sampled each tank to determine which homes were discharging softeners into the system. There were some costs incurred to identify which homes were discharging softeners and iron filters into the system. 13 homes were identified as having high NaCl. These homes were sent a letter the week of August 11. Some homes have already been addressed. The township does not inspect homes to ensure softeners are not being routed into the septic system. This is something that is sometimes missed by the county inspector as well. Tom shared some documentation about softeners and iron filters discharging into septic systems. The group discussed the importance of resolving the issue of some homes discharging softeners into the system and to develop a solution for them to discharge elsewhere. Tom and the Township are willing to help identify solutions and have offered a no cost, to the resident, inspection. From there, the resident would be responsible for costs to implement the solution.

New nozzles were also installed in the system. These allow the system to work more efficiently and cut down on maintenance costs. The total costs to replace the nozzles was about \$4,700.

Advanced Septic continually monitors the system and looks at flow rates. They are constantly reviewing a 30-day flow rate which gives a moving average. The system's Rice County permit has a limit on the flow rates. The system can produce 9,998 gallons per day based on a 30-day average. Today that average was just over 10,000, which is over the limit. Residents need to be aware that the system is right at the flow limit. If the system keeps reaching the limit the county will ask for the district to build a bigger system. Tom is confident that with an effort of informing people to watch their water usage and if the district is successful in removing the water softeners and iron filters discharge out of the systems, the system can stay below the flow rate limit. The consequence if the system moves above 10,000-gallon flow rate the system would be to move from a county permit to a MPCA permit. This would be expensive.

There is a requirement that everyone has a phone line so Tom can communicate with the system. There are 7 homes not yet hooked up to a phone line. Tom is also looking at cell phone technology to remove the phone line requirement.

One resident would like to see the annual cost come down.

The expected life span of a system is approximately 30 years. Tom thinks that it is likely this system will get more than 30 years. A few other systems have about \$50,000 in reserve account, but they are older systems. It is ideal to have about \$20,000 - \$25,000 in reserve.

There are contracted amounts for fees and services and the Township reviews each invoice from Advanced Septic. Tom does an annual report on each system at the end of January. Tom pumps each home's tank, on average, every 6 years and 2 months, but that varies from home to home. Advanced Septic is the only vendor who can pump tanks or provide any septic maintenance.

There is no current plan for city sewer to head this direction, but once it does the system is designed to hook up easily.

The Township has an easement on each property to take care of the sewer system.

Jerry Anderson made a motion to assess all lots, with homes or not, \$1,000 in 2021 and 2022. No one seconded. Motion denied.

Brian Panettiere made a motion to assess all lots, with homes or not, \$750 in 2021 and 2022. Scott Bisping seconded the motion. Jerry Anderson opposed the motion and the motion carried.

Charlie shared that the township would crack fill and do shoulder work on the road. Should the road need resurfacing, the association would be responsible for that cost. There is some thistle, but the land around the main system is well under control. There is some wild parsnip on township roads.

4. Adjourn

Jerry Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Scott Bisping seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.