SANITARY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #29
SARPY COUNTY
GRETNA, NE 68028

Meeting Date: May 6, 2012
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Gretna City Hall

Barb Schutte called the meeting to order:

Board Members		Guests	
John Wolken	Mel Carstens	Steve Neff	Bonnie & Tom DeLong
Don Stungis	Barb Schutte	Phil DeChow	Patrick Phelan
Lee O'Neal		Terrie Wohlers	Mac Campbell
		Jim & Diane Iske	Steve Hansen
		Phil Schutte	

Meeting was called to discuss and update information regarding a problem with Community Septic Tank #4 and to discuss water and sewer rates.

Community Septic System:

All community tanks were pumped in fall of 2011 (October 2012) as part of regular maintenance. It was noted at this time that water had left a wet mark on the wall of tank #4 indicating that water had reached a level higher than the water should have gone. Monitoring of the tank revealed that the problem has continued. On March 26, 2012 tank was pumped due to a high water level. On April 4, 2012 homeowners that are hooked up to this community tank (Tank #4) received a letter to inform them of the problem of a high water level in this tank.

The tank was pumped again on April 5, 2012 and Midlands Trenching uncovered eleven (11) laterals. No obstructions were found. The trenching company informed us that the ground is saturated.

Homeowners were asked to check to see if they had toilets that were leaking and check to see that water softeners weren't cycling every day.

Thompson, Dreessen & Dorner Engineering was called and asked "To be in compliance with the State of NE rules and regulations, what can be done to correct this problem?" They are going to do a study which will give us direction in which to proceed. This study has been estimated to cost around $5,000.

On April 19, 2012 all residents received a letter informing every one of the problem which we are currently facing regarding this community tank. A questionnaire provided by TD2 was given to all homeowners who are hooked up to the community septic systems. The questionnaire is not being used for tax purposes, but to aid TD2 in determining the capacity size of the tank that we should have if all bedrooms in each of the homes on this tank were occupied. Homeowners that are on their own private septic systems did not receive the questionnaire. These questionnaires were given to TD2 for their study.

A question arose as to why the number of bedrooms (one of the questions on the questionnaire) had any relevance to the problem? The answer is that this is criteria the state uses in determining septic tank capacity. I have attached a copy of Title 124 NE Dept. of Environmental Quality- Chapter 10 Septic Tank Capacity to these minutes.

Art Beccard from TD2 requested that a camera be used to determine condition of the main line.

On April 25,12 Backlund Plumbing came out and checked for water leaks at homes by going down the stacks on roofs with a camera. Plumbers inspected 3 homes for leaky toilets and reported one leaking toilet. This toilet has been repaired. Dye/food coloring was used in 1 other residence by the homeowner and no leaks were found.

This eliminated looking for a leak at the stop boxes. It was noted by Backlund that Lot #12 had tree roots in the line from the residence to the main line. The property owner was notified.

On April 26th Backland returned & jetted out the main line in an attempt to find a broken sewer line. This camera traveled a long distance to check for leaks in the sewer line. Three (3) blockages and tree roots were found and then removed by hydro-flush. Hydro-flush was sent South down the main line (where previously blockages were visually located) and also to the septic tank.

TD2 was updated on progress. Engineer, Art Beccard, from TD2 suggested sending a camera down from the distribution box to the laterals to see if the laterals are blocked and locate the Y pipes that lead from the laterals. Septic tank will need to be pumped again prior to this work.

Rain and soft ground delayed work for a short period of time.

On May 14, 2012 tank #4 was completely pumped out again. Backlund returned on May 17, 2012, to send cameras down the lines from the distribution box to the laterals. They were looking to see the condition of the pipes, (.broken, cracked or tree roots) that could create a blockage. Tree roots were found which has caused sludge to build up over the many years that system has been in use. Camera was unable to see through the sludge build up. A&M Pumping and Backlund are scheduled to return on May 30, 2012 to hydro-flush the lines that lead to the laterals.

I would like to **THANK ALL THE RESIDENTS** who have helped out since this problem has developed. Thanks to *Phil Schutte* for his daily monitoring of tank #4, calling and scheduling for work to be done, and much time spent on the phone in trying to get this issue fixed. Thanks to *Tom DeLong* for his willingness to assist by sharing his information and knowledge regarding the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Thanks to *Phil DeChow* for monitoring the collection box at 4:00 A.M. Thanks to *Charlie Steiner* for his knowledge and ongoing, never ending, willingness to help out. Thanks also to *Mel Carstens* and *Don Stungis, Lori DeChow, Bonnie DeLong, and Lonny Petersen* for their support in offering to help.

It was also brought up that residents should check the flappers in their toilets for leakage. If it has been a few years since you have replaced the rubber flapper in your toilets please take a few minutes to check them to see if the rubber has become brittle and is allowing water to constantly seep out. You can check by adding food coloring to the tank. Let this set for about 20 minutes. If the color you have put in the tank appears in the bowl this indicates that the toilet is continually running and the flapper needs to be changed.

TOILET TISSUE: The following was suggested to do to see if the toilet paper that you are currently using will break down in the system.

Take 1 sheet of toilet paper and place it in water for 2 minutes. If it has not broken down in 2 minutes it should not be used in the system. The same applies for Kleenex. **Northern Quilted, Charmin Ultra toilet paper, Baby Wipes, Puffs and Kleenex DO NOT BREAK DOWN IN SEPTIC TANKS. PLEASE check the paper that you are using.** I have found that just because a package of toilet tissue is listed as Safe For Septic Tanks that the paper did not break down when given the 2 minute test.

Please flush ONLY human waste and toilet paper that is combatable for septic systems. DO NOT flush feminine products, rubber or latex products into the community septic system. These items do not break down!

Water:

Barb addressed the need for an increase in water and sewer rates. The last rate increase in water was the 1st quarter of 2004. Rate went from $1.10 per 1000 gallons to $1.25 per 1000 gallons. The last increase in sewer fee was the 4th quarter of 1999.

The need to increase rates is due to the escalating costs of testing, increased license fee for John, and for present and future repairs to both systems. (Water and Sewer)

To date for this fiscal year, water testing costs total $2,836.00. (5/17/2012)

Costs to date for the problem with community septic tank #4 are $2,930.00. (Cost reflects work alone and does not including engineer study, which is being worked on.)

Records indicate that on 8/10/2005 the North Pump for the well was replaced. The extended 5 year warranty on this pump expired on 8/20/2010.

The Service Use Fee Fund statement for April 30, 2012 shows a balance of $16,776.06 with outstanding warrants totaling $1,660.00 for Backland (April 26, 12 $1,160.00) and A&M Pumping (May 15, 2012-$500.00). This does not include fees for work scheduled to be done on May 30, 2012 by A&M Pumping and Backlund.

Discussion followed with several suggestions on how to increase fees. This is what is presently being considered.

- $15.00 Base Fee per quarter for all homes connected to wells. ($5.00 per month)
- Increase sewer fee from $30.00 to $50.00 per quarter
- Increase water from $1.25 per 1000 gallons to $1.50 per 1000 gallons

The new increases would include all of the bulleted points listed above.

John made a motion to table the increase until the next meeting with hopes that we would have more information from TD2's study. Motion to table increases of water & sewer rates was seconded by Lee.

Road:

Thanks to Mel and Charlie for recently repairing a hole in the road. In November 2011the following gentlemen filled cracks in the road. Mel Carstens, Charlie Steiner, Mark Nowka, Phil DeChow, Jim Iske, Terry Comstock, and Dave Newcomer. Sincere Thanks to All!

School will be out this week. Let's all aim to have a safe summer. All motorized vehicles that are on the road (Cars, trucks, dirt bikes, and ATV's) are to be driven in a safe manner. The use of proper safety equipment when riding recreation vehicles is also a wise decision. **The posted speed limit through the Westridge Farms subdivision is 25 M.P.H.** With young children, pets, and many residents going for walks on the road PLEASE watch your speed and drive the speed limit.

Brought up at the meeting was the number of garbage carriers that are currently collecting in the area. Five different carriers are now doing business here. Some carriers have 3 different trucks. One for trash, one for recyclables, and one for yard waste. Most carriers go down the road twice. Once going south then turning around and heading west to come back and pick up on the opposite side of the street. It was suggested by one of the residents to put trash pick in this area up for bid. I have asked for information on this from our attorney. Currently Jennifer and Pat Sullivan, from Dixon and Adams are working on a letter regarding this matter for the board to present at the next meeting.

Residents also want to know if a reserve fund to maintain the road can be established apart from the General Fund. I have asked Jennifer to check on this. I have also asked how this fund would be funded. It is my understanding that Jennifer is working with Pat to include a response to this question also.

Payment for the road will be complete in 2015.

Financial:

County Treasurer General Ledger for April 2012

General Fund:	$ 2,558.10
Service Use Fee Fund:	$16,776.06

Financial continued:

Bond Fund:	M-T-D	Y-T-D
Beginning Cash on Hand	$29,554.15	$28,459.94
Beginning Investment on Hand	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
Beginning Balance	$29,554.15	$28,459.94
Tax Receipt Collections:		
2010 Real Estate Taxes	$ 0.00	$ 8,777.83
2011 Real Estate Taxes	$ 739.51	$10,060.81
Tax Receipt Totals	$ 739.51	$18,838.64
Homestead Exempt Allocation	$ 18.33	$ 119.60
Real Estate Tax Credit	$ 0.00	$ 702.12
Motor Vehicle Pro Rate	$ 0.00	$ 42.43
Other Receipt Totals	$ 18.33	$ 864.15
Disbursements	-$ 2,065.00	-$19,553.75
Property Tax Commission	-$ 14.79	-$ 376.78
Ending Cash on Hand	$ 28,232.20	$28,232.20
Ending Investment on Hand	0.00 $	0.00
Grand Totals	$ 28,232.20	$28,232.00

Pinnacle Bank 4/30/2012 Statement
$ 1,082.29

The following items have been presented and approved by the Board for payment.
G/F=General Fund S/F=Service Use Fee Fund

Barb Schutte 11/2011	$ 129.50	Reimbursement for payment to Gretna Guide for publication of budget	G/F
Great Western Bank 12/2011	$ 250.00	Acc#6563 April 2, 2011 to Oct 1, 2011	G/F
NE Public Health Environ. Lab 11/2011	$ 24.00	Invoice #418635 Water Testing	S/F
Mel Carstens 11/2011	$ 40.00	Reimb. for gift certificate to farmer for use of land when pumping septic tanks	S/F
A&M Pumping 11/2011	$2,625.00	Pumping community septic tanks	S/F
Mel Carstens 2/2011	$ 26.82	Expense reimb. tar for road	G/F
Hancock & Dana 12/2011	$ 775.00	Budget Preparation	G/F
NE Public Health Environ. Lab 12/2011	$ 608.00	Invoice #420665 Water Testing	S/F
NE Public Health Environ. Lab 2/2012	$ 990.00	Invoice #421894 Water Testing	S/F
NE Public Health Environ. Lab 2/2012	$ 398.00	Invoice #422822 Water Testing	S/F
Great Western Bank 4/2012	$ 250.00	Acc #6563 Services Rendered Oct 2,11 to April 1 2012	G/F
A & M Pumping 4/2012	$ 500.00	Pumping of #4 Community Septic Tank	S/F
O.P.P.D. 4/2012	$1,000.00	Annual Payment	S/F
Clean Sweep Commercial (Outstanding)	$ 280.00	Sweep Road	G/F
Adams & Sullivan (Outstanding)	$1,505.50	Annual Legal fee for representation to district	G/F
Barb Schutte (Outstanding)	$ 770.00	Reimb. for payment made to Midland Trenching	S/F

PLEASE NOTE:

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

If you change your telephone number from the one that is listed in the Westridge Farms Directory, please notify a board member of the change if you wish to be notified in the event that the water needs to be temporarily shut down. If you wish for your number to be unlisted we will respect your wish.

Next meeting date is June 3, 2012 7:00 P.M. Gretna City Hall

Submitted by,
Barb Schutte / Clerk

Title 124 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Chapter 10 - SEPTIC TANK CAPACITY

001 "Dwellings" - The liquid capacity of a septic tank serving a dwelling shall be based on the number of bedrooms served. For three or less bedrooms, an adequate septic tank capacity shall be one thousand gallons. For each additional bedroom two hundred fifty gallons shall be added. Table 10.1 may be used to determine capacities.

001.01 For ten or more bedrooms the septic tank shall be sized under the category of "Establishments."

001.02 For multiple dwellings connected to a single tank, one additional bedroom capacity must be added for each dwelling connected. Table 10.2 may be used for sizing.

002 "Establishments" - The liquid capacity of a septic tank serving an establishment other than a dwelling shall be at least equal to 1125 gallons plus 0.75 times the design flow in gallons per day (gpd) for flows over 1500 gpd. For flows less than 1500 gpd, 1.5 times the design flow may be used but a minimum of a 1000 gallon tank is required.

003 For design flows greater than 2000 gpd, the installation of a two-compartment septic tank or two septic tanks installed in series is required.

004 The tank capacity required for septic systems serving high strength, high temperature or inhibitors in wastewater such as camper dump stations, laundry mats, and butcher shops or other similar facilities shall be doubled.

Number Of Bedrooms-One Dwelling	Design Flow in Gallons per Day	Septic Tank Size In Gallons	Dwelling With Whirlpool Bath, Septic Tank Size In Gallons
1	200	1000	1000
2	300	1000	1000
3	400	1000	1250
4	500	1250	1500
5	600	1500	1750
6	700	1750	2000
7	800	2000	2250
8	900	2250	2500
9	1000	2500	2750
10	1100	Establishment	Establishment

Total Bedrooms	Single Family Dwelling	Two-Units	Three-Units	Four-Units	Five-Units
1	1	-	-	-	-
2	2	3	-	-	-
3	3	4	5	-	-
4	4	5	6	7	-
5	5	6	7	8	9
6	6	7	8	9	Establishment

7	7	8	9	Establishment	Establishment
8	8	Establishment	Establishment	Establishment	Establishment
9	9	Establishment	Establishment	Establishment	Establishment

005 For the purpose of this chapter, "capacity" shall be the volume as measured by the dimensions below the bottom of the outlet.

Enabling Legislation: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1505(8).

Legal Citation: Title 124, Ch. 10, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

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