

**PUBLIC HEARING
WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS PLANNING STUDY
Planning Grant**

**TOWN OF NEW RICHMOND
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 6:15 pm**

**Coal Creek Fire & Rescue Fire Department
215 Prairie Street
New Richmond, Indiana 47967**

1. **Call to Order:** Public Hearing was formally called to order by the Town Council President, Luke Martin, at approximately 6:19 pm.
2. **Facilitator:** Kristy Jerrell, Project Grant Administrator, Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services, LLC
3. **Discussions:**
 - a. Kristy Jerrell explained the reason for the public hearing. She stated that the Town of New Richmond is applying again, for the 3rd time, to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) for a planning grant in order to complete a Water/Wastewater Systems Study Planning Study – Planning Grant. She explained that in order to apply to the CDBG program, the applicant must be a non-entitlement County, an incorporated Town or a non-urban County.
 - b. Kristy Jerrell stated that the total project cost for this planning project is \$50,000. She stated that the Town is committing a total of \$5,000 in local match from the following sources: \$2,500 from Town Water Operating Funds and \$2,500 from Town Sewer Operating Funds. She stated that the Town is committing the required 10% local match for the project and, if awarded, the Town will receive a total of \$45,000 in IOCRA grant funding.
 - c. Kristy Jerrell explained the timelines. She stated that the application will be submitted by overnight mail at the post office on 5-8-19 to IOCRA and since IOCRA will be receiving the application before the 15th of the month, then IOCRA will score the application at the end of this month of May and the Town should, hopefully, receive a grant award announcement by the end of this month.
 - d. Kristy Jerrell stated that as long as there is money available and the Town scores at least the minimum score of 450 out of 700 – the Town will be awarded the grant. She stated that the re-worked narratives were emailed to IOCRA Liaison Paul Smith to review and he made suggestions on changes in which she made. She stated that after the Town is officially funded - the planning activity would begin as soon as the IOCRA grant agreement is executed and IOCRA issues the official letter authorizing the Town permission to incur costs.
 - e. Kristy Jerrell explained the scoring criteria in which the Town is looking at and will be scored on:

- (1) **55.9 points** out of 100 points for National Objective (55.9 points from the completed income survey showing the Town's as 55.9% low to moderate income)
 - (2) **83.61 points** of 175 points for community distress points,
 - (3) **10 points** out of 75 points in local match contribution,
 - (4) hopefully **50 points** out of 50 points in Program Specific points; she stated that last time the Town submitted that they only received a 10 out of 50. She stated that with the new re-worked application these points should go up quite a bit; She is hopefully the Town receives 30 points if not more in this category;
 - (5) hopefully at least a total of **245.49+ points** on Project Design Factors out of 300 points which are the narratives; she stated that the Town must receive at least 245.49 plus on the narratives and at least 30 out of 50 points on Program Specific points to meet the minimum score of a total of 450 out of 700 to even be awarded;
 - (6) **25 points** out of 25 points for BONUS POINTS; documentation was submitted to IOCRA's Eric Ogle, CDBG Program Director, on January 11, 2019. She stated Eric Ogle awarded the 25 bonus points for this application on 1-16-19.
- f. Kristy Jerrell stated that the Town has completed the procurement process to choose the project engineer for the planning project - in which the SOQ advertisement ran in the newspaper on Saturday, May 19, 2018. She stated proposals packets are due on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 by 4:00 pm. She stated that 3 firms submitted a packet that being Deckard Engineering, HWC Engineering and Midwestern Engineers. She stated that packets were scored by the Town's scoring committee and the top 2 scoring firms were chosen to interview that being HWC Engineering and Midwestern Engineers. She stated that from both the proposal score and the interview score, the highest score went to Midwestern Engineers. She stated that Midwestern Engineers are officially procured for the planning project.
 - g. Kristy Jerrell explained in detail how the planning process will proceed. She stated that Midwestern Engineers have completed a ton of water/wastewater system plans for communities. She stated that the Engineers will develop a list of needs for the Town by collecting data. She talked about problem areas in each of Town's systems and stated the Engineers would take a holistic look and the entire water and wastewater systems - all of the existing infrastructure. She stated that the Engineers would develop a plan of direction that the Town can go to correct/remedy the water/wastewater issues. She stated that this planning process would be very interactive with residents and the Town Board through a series of meetings. She stated that plan will include several alternatives, cost estimates and directions that the Town can take based upon their own priorities.
 - h. Kristy Jerrell stated that this plan will be a 20-year plan/roadmap for the Town to move forward with improvements over the years to come to better their systems.
 - i. Kristy Jerrell stated that the planning process would take 5 to 6 months to complete the DRAFT plan and once the Town is happy with the DRAFT plan – then the Town will submit to IOCRA for review/approval. She stated that once IOCRA approves the plan – the Town can then hold their final public hearing adopting the plan and then the Town can close out the planning process.

- j. Kristy Jerrell then asked the attendees if they had any questions on the planning grant project or about the process or the IOCRA grant application.
- k. Town's Clerk Treasurer, Alaathea Foust, stated that the Town must receive this grant because the Town simply cannot afford to complete this planning on their own. She stated that the Town does not have \$45,000 of their own to pay for this planning study. She stated that this is the Town's top priority to complete this planning study on both the water and wastewater systems.
- l. Resident Authur Pendleton stated that he is an older resident in the Town that lives on South Detchon Street. He stated that he cannot afford for the Town to raise their water or sewer rates as he lives on a fixed income. He feels that the Town is being responsible in applying for this planning grant to complete a study on the systems. He stated that he is glad grants are out there to help communities such as the Town of New Richmond. He said he know the Town doesn't have almost \$50,000 to do this on their own. He stated he is in full support of this project.
- m. Town Council Member, Minnie Howard, stated that this is a small Town and people in the Town do not have much money. She stated that the Town is trying to make to least impact to residents/water-sewer customers as possible. She stated that she herself is older and knows what it is like to pinch pennies and she too worries about raised rates.
- n. Town Council President Luke Martin stated that this study is the Town's TOP priority. He stated that the Town has no emergency back-up water if they are down which needs looked at. He stated that is a major issue. He stated that the Town's wastewater lagoons have bubbles in the liners which could be leaking methane gas and the Town's streets need paved but they do not know what is underground as they currently have virtually no mapping on either their water or wastewater systems distribution systems. He stated that this planning study will reveal what and where things are underground.
- o. Kristy Jerrell then asked the attendees of the public hearing to talk about water and wastewater issues that they are experiencing.
- p. Resident Shelly Wulfers stated she lives on the west end of Town and is experiencing wastewater and water issues of bubbling in her washing machine when she does laundry as well in the bathtub.
- q. Town Council Member/Resident Rebecca Scott stated that she too is experiencing this and her laundry lines stinks as well as her garbage disposal. She stated that she too cannot afford a higher monthly bill and she hopes the Town receives this planning grant to study both the systems to come up with solutions so that the Town can pursue grants to fix their issues without having to raise the rates as their combined rates are almost at \$100 a month for just water and wastewater combined.
- r. Resident Arthur Pendleton stated that his water stinks all year round. He stated that he even has a water filter and water softener. He also stated that his water pressure has become worse lately and cannot do two functions at the same time with water such as do a load of laundry and take a shower as his water pressure is so low.

- s. Resident Theresa Gaylor stated that her and husband Dean Gaylor has sediment and discoloration in their water from time to time which is frustrating. She stated that it would not be good if rates were to raise as they are paying a lot now as it is.
- t. Kristy Jerrell then asked the attendees if they had any other questions or comments.

Adjournment: There being no further questions/comments, the Town Council President, Luke Martin, adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:38 pm.



Kristy Jerrell, Grant Administrator
Recorder (See attached Third Party Authorization to Record Minutes)

Attachment:

1. Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOWN OF NEW RICHMOND
PO BOX 210, 110 S. WABASH STREET
NEW RICHMOND, INDIANA 47967
765-339-4507

May 2, 2019

Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (IOCRA)
One North Capital, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2288

Dear IOCRA:

This letter expresses the Town of New Richmond's consent for Kristy Jerrell of Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services LLC to conduct and transcribe minutes for all public hearings for the Town's IOCRA Grant Application for the Town's 2- Utility Water/Wastewater Systems Planning Study – Planning Grant Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital community development project.

Sincerely,



Luke Martin, Town Council President
Town of New Richmond

