

TERM OF COMMISSION: July Session of the July Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center  
Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Keith Schnarre  
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller  
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin  
Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Subject: Public Hearing – Hill Creek Sanitary Sewer Neighborhood Improvement District**

John Watkins, Public Works Project Development Manager, and Tom Ratermann, Boone County Regional Sewer District Manager, were present on behalf of this item.

Commissioner Schnarre stated the purpose of this meeting is to have the required public hearing on the proposed Hill Creek Sanitary Sewer Neighborhood Improvement District. A petition has presented to the Commission for the formation of this NID. This petition was signed by 64 of the 88 owners in the proposed NID area, which means it was signed 72.73% of the owners.

John Watkins stated this is the opportunity for those who did sign the petition to tell the Commission why this proposed NID is a good project. For anyone who did not sign the petition, this is the time to tell the Commission their concerns.

Commissioner Schnarre opened the public hearing.

Pat Cronan, 13750 Highway BB, Rocheport, was present on behalf of Jerry Foriester. Mr. Foriester lives on Cave Creek Road. Mr. Cronan stated Mr. Foriester believes he will not receive any benefit from this improvement. Mr. Foriester understands the problem is lake contamination. He lives down hill from the lake.

Mr. Foriester has an adequate septic system that is working. Even if Mr. Foriester's system was not working properly, it would drain into the creek not into the lake. He sees no benefit from this NID.

Mr. Cronan stated he would like to know from the engineer what instructions were given. Was the engineer told to examine the problem and figure out the cheapest solution? It is possible the engineer was told to design a sewer system for this subdivision. The engineer is giving his professional opinion that this meets the instructions that were given. But if the instruction was not to examine the problem and figure out the cheapest solution then

the engineer is responding to an instruction, a professional engineering decision made by someone who is not a professional engineer.

Also, sewage generally flows down hill. This project is to pump the sewage up hill, which is an expensive proposition. Mr. Cronan believes it is possible to design a system by which the sewage treatment plant is located down hill from the subdivision. This system will be very expensive to maintain because there will be pumps at each house. It will be expensive to build. In the long run, the real treatment plant for the southern part of the county will have to be in the southern part of the county. Pumping sewage up hill is counter-productive.

Mr. Cronan stated the law says the Commission must determine that this project will benefit Mr. Foriester. Mr. Foriester will receive no benefit.

Bruce Fluesmeier, 7651 Hill Creek Road, stated he believes it is inaccurate to say the sewer system was designed with the objective of keeping the lake clean. He had not heard this as being a proposed objective.

The reason only 70% of the homeowners signed the petition is because there are some in the 30% that have recently spent money to upgrade their systems. The reason they are spending money to upgrade their systems is because the ground is mostly clay in this area. If there is any percability on someone's property, then you are the exception not the rule. He understands people do not want to spend more money for their systems but that is only a short term solution to the problem. The problem is sewage pollution, in general, flows down hill so the pollution will get into ground water, streams and other water sources.

Mr. Fluesmeier stated he believes the engineers explained to everyone the cost benefits of using a pumping system versus building a down hill system. With the hilly terrain in the area, it would be very expensive to find one location to have the sewage flow down hill to.

He believes this is good for the environment and will increase the values of the homes in the area.

Serena White, 7401 Chimney Ridge Road, stated she has a lagoon and there are many homes with lagoons. When she built her home, lagoons were allowed and septic systems were not. Septic systems do not work in this area because there is a lot of clay. Lagoons work well, she believes, but lagoons cannot be built any more. A sewer system is the only answer, especially for the Hill Creek area because there is a lot of clay.

Richard Basnett, 1101 W. Covered Bridge Road, stated he is new to the neighborhood. It is not feasible to have a gravity line in this area. This will benefit everyone.

This is part of cleaning up Missouri. This will remove waste from water. Everyone is worried about the environment. There are some who are worried about the lake in the area

but the lake is a smaller part of the big problem.

Glen Himmelberg, 1191 Covered Bridge Road, stated he and his wife are in favor of this NID. The main concern is the environment not only for the Hill Creek neighborhood but all of Boone County and the state.

This is the only solution as there is a lot of clay soil in the area and the lots are not big enough to relocate many of the septic systems.

Mr. Himmelberg believes this will also increase the property values but he is mainly concerned with cleaning up the environment.

Commissioner Schnarre asked for those who are present and in favor of this proposed NID to raise their hands. All who were present raised their hands.

Commissioner Schnarre asked for those who are present and opposed of this proposed NID to raise their hands. No one raised their hands.

The neighbors thanked Commissioner Miller, John Watkins and Tom Ratermann for their help with this project.

Commissioner Miller thanked Mr. Rich Montgomery for keeping this going.

There was discussion about the finances of this project, how billing from the Sewer District will work and the pay off process.

Commissioner Schnarre closed the public hearing.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Attest:

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Keith Schnarre  
Presiding Commissioner

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Wendy S. Noren  
Clerk of the County Commission

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Karen M. Miller  
District I Commissioner

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Skip Elkin  
District II Commissioner