

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Ross, Councilman Michael Hickey, Councilwoman Debra Macdougall, Councilwoman Kelley Davis and Councilman Timothy McCarthy
Christine Shaw Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk Louise Herbert
Superintendent of Highways Randall Shaw
Tug Hill Commission Representative Paul Baxter
Oswego County Legislator Art Gearsbeck
Eric Pond, Barton & Loguidice Engineers
Approximately 98 residents

Supervisor Ross opened the informational meeting on the establishment of a water district by leading all those present to pledge to the flag and then explained to everyone there how the water project got to this point. The town board had been approached by the Town of Constantia Supervisor on several occasions regarding their need to bring water to their town. The West Monroe town board would not participate in discussion unless there was a substantial benefit for the residents of West Monroe. When the board was given the estimated cost of the project the board felt that West Monroe residents would never have the opportunity for public water at this price again and therefore sent surveys out to the areas who showed the most interest and/or need two years ago when public water was proposed. Following the results of the survey which resulted in a positive response, for most roads) that the board scheduled this informational meeting.

To date the survey results were:

State Route 49: 23 yes, 5-no and 3 returned with neither checked
Lower Road: 4-yes, 9-no
Depot Road: 1-yes
West Road: 1-yes, 4-no
Wheeler Road: 0-yes, 2-no
Toad Harbor area: 64-yes, 20-no
Luther Road: 2-yes, 1-no

Mr. Ross then turned the meeting over to Eric Pond, engineer from Barton & Loguidice who explained the project. Mr. Pond explained the benefits for the Towns of West Monroe and Constantia and for OCWA as well. Due to the size of the project available is "Hardship Financing" of 14 million dollars which is 30 years of 0% finance charges. Also there is a 2.4 million dollar grant available. This 0% financing saves the residents of the water district of both towns substantially. On August 11th B & L Engineers will apply on behalf of the Town of Constantia and West Monroe, should West Monroe decide to move forward by submitting a non-binding letter of participation. Mr. Pond explained the charges that the residents would incur:

Debt service \$334.00 per year (included on property tax bill)
MWB charge \$7.00 per year (included on property tax bill)
Water usage charge – billed by OCWA quarterly

Also the residents would be responsible for hooking up from the curb stop to their home which is a one time charge as follows:

5/8" meter \$110.00
Service Activation \$ 11.00
Pressure reducer \$ 40.00
Labor to install \$15-\$20 per hour
Meter pit (for homes more than 150 ft. back from road) \$700.00

More detailed information available at www.ocwa.org

Mr. Pond also explained that before either town would go forward with forming a district funding confirmation would be received and that only residents within the district would pay.

After Mr. Pond's presentation the meeting was opened for questions from the public. Some of the questions were:

Who would own the fire hydrants? The district.

Time line for this project? Depending on the progress of the town for petitions etc best case would be the project would begin in spring of 2008 with completion in about 1 ½ years.

Would water go down private roads? Yes unless there would be only one house on the private road.

Why was County Route 11 to fire dept. included? The West Monroe Fire Dept. building also serves as a Red Cross shelter in the case of an emergency. Therefore it would be a benefit to the town to have public water available during a time of crisis.

Will residents have the opportunity to say no to the formation of the Water District? In order to proceed to establish a water district, petitions will need to be signed by those residents in favor of forming a water district. As long as 51% of the assessed value of the residents in favor of the district is received the formation would take place. A refusal to sign the petition would be a "no" on the formation of the district.

Why are the assessed value used, that would mean someone like the golf course have more say than that of the everyday homeowner. Using the assessed value of the property is the rules set by the State as to the procedure needed to be followed.

At the end of the open discussion, Councilman Tim McCarthy asked for a show of hand from those residents present that are in the proposed water district area for those who are in favor of the water district. The number of hands which indicated in favor was about 95%.

Then Supervisor Ross moved to authorize B & L to prepare the documents for the next step in forming a water district which would include County Route 11 from Rt. 49 to the Fire Dept., State Route 49, Toad Harbor area, Luther Rd and Depot Rd. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion.

Ms. Macdougall stated she feels that residents who live on State Route 49 should not be charged the construction costs because the line must run down that road. Mr. Pond stated that would be illegal (per state law) and that there is a benefit formula which must be followed and was. Ms. Macdougall asked if OCWA would pay a right of way fee and Mr. Pond responded that the lines would be owned by the District therefore OCWA would not be responsible for a franchise fee.

Ms. Davis stated that this is a great opportunity for the resident to have the benefit of picking and choosing the areas for the district and as long as the cost factors stay the same or lower that the board must go on to the next step.

Mr. Hickey stated that this is a good deal and he will vote yes

Mr. McCarthy wanted to again say that the West Monroe town board has no hidden agenda that the board is looking to get the best deal for the residents of West Monroe and that he supports proceeding to the next step.

Vote was taken and the town board was unanimous in approving moving onto the next step to form the water district.

Mr. Ross then mentioned that there is one item that needed to be handled this evening, due to the vandalism which occurred at the town park last evening which included the destruction of all the picnic tables he is asking the town board for permission to write a check for replacement of the tables so that the recreation program can continue as planned. Ms. Macdougall seconded the motion and the board was unanimous in approving the authorization to pay to replace the tables at the town park.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 PM