

Times of Ti Article on Water Meeting

From: rolf tiedemann (camptouchstone@yahoo.com)

To: smeier1@roadrunner.com

Date: Monday, August 24, 2020, 07:39 PM EDT

I received the following Sun Community News article the other day- it was shared with a few EL residents with a request that if they had any personal comments from being at the meeting to reply to me with them, and I would send to all resident on the EL database so that others could join the dialog- Please direct all replies to Steve M at the sent to email- this email is being sent as a BCC to everyone to protect and limit comments or email overload. Hopefully Steve can collect comments and return them for a follow-up message.

In talking with one person that was at the meeting they are concerned that poor, insufficient, or even adequate information communicated to residents may make it look like residents are "taking sides", and pitting the interests of neighbors against each other. This participant made it clear in their conversation they were deeply concerned about this and wanted to make sure that this does not happen. Their hope was the neighbors would take and/or make the time to discuss this issue with each other to come up with some possible solutions for themselves and their neighbors, not just looking at it as "i pump lake water, have a well etc. and don't care".

The Sun Times article is included as a link to their website, as well as an attached PDF file. Please credit them with any use of their article information.

Two people of the few that the article was sent too provided personal comment. there text is copied and pasted below.

Note that this issue does not directly affect me, it does interest me, but for this I'm only the provider of information shared with me.

RT

my initial comment when the article was shared

anyone have any personal or additional comments to add? if yes add them in a shareable form and I will send an email by the data base address on Monday evening

Subject: Times of Ti Article on Water Meeting

<https://suncommunitynews.com/news/82703/chilson-monthly-water-bills-could-cost-hundreds/>

First reply:

Thanks for sharing the article.

I am glad it points out that the residents a one time was asked, but decided to decline, to join the Ti Water District. I am also glad that the article points out that a great number of users are being unresponsive to requests for information so the Town and the engineers can properly assess all their needs and to proceed forward.

What the article does not point out, and probably wouldn't, is that the loudest voices at these

meetings are those who are not willing to find solutions but to find faults. As Grandma told me –
 “If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem”.

My opinion – the lack of effort of the residents will result in nothing being accomplished creating
 in a huge negative financial impact on the Town and on the property users.

Second reply:

Thanks Rolf but I am not sure what you are looking for. Are you suggesting edits to the new story or is there going to be a response to it?

I did attend the meeting and was very concerned about the lack of straight answers and the lack of information available on the town website. At the beginning of the meeting the Town Supervisor said anyone not using the water would not be impacted and a couple of people left. I believe they were people on the lake but am not sure. Towards the end of the meeting the Attorney finally said that all properties in the District would have to pay so the people that left could be in for a surprise. It took a lot of questions to get him to say that and even then you had to be paying close attention. And he talked about maybe they could draw lines around certain properties to exclude them from the district. One district option was a water treatment facility at Eagle Lake and using lake water as the supply. When asked where that plant would be they said they hadn't gotten that far in planning. I doubt they put this option on the table without any consideration of location so again I felt they were evasive.

There are some people that live on the lake full time and of course they want water, although I am sure they are shocked at the cost. I do not want it because of the cost and so little use that I would have. If I knew I could opt out and my neighbors could opt in I would support the district. But it seems like everyone will be forced to be in the district and the town is trying not to let us know that. Anyway after attending the meeting I know the cost of the district will be very high no matter which option is selected and they seem reluctant to give specific answers about who would have to be in regardless of interest in the district. I left with no answer to that question. However, there are 108 potential users and everyone they let out of the district will mean less people to pay for it and so their price tag goes up quickly and to avoid that I am concerned they will be reluctant to allow properties to be excluded.

Third reply:

1. My interpretation of whether you can opt in or out depends on several things. The big one I was able to later determine was “if there is a continuous line of properties along the water main line after you opt out, then you can opt out”. I asked if all the properties on the south side of Route 74 across from me were in, could I, on the north side, opt out – answer yes. The line continued on the other side. However, I still am not totally comfortable with the answer. (I wish the attorney would be available for the planning meetings)
2. Not sure who all left early based upon the supervisor’s comment. One who did leave has a place near the end of Harris Point Way. As I believe Charlie Robinson and the house across from him are the last on the current system and he is beyond that point, he would not be part of the new district
3. They have not definitely located a site from where to draw water from Eagle Lake . However, the map showed a location on the west side near the current chlorination building. Based upon further studies, it could be relocated. As stated during the meeting, they have not done a lot of borings and other engineering studies. Most is still conceptual. They are not being compensated to do detailed engineering studies at this time
4. The formation of a new district is subject to a vote. I am not sure on this quite yet myself. Again the attorney said several things. One could be a proxy vote. But still not sure if it is one vote per property or if the vote is weighted based upon the property’s assessed value. A property assessed for \$200,000 will have twice the greater vote than a property assessed for \$100,000?
5. A question I have is = I am currently not a user because I have a well / spring / lake that I draw water from. However the water main runs across the front of my property. Will I be included in the new district? That could increase the number of payors.
6. As mentioned in the meeting, the amounts being listed did not include any grants. Last fall, it was stated that these projects are generally eligible for grants up to 30% of the cost to a maximum of \$3 million. However

due to the current state of everything, grant moneys are not expected to be available for a while.

- 7. I would agree that if a district is formed, the costs will be high. This is one thing that is a given. As stated, the guideline used is for the annual capital cost should not exceed the \$700 - \$800 threshold amount. The lowest option is more than three times that amount
- 8. A question I have not been able to get answered is – if they draw from the lake could there be / will there be restrictions on the use of the lake? Will they stop stocking the lake?

What is badly needed from everyone is to return the map survey. There are so many unanswered questions at our meetings because we do not have this information. Please encourage everyone to return the surveys.

Just a couple of quick thoughts

End of comments



2020-8-21 Chilson monthly water bills could cost hundreds _ Sun Community News.pdf
1MB