

## Sewer Plant History

As of February 22, 2019

All,

The following history for the Sewer Plant has been pulled out of the Lake Forest Board of Directors Minutes for everyone's convenience. The time period starts with the April 2015 Annual Meeting. This is the time frame when discussions surrounding the Sewer Plant started to become a focus for the Board.

### April Annual Meeting 2015-

#### **Public Works - Don Kuehn**

The Board met with our Sewer Engineer regarding the Lagoon and its condition. There is an expectation in the coming years that the sewer lagoon will need to be either repaired or re-engineered to meet the DNR mandated discharge requirements. There have been numerous changes by the EPA regarding these requirements, some of which are not achievable with current technology. There are other communities in the state of Missouri in a similar situation; Lake Forest is not alone in this regard. There will be more to follow on this subject once we get clear guidance from the DNR. This will be a long drawn out process and the expectation is it will take years to run its course.

### June Board Meeting 2015

#### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

Jim Donze, Bob Palmer and Don Kuehn will be going to Jefferson City for meeting with DNR related to the Sewer system. The group will be accompanied by our engineer.

### August Board Meeting 2015-

#### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

The committee continues to work with our engineer and the DNR to determine the way forward for the Lagoon.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 Lake Forest received a letter of violation from DNR about Ammonia

This is Jim Donze's draft response:

Date

Mr. Jackson Bostic, Regional Director  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Southeast Regional Office  
2155 North Westwood Blvd  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

RE: Notice of Violation  
Lake Forest Estates; Ste. Genevieve County – MO0035742

Dear Mr. Bostic,

In response to your Notice of Violation dated October 15, 2015, we are sorry that we will not be able to meet any ammonia limits on a regular basis. We currently do not have nitrification facilities installed at our plant.

DNR Permitting section is currently working on our new permit and has drafted some potential limits that are impossible to meet. We are therefore commenting on them. It would be irresponsible of our Board to recommend and make upgrades to our system for the current ammonia limits when more restrictive limits are forthcoming. But, until we have a solid determination on our future limits we do not have a basis for design of improvements.

We understand that improvements will have to be made and we are willing to make affordable upgrades; but it will take time for that to happen. Until that time, we are certain that we will not reliably meet any ammonia limit imposed.

Sincerely,

Jim Donze, Board President

November Board Meeting 2015 –

**Public Works- Don Kuehn**

The Committee and Board is still working with the DNR on the Lagoon and the sewer issue. This will be a slow process to resolution.

December Board Meeting 2015 –

**Community Manager's Report- Tom Duro**

Lagoon; Everything running correctly. Since lowering the lake waste water runoff is approximately 35% lower. Major lake water influx repairs have been made saving on output.

Maintenance; We have located and repaired several broken sewer lines away from the lake saving money by doing the repairs ourselves. We have also been using smoke bombs to locate broken sewer lines mainly around the big lake for now. It is necessary for us to dig those lines up to make repairs. These repairs are needed to keep sewer water in and rain, lake, and runoff water out of our over taxed lagoon system and contamination out of our wells. I am also making needed repairs on the 2 manholes at the beach by removing the brick risers and replacing them with solid concrete.

## January Board Meeting 2016-

### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

The Board, in conjunction with the Public Works Committee is still working on the sewer plant upgrade and meeting DNR's requirements.

### **Treasurers Report- Bob Palmer**

Looking ahead, our next major expense will be the upgrading of our sewage treatment plant. We know that in the next five years, we will have to upgrade the plant to meet dissolved oxygen and ammonia levels that our current system can't handle. The board has been working with our engineering firm, the DNR and the EPA on practical solutions but all indications are that the cost could exceed \$2 million. We have also had numerous inquiries regarding the dredging of the big lake. This may be looked at in conjunction with treatment plant upgrades as the sewer lines running through the lake must be mapped before attempting a major dredging project. Some lines may also need to be inspected or repaired to prevent lake water from infiltrating the system. A major dredging project could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. We would undoubtedly have to borrow funds from USDA to tackle these jobs. We still have a loan balance from the last upgrade so we want to get that loan paid in full before borrowing more money. Fortunately, we aren't aware of any other major projects that need to be tackled in the near future. The community center, pool, courts, etc. are all in good shape and the expenses regarding the transfer of the fire department to Weingarten are behind us.

## March Board Meeting 2016-

### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

A company was hired to run a camera through the sewer pipes which resulted in the discovery of several leaks. Once the video comes back the Board will be making a determination on a solution.

After a heavy rain there is an unusual amount of water infiltrating the sewer system which puts a heavy load on the lagoon system. After a recent snow melt, there was also a large spike in the discharge levels. This seems to indicate that gutters from

houses may be routed into the sewer lines. Any gutter that is hooked to the sewer line must be disconnected from the line. The community manager and others will be checking gutters to determine if they are connected to the lines. If you know that your gutters are connected to the sewer line, please disconnect them immediately. If you don't know where the water from your gutters is going, please check to see if they are running into the lines. If so, please disconnect them and let the water run onto the ground. If the board discovers that gutters are still connected to the lines, the homeowner will be notified and if they are not disconnected in a timely manner, they will be disconnected at the homeowner's expense. We must design a new sewage treatment plant in the near future and the plant must be designed for certain discharge levels. By bringing these levels down through fixing lines, improving manholes and stopping infiltration from gutters, etc., we can reduce the cost of a new plant by hundreds of thousands of dollars. We need everyone's cooperation to accomplish this task.

## April Board Minutes 2016 –

### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

Lagoon Update:

A few weeks ago, the Public Works committee along with several Board members met at the Lake Forest Community Center along with Gary Romine, our State Senator, Donna Hickman, a representative from Congressman Jason Smith's office, four representatives from Department of Natural Resources, Rich Cochran from Watters Engineering along with Lake Forest representatives were in attendance. We gave them a tour of our existing plant and talked about how to proceed. Mr. Romine was especially helpful in getting DNR to make some commitments in writing concerning the levels dictated by EPA. More information will be discussed at the Annual Community Association meeting.

## April Annual Meeting 2016 –

Jim Donze reported on the latest developments concerning the sewage treatment plant. Members of the board and the head of the public works committee have traveled to Jefferson City and have had numerous phone conversations with DNR and EPA.

We upgraded our plant in 2004 and in 2006, DNR came out with new requirements that our current plant couldn't meet. Because we had such a large debt on the last plant, we attempted to postpone implementation until we could get the debt paid off. In 2010, the EPA did a study and placed even more restrictive discharge levels on us in connection with Big Bottom Creek. DNR issued a permit that called for two stages of implementation. The first would be to upgrade to the level that DNR originally called for. That would have to be implemented within six years, which is roughly when our current

loan will be paid off. The second stage called for meeting the EPA levels within thirteen years. The problem is that the EPA levels are so stringent, there is no technology that can meet their requirements. Our drinking water would not even meet the nitrogen and phosphorus levels dictated by EPA. We obviously don't want to build a plant that meets the DNR requirements only to be told that we have to start over again right away. Our engineering firm has requested numerous times that the EPA requirements be thrown out or at least a new study be completed. DNR has stated that they can't modify the thirteen-year requirements until we have completed the first stage.

A few weeks ago, we had a meeting at the Lake Forest Community Center to discuss the situation. Gary Romine, our State Senator, Donna Hickman, a representative from Congressman Jason Smith's office, four representatives from Department of Natural Resources, Rich Cochran from Watters Engineering along with Lake Forest representatives were in attendance. We gave them a tour of our existing plant and talked about how to proceed. Mr. Romine was especially helpful in getting DNR to make some commitments in writing concerning the levels dictated by EPA. DNR told us that if we can improve the quality of the water in Big Bottom creek with the new plant that is required in six years, the levels required by EPA can be modified or eliminated. They told us the true aim is to improve the stream so that it can support certain aquatic life. If the plant can accomplish that, and they are confident that it can, another upgrade will probably not be required. This of course, does not take into consideration any new State-wide regulations that may be implemented in the future. However, if there are future requirements, our financial ability to meet those requirements will be taken into consideration. While we and our engineering firm would like the EPA levels to be adjusted or removed prior to construction of any new plant, DNR is unwilling to do that. There are also some lawsuits in other places against EPA for overreaching its authority. Those may work out in our favor without us having to file lawsuits ourselves.

We are continuing to work on leaks in the lines and other infiltration of water into the system to reduce our outflow so that a new system can be designed at a lower cost than a system with a higher outflow. Water may be entering through gutters or vents that are routed into the sewer lines. Our engineering firm will be drawing up plans and cost estimates for the new system and we will be working to have the new plant in place in six years. We will have to borrow money, probably from USDA as they have programs for such projects at lower interest rates. Once we figure out the cost and how much we need to borrow, we will have to look at our assessment levels to see if that have to be adjusted. We don't anticipate any large increases in assessments.

Roads will be having some repairs made. The sewer system will eventually be upgraded using a six-year plan to meet EPA standards.

June Board Meeting 2016 –

**Public Works- Don Kuehn**

The Lagoon status is the same reported last time. We do have people working in the background to get other evaluations and opinions of the Lagoon.

### **Under New Business**

A resident asked about dredging the cove which their property is located on. The lake level does not permit them to get their boat out of their boat slip. Dredging has been discussed in conjunction with the sewer plant upgrade which is not planned for several years. Jim Donze said that the community would have to look at their situation later.

Lake Anne will be lowered this winter to repair a sewer line that was discovered when the cameras were inspecting the lines. As the date firms up an announcement will be made with that information.

## **November Board Meeting 2016**

### **Under Announcements**

Lake Anne will be lowered starting on November 28<sup>th</sup> for sewer line repair.

## **December 2016 Board Meeting-**

### **Community Manager's Report- Tom Duro**

Sewer - There repairs that were scheduled to be performed on the sewer lines have been postponed. The sewer lines are further below ground than previously thought. A new plan of action will be developed. The valve has been closed.

## **January 2017 Board Meeting –**

### **Under Open Forum**

A resident asked a question about dredging the lake. Dredging has been a part of the larger plan that the Board feels could possibly be included in the sewer plant upgrade. The primary focus and priority before the Board is the sewer plant upgrade since it is a critical component of the community infrastructure.

In past monthly Board meetings as well as annual Board meetings, which the minutes reflect, there have been updates regarding the sewer upgrade that include meetings with our Engineering firm, DNR, State Government Senators, outside Engineering firms, etc. The sewer plant upgrade process will take years to run the full course. This infrastructure upgrade will be a major investment for the community that will most likely require a large loan and could possibly mean an assessment increase to homeowners.

The community is currently paying off a substantial loan to the USDA which Bob Palmer explained will free up money which could be applied to the sewer plant upgrade loan.

Additionally, there are political aspects to this situation where the EPA could relax the requirements on compliance.

In a nutshell the Board understands that dredging is a very important part of lake maintenance. The Board will continue to work on a solution that brings the community into compliance with State and Federal government regulations. Dredging does not have the complexities that the sewer plant upgrade contains and the Board hopes that this work can be done in conjunction with the sewer upgrade.

### **Community Manager's Report- Tom Duro**

Had a sewer backup into a manhole on Tall Pine, we were able to handle in house.

### **March 2017 Board Meeting –**

#### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

Don gave a brief synopsis of the proposal done by CSWR on the potential of buying the water/sewer infrastructure and running it as a utility. Studies are going to be done to compare this to LFE doing the operation as is and upgrading to see about cost effectiveness.

There will be more discussion on the Sewer upgrade at the Annual Meeting.

### **April 2017 Annual Meeting**

#### **Sewer Plant update -**

Jim Donze briefed everyone on the current status of the sewer plant upgrade. With new Administrations at both the State and Federal levels another trip to Jefferson City is being planned to meet with DNR officials. The hope is that the requirements may be relaxed in Lake Forests' favor. Jim also said that the creek that the clean water discharges into has been removed from the impacted list as well. There is no significant change to brief at this time.

Bob Palmer provided additional comments concerning rumors that Lake Forest may turn over the sewer system to a private company. Bob stated that there is no truth to this rumor or the prices that have circulated. There was an offer extended to present a solution before the Board. The Board agreed to listen to the proposal as a way gather insight on what other communities are doing and learn as much as possible. A lot was learned since this individual has a connection to Lake Saint Louis who has the same sewer architecture as Lake Forest. Bob went on to explain that ultimately whatever the final solution turns out to be, it will need to be presented to the community for approval.

There was also discussion about using GPS to locate and map all of the sewer lines under the lake. This is underway and being accomplished by Tom Hilbert. This will be

multiyear project to get finished up. We do have drawings of the pipes but they are not as accurate as GPS will be.

### July 2017 Board Meeting –

- Regarding the sewer plant issues and the proposal from the outside company:
  - Bob Palmer called USDA in regard to doing this on our own and financing the work through the same program we used for our last USDA loan. The sewer would not qualify under that program. Instead, it would fall under their water and wastewater program. They said we may want to form a Public Water Supply District. Then the Lake Forest Public Water Supply District would run the water and sewer bill the residents. Forming the district would allow the district to issue revenue bonds to finance the improvements over a long period of time. If we try to borrow money as the Association, he feels that we would run into collateral issues in trying to secure the loan. We have DNR wanting us to do something, and we have the TDML hanging over our heads with the EPA. With the political changes, the EPA has thrown out some of the clean water act that could be affecting all of this. Now that we have a republican governor, we're thinking they may have more of an open mind as far as eliminating some of the TDML provisions. Interest rates are also creeping up.
  - Bob has suggested we form a special committee with residents that have experience in these areas, maybe engineering backgrounds, attorneys or accountants. We will talk to our engineers and DNR to help us start formulating plans in what we have to do if we would have a collapse out in the lake or what we are going to have to do in relation to the new plant and to the lines that feed the new plant. He also talked to the USDA guy about the dredging, he said that probably the only way the USDA would go along with that if our engineers justify it as part of the sewer project so we could combine it all in one.

### August 2017 Board Meeting –

#### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

- The volunteers for the Waste Water Committee thus far are as follows:
  - Joe Heitkamp, Bruce Geisler, Duane Harley, Jim Donze, Bob Palmer, Don Kuehn and Tom Duro.
- If you are interested in joining this committee please see Tom Duro.
  - Jim will talk to our engineer to set a meeting. Either late August or early September.

- This committee is being formed to investigate what steps need to be taken to meet DNR and EPA requirements. Our engineers feel that the political climate at the State and Federal level may be more favorable toward our position than in the past.

## September 2017 Board Meeting –

### **Community Manager's Report- Tom Duro**

- Lagoons are running good. Received a letter from Tim Mattingly with the Missouri DNR about his inspection on August 22, 2017 with an outcome of unsatisfactory findings. The dividing curtain at the lagoon has floats missing and holes chewed in others. I ordered 20 pair for \$7777.58 and will be replacing them soon.

### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

We are going to have a meeting with the existing sewer committee members and the new members, with Rich Cochran. We asked for a few new members to volunteer: Duane Harley, Bruce Geisler, Joe Heitkamp and a couple others may join. This is to help us get a few more ideas/options for the water treatment facility. We are looking at getting together the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October in the evening or late afternoon. Jim will set this up with Rich Cochran.

October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm The Board and the Sewer Committee met with Rich Cochran

## October Board Meeting 2017 –

### **Public Works- Don Kuehn**

The Sewer Upgrade Committee met with Waters Engineering to discuss the way forward for the sewer upgrade. The requirements for the sewer plant that were levied upon Lake Forest by the EPA and the Missouri DNR are basically unachievable. With a new Administration in office both at the Federal and State levels the hope is that Lake Forest can have the relaxed. Lake Forest has been instructed by the DNR to become compliant in phased approach with the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase being the most stringent and unrealistic. The sewer upgrade will be a costly capital expenditure but one that the Board knows has to be done. The question is what is realistic in terms of compliance and can Lake Forest have the DNR provide a more realistic compliance goal to achieve.

The meeting ended with an agreement to have Waters Engineering schedule a meeting with the new Director of Missouri DNR. A select group of the Sewer upgrade committee

will drive to Jefferson City to participate along with Waters Engineering. The hope is that the outcome of this results in more realistic requirements levied against Lake Forest which will drive the design of the new sewer plant.

April 2018 Board Meeting –

**Public Works/Road/Water/Sewer/Lagoon:** Don Kuehn

- Update on Jefferson City: Tom, Bob, and Jim made the annual trip to Jeff City to meet with representatives from DNR. Our sewer system is not in compliance and there are two levels that are expected to be reached with a new system. The first level is achievable but the second level is not because the limits are so strict that no system available can meet them. Our goal has been to have the second level requirements removed before we start a new system to prevent having to scrap an expensive system shortly after installing it. DNR will not remove those levels but if the first upgrade causes the stream to no longer be impaired, the secondary levels may then be waived or postponed for several years. This, of course, causes concern because there is no way to know what will happen until after we spend large amounts of money on a new system. However, the DNR representatives gave us two examples of municipalities that have been in the same position and have made the first upgrades with good results. DNR made it clear that we must start moving towards the upgrade soon as we have been out of compliance for several years. We are required to have the new system in place by around 2021 or 2022 but we are hoping to push that off by a year to give us time to pay off our existing loan before we have to borrow again. Our engineering firm is investigating our options for upgrades and we have formed a special committee to review the recommendations for upgrades and financing to help us move ahead.
- A resident asked about how this will affect the annual assessments. At this time, we don't have any firm estimates of cost but the engineer told us that a new system could cost \$2.5 to 3 million. Based on that, we could see an increase in assessments of perhaps \$500 per year but again, that is based upon guesses. Final cost numbers and financing options will have to be determined before any firm conclusions can be reached.

From the Annual Meeting April 2018

**Bob Palmer talking:**

- We have been talking to the DNR for the last few years and working with our engineers. Our sewer system has been out of compliance for several years. They are really putting the pressure on us to replace our sewer system. We have been trying to hold off for a couple of reasons. One being that we still have a loan on the last one we did. The other is that some of the requirements that they

were putting on us were pretty ridiculous. This is something that will happen within the next 3-4 yrs. or so. We need to be able to pay for that. We do not have any specific dollar amounts yet, it could be \$2.5-3 million to replace the sewer plant. We will have to get loans to finance that. In anticipation of that, we are having our CPA firm doing full financial audits again starting this year so we will have a few years of full audits when we need to apply for a loan. At some point, we are going to have to talk about what to do with assessments here. What we currently have coming in will not be sufficient to cover that. We will be talking about this in the next year or so. There is a lot to decide, do we start ahead of time and build up money or do we want to wait until near the time sewer system actually goes in? We will probably have to raise them at some point ahead of time in order to qualify for the loan because wherever we get the loan, we will need to show that we have the cash flow to service the debt. We are probably looking at an increase in assessments within the next couple of years in anticipation of having to install a new sewer plant.

- We went to another meeting in Jefferson City, (Bob, Tom and Jim). Have been out of compliance with the DNR for the past 8+ years. This is because we knew the update was coming and did not want to spend \$200,000 to be in compliance right now and throw that money away when we have to re-do the whole plant. There is no system currently available that is able to meet their 2029 requirements. So, they have backed off that a bit currently and we are working towards meeting their 2022 guidelines. If we meet those guidelines, DNR will consider waiving or postponing the 2029 requirements. We have started to look at designing a system with our engineers, they have brought up a few things that Bob is looking in to regarding financing etc. A lot of them require tax increments and you have to do things with the County, we are not sure yet what we will be doing, but we will have to do something.
  - Question was asked: What makes us not in compliance?
    - Our ammonia levels and dissolved oxygen levels do not meet their criteria for what we discharge down Big Bottom Creek.
    - Also, the dilemma and difficulty of designing a system (like Jim was talking about) that meets the goals they had set up in two separate steps. One was a 6-7-year goal then you had a longer goal to meet as well. We do not want to install a system that goes out of compliance in 6 years. That is what we have been struggling with, and we were hoping that the new administration in the state of Missouri would give us a good feeling if we met the 7-year goal they would not hold us responsible to meet the ultimate 2029 goal.
- Would be a mechanical plant, no longer a lagoon system when it is done. The sludge would have to be removed every 5-7 years. We have a committee that has a couple engineers on it, that have been looking at options.
- We have looked at a couple of different options, but ultimately, we will still have to address the plant.

- Erin Heidolph from DNR has offered to come down when it gets closer to meet with the community.
  - Question was asked: Has it been determined that assessments will definitely be raised or would you consider doing a special assessment?
    - We could consider anything. We have roughly 300 houses on the system, special assessment could raise some of it but we would still have to finance a big chunk of money to pay for it. This could cost us as much as \$3 million. Determination has not been made yet on financing.
  - Question was asked: The assessment has to be voted on by residents correct?
    - Yes, the assessment increase has to be voted on by the homeowners. But, at a certain point we are going to have to come up with the money one way or another. A special assessment can be done if we have to. We do not have a choice but to do this. They can put a lien on everybody's house if we do not come up with the required financing. We may propose a tiered increase in assessments to get to the final level.

## July 2018 Board Meeting –

### Jim Donze talking

Jim Donze also reported that a small group had just attended a DNR financing workshop related to the sewage plant upgrade. There was additional conversation from Bob Palmer on the different approaches that Lake Forest can take to finance the new sewer plant and what that would cover. No decisions have been made as to the scope of the project, i.e. completely new infrastructure to include replacement of sewer pipes and lake dredging. The creation of a sewer district owned and operated by Lake Forest seems to be the most sensible approach however no decision has been made to date. Residents will be completely informed once the Board has a recommendation to present.

## August 2018 Board Meeting –

### Public Works- Don Kuehn

Jim Donze is looking into a feasibility study for Sewer treatment plant and dredging, etc. from Waters Engineering and Richard Cochran.

## September 2018 Board Meeting –

Jim Donze advised everyone that they are working with Waters Engineering on the sewer project. There will be meeting with the Sewer Committee, the Board and Waters Engineering soon to go over the proposal and finalizing what the scope of the sewer upgrade will undertake. There thoughts that some of the sewer lines will need to be replaced because of age and proximity to areas that need to be dredged. The Board and the Sewer Committee will analyze all of the data and options and will determine the best course of action for Lake Forest. This course of action will be presented to all of the residents of Lake Forest prior to any action taken. Bob Palmer advised everyone that there will be many meetings regarding the sewer upgrade. Jim Donze told everyone that there is no truth to the rumor that a special assessment of \$10K is on the horizon for residents. This completely false rumor has cast an unfavorable light on real estate sales in the neighborhood. The most likely scenario is that a Lake Forest Sewer District will be created and that residents will have a sewer and water bill just like everyone that lives in a municipality does. Doing this enables Lake Forest to raise the capital required for such a substantial capitol improvement as the sewer project. Mark Basler has been looking into the feasibility of the creation of a Sewer District and all of the requirements. Bob Palmer told everyone that nothing can be done without 2/3 of the Lake Forest owners voting in favor of the creation of the Sewer District. It will be very important for all residents to stay abreast of the Sewer project either by participating in the public meetings that are offered or reading information that is shared through the minutes. This will enable everyone to make a sound decision if there is a vote involved. Ultimately the goal is that we have a sewer plant and the supporting infrastructure that will last another 40 years.

## October 2018 Board Meeting –

### **In the Announcements**

The Board met in Executive Session with individuals who are considered subject matter experts in the creation of a Municipalities such as the Lake Forest Sewer District that has been discussed and bond offerings. These work together in terms of being able to raise the capital to build a DNR compliant sewer plant. The Missouri DNR will only loan funds to a Sewer District which is a legal entity much like any other municipality. This seems be a viable option based on the interest rate and terms that are offered by the DNR. Additionally, the DNR would approve the sewer design prior to releasing any funds which again offers Lake Forest reassurance that the plant will be following the DNR guidelines. This was only a fact-finding, information gathering meeting and no decisions have been made. The next step will be to meet with the Sewer Committee and Waters Engineering to discuss the options and the way forward. Once there is enough information to present to the community a meeting will be held to discuss our options. Going forward the Board expects that there will be many meetings with the community. Depending on the recommended course of action a vote by the community maybe necessary.

## November 2018 Board Meeting-

### **Treasurers Report- Bob Palmer**

Preliminary estimates for the new sewer plant are starting to come into the office. These will be presented to the community as things move forward. Bob Palmer mentioned a future meeting with DNR to discuss the possibility of Lake Forest getting a second opinion on the creek (TMDL).

## December 2018 Board Meeting –

Bob Palmer gave an update on the Sewer Plant project. The Missouri DNR has asked Lake Forest to provide a timeline of the Sewer Plant upgrade from start to finish by 1 February 2019. Bob went on to recap what has been done to date in terms of the creation of the Sewer District, the financing of the project and so forth. This was briefed at the October Board meeting and included in the minutes. **(See October Board 2018 Meeting above)**

In order to meet the 1 February 2019 time line Lake Forest needs to engage the Attorney and Gilborne and Brown to get things in motion for the creation of the Sewer District. There still needs to be concurrence from the Sewer Committee to continue moving this forward. Secondly there will be a larger briefing by Waters Engineering, DNR, our Attorney, and other professionals required to move this project forward at the Annual Board meeting in April. The current effort is to only get enough resources in motion to meet the deadline set forth by DNR of 1 February 2019.

What all of this really boils down to is we have to bring in a new sewer plant to meet DNR and EPA standards. We will have to finance this project. DNR will loan money in the 1% range but only to Sewer Districts. To qualify, Lake Forest needs to create a Sewer District which is a legal entity like any other municipality. The Sewer District will be governed by a separate Board which are Lake Forest residents. The sewer plant, which is currently Lake Forest property will need to be conveyed to the Sewer District so that it can run and maintain the plant. Really all we are doing is conveying the plant to a legal entity that is for all practical purposes still Lake Forest. This conveyance of land to the Sewer District will take a vote by the lot owners of Lake Forest.

In the larger scheme of things Lake Forest spends very little money on the Sewer Plant and water. Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$40,000 annually. This includes the 40-year-old sewer pipes that go under the lakes. The creation of the Sewer District will provide for the long-term care of this vital infrastructure. When you think about it Lake Forest is a small city and we need to look at this in that manner.

There is a lot more to follow so please stay informed by attending the Board meetings, reading the minutes and getting the facts. Especially the upcoming Annual Board meeting will be important to attend.

Mark Basler made a motion to start the process to satisfy the DNR requirements of furnishing a timeline of the sewer plant completion by engaging the Attorney and the Gilmore and Bell pending the concurrence of the Sewer Committee. Motion was seconded by Dave Evelsizer. Motion passed with all in favor.

January 2019 Board Meeting –

**Public Works- Don Kuehn**

Don also reported that the Board met with Sewer Committee and that the Sewer Committee concurred with moving forward with hiring Paul Martin and Gilmore and Bell. There was an action via an approved motion at the December Board meeting to hire Paul Martin and Gilmore and Bell provided the Sewer Committee concurred. Please attend the Annual meeting in April to learn more about the sewer plant project.

February 20<sup>th</sup> 2019- The Board and the Sewer Committee met with Paul Martin our Attorney for the creation of the Sewer District.