**Moose Lake Windemere Area Sanitary Sewer District**

**Approved Special Meeting Minutes**

**June 26, 2024**

**@ MLWSSD Office**

1**.**  The Special Meeting of the Moose Lake Windemere Sanitary Sewer District was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Kuster. Members present included: Chairman Kuster, Vice Chairman Lourey, Treasurer Eric Nielsen, and Paula Engstrom. Also in attendance were Executive Director Darla Hall, Jake Steen Larken Hoffman Attorney for Sand Lake Resort, Erin Lambert, Attorney for Sand Lake Resort and Mia Thibodeau, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Fredrick Attorney for the District. Board member Strandlie joined the meeting later.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Lourey second by Engstrom to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried 4/0

3. Guests: Mia Thibodeau, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick

a. Wastewater Treatment Agreement and Significant User Agreement: The Board discussed the upcoming sub-committee meeting with the City of Moose Lake scheduled for July 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and the issues they would like to negotiate prior to mediation. Discussion took place regarding exchange of customers, flows, installation of the flume meter and options on where to locate. Meter options were discussed in great length and Board determined it was necessary that if a new meter is installed it should be jointly managed by both parties.

Strandlie joined the meeting.

Board discussed the recent rate study done by Northland Public Finance and its relation to the rates the City may be imposing on the District within the Agreement. Several inconsistencies were identified. The issue of depreciation being collected for the City’s entire system was discussed. Funds being collected for capital improvement to the City’s entire system versus jointly used facilities was also discussed. Attorney Thibodeau suggested the Board may want to look at hiring an outside firm to review the study based on financial data supplied by the District. She suggested using Mike Bubany from David Drown Associates as they have experience in working specifically with water and wastewater. After much discussion it was decided that a subcommittee would review the rate study and provide a bullet point list of items identified to be provided to the outside firm for review. Board will also review the financial impact and how it relates to fee increases and customer exchanges should that occur.

Director Hall to get information to the Attorney on items the District and City have discussed on offers and exchanges in attempts to resolve pending issues. It was noted that some of those items discussed were identified in the letter of intent.

4. Adjourn: Motion was made by Nielsen second by Lourey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5/0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Minutes by Darla Hall, Executive Director