

SOUTHWOOD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CPO
SPECIAL MEETING- RE: WATER DISTRICT/POSSIBLE LAKE OSWEGO ANNEXATION
November 26, 2018 - Meadow Springs Church

President Helen Young called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. One hundred and two people were in attendance. Helen gave a brief run down of why were having the meeting which was to discuss the future of our neighborhood water district and gave a brief agenda of what would be covered in the meeting.

Helen introduced Phil Kubischta, the chairman of the Water district board. Phil talked for approximately 20-30 minutes about the duties of the board and what has been going on regarding the board in the recent past and that he is no longer interested in being on the board. Points covered by Phil:

Water Board is organized under the rule of Clackamas County.

Water Board consists of 5 board members. Each is a 4 year position voted on by the people of the district.

Water Board must meet monthly and have a quorum to make decisions or face the possibility of losing our insurance

\$50.00/day is maximum allowed pay.

200-300 hours is required to meet just the basic demands of the job but should be closer to 400-500 to be done as it should

Water Board is required to report to various county and state departments regarding the health and workings of the system.

Phil introduced the 4 other members of the board and indicated that there have been requests put out to the community by way of the water bills and other means asking people to respond if they are interested in being on the water board. Very few residents responded to any of these requests. Because of this, there is now a need to consider the future of the water board and how water for our district will be handled.

Phil indicated he wants to help in any way to make the transfer of the water district a smooth one and has been working to find alternatives for the people of the district to consider. Alternative ideas put up for consideration are:

Find someone in the Neighborhood that is interested in being on the board and running its day to day operation.

Consider a person paid by the community to run the system.

Give ownership of the system to Hiland Water Corp., who does our billing and upkeep now (Hiland is interested in doing this for the district but Clackamas County is not in favor of having a private company own a public water system).

Merge with another water district. River Grove Water District to the south of us is large enough to handle but is not interested because they do not feel there is enough assets involved to make it worth their while.

Allow Lake Oswego to annex the neighborhood since we are in their Urban Growth boundary and have them take over the operation of the water system.

Helen and the Water Board invited the City of Lake Oswego to the meeting to talk about and take questions from those in attendance regarding what changes would take place to the neighborhood if the city were to annex us. Those in attendance from the city were:

City Manager- Scott Lazenby
City Planner- Scott Siegel
City Councilor- Jeff Gudman
City Councilor- John La Motte
Police Chief- Dale Jorgenson

The city had a hand out for everyone covering responses to many questions regarding annexation. Some of the basic issues covered in the hand out:

Lake Oswego would only take over our water district if they could annex us. They would not just run the water district. They are not pushing the community to be annexed but would be willing to annex and take over responsibility for the neighborhood if the people vote to be annexed. Annexation would only take place if a simple majority of the registered voters in the Southwood Neighborhood voted for it.

Benefits pointed out if annexed by Lake Oswego:

LO would take over total responsibility for the water system.
LO would provide faster response times for police, emergency services
LO would be responsible for transportation planning, street maintenance.
City code enforcement personnel, neighborhood planning assistance, etc would be available
Southwood Neighborhood would be an equal neighborhood with all other LO neighborhoods in the sharing of costs and benefits.

The floor was opened for questions and discussions on the above topics which were taken and responded to by the people from Lake Oswego. In addition, questions were posed regarding the property tax cost differences between the city and the county. An approximate increase of 10% would probably occur. Cost differences were spelled out in the hand outs provided. Costs could be phased in over a period of years and not all at once.

A question posed about a change to a Lake Oswego address was brought up. This is something that has to be addressed to the US Postal System. They make the decisions on that type of change.

Helen encouraged that everyone with additional questions please attend water board meetings that take place at the Meadows Spring Church at 7:00 PM on the 4th Wednesday of every month. She suggested that the neighborhood come back together again near the end of January.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Parkinson
Secretary/Treasurer
Southwood Park CPO