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*Mission Statement: Meeting the challenge of protecting the environment and providing quality sewer service to the community.*

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
COMMISSIONER MEETING  
May 31, 2017, 6:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Commissioners Pam Stevens, Brent Kirk and Frank McDaniel, Michael Bowers, Tonya Christoffersen, Johnathan Dix, Brad Cattle, Mayor John Spencer,

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – At 6:30 PM, Commissioner Kirk called the Meeting to order
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Kirk led those present at the Meeting in the Flag Salute.
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Public Hearing Format: Proposal to create a 5-Member Board of Commissioners (please limit comments to 3 minutes) – Commissioner Kirk stated a public hearing isn't required, the District felt it important to get public input. He explained this meeting is only for the purpose of discussing going from three board members to five and handed the meeting over to Michael for his brief report.

Michael Bowers briefed the attendees on the top revenue by volume Districts; Lake Stevens Sewer District is nearing the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in our area. He continued to explain the majority of the larger Districts have Commissioner that are retired and the position is their only job. The demands of the current Sewer District Commissioners with the increasing growth in Lake Stevens has put a greater demand on the three Commissioners where this is not their only job. He explained this will only continue to increase as the City continues to grow.

Michael Bowers touched on the Unification of the District and the City; he gave a brief overview of the look of the committee with two Commissioners and two councilmembers at the meetings, ideally. This would make every meeting a public meeting with a quorum for the District at two Commissioners. Once a District reaches 10,000 rate payers you can go to a five member board. He explained the District has been over that number for quite some time. Michael added the downside is it will add approximately \$16,000 to the budget. Tonya Christoffersen added the state law caps the amount a Commissioner can make at \$10,000 per Commissioner per year. Commissioner Kirk added for a city, once the population reaches 5,000 they must increase their council members from five to seven per state requirements.

Commissioner Kirk opened the public hearing for public comment. He asked that each person keep it to a limit of 3 minutes.

Kevin Kosche, 521 S Davie Rd – He stated he has lived in the community for a long time. He disclosed he is running for Sewer District Commissioner. He explained he can argue for both a 3 and 5 member board. He referred to the Audit in 2012 by Moss Adams, a very good, clean audit with item 43 stating there seems to be a strain between the District and the City. He believes it to be as easy as Commissioner Kirk and the Mayor getting together to make the decision. If there is a concern that can't be resolved, then his recommendation

is to back off and work on the bigger picture is to work things out and stay with 3 Commissioners.

John Spencer, City of Lake Stevens Mayor - He thanked the District for having this open meeting. He believes it's important to reflect on where we have come with a population over 31,000 to date making Lake Stevens a full-fledged large city. He has lived here for over 35 years. Lake Stevens has always been referred to as an "in-between" city and believes it is now a large city. The City and Lake Stevens Sewer District have faced a lot of challenges with the growth and economic down turn with both the City and District overcoming a lot. He praised the District, managers and staff for their good job. He is asking the Commissioners to reflect on the team and past. He doesn't see a reason for the change to five members and believes we need to move forward with unifying and addressing it now. Now is not the time to expand the board from three to five commissioners.

Mike Fear, 820 99<sup>th</sup> Ave SE – He asked if the District and City are unifying will there be 2 city members and a 2 Commissioner as a committee. He said he looks at the sewer district as being apolitical. Only the last couple years has he been paying attention to both entities and he believes if there is a sense of distrust, the District has showed a great job. With the Eagle Glen development for example the City has turned their heads and been political. The District has been responsive and he doesn't think the city has done a good job. He believes we need to stay separate, Woodinville is separate and it works. He would hate to see the District influenced by what he has seen by the City. He believes the board should be expanded to a 5 member board due to the Commissioners having other full time jobs; it's not a high dollar job. The increase of \$16,000 is not much. He agrees the District is doing a great job and believes they remain separate from the City.

Souheil Nasr, 11410 13<sup>th</sup> St SE – He stated he has lived in the District for several years with many increases in the rates, which he does not agree with. He doesn't feel the district has done a good job, both Alderwood and Everett are not near \$86 per month. He believes 3 Commissioners are adequate; however the decisions being done are not good. He believes the City and District should unify. He doesn't believe the new TP should be made a shrine and it wasn't built in the best interest of the City. He is for unification and 3 member board.

Cory Stevens, 930 123<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE – He believes 3 Commissioner board limits the representation of the citizens, with 5 Commissioners it gives more options and the ability to do a better job of being objective. There would be more frequent cycle of people for coming in and out of office. It would allow Commissioner to speak to one another. Commissioner Pam Stevens disclosed he is her husband and did not know his plan to speak out.

Todd Welch, 2428 85<sup>th</sup> Ave NE — He reiterated everything Mayor Spencer stated. He believes 5 members would hinder the unification. He thinks letting more people in would make for less experienced people. He believes things are running smooth and the Mayor is experienced on running sewer. He believes with development we all need to be on the same path in terms of our Comp plans for instance.

Sally Jo Sebring, 1023 99<sup>th</sup> Ave SE – She honors the board going to 5 member board. She stated she doesn't have much experience with the District, more with the City as she has sat in on the planning commission public meetings. She doesn't believe it's a bad decision.

Andrea Wright, 10815 29<sup>th</sup> St NE – She believes the number one issue is growth, the frustrations with development and growth, the District need to look forward and fully supports the 5 member board. She didn't know the mistrust between City and District. She has seen the visitor center and how the City is spending money. She toured the plant and got a better understanding of the process. She thanked the Commissioner for holding their forum and disclosed she is also running for Sewer Commissioner.

Dick Todd - 825 99<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. He has experienced what the City doesn't do to protect the environment. The City and Mayor has failed the City and doesn't see how it can continue. If the mayor is objecting the five member board then that tells him the increase to a 5-member board is a go.

Mary Fox, 3320 114<sup>th</sup> Dr NE – She stated she isn't as familiar with the Board. She asked about the meeting. Kirk stated they get \$114 per day and there is a cap. She is leaning towards the 5 Commissioner with more of a voice from the citizens. She asked how they would be chosen and what are the criteria and does the board want the unification? Commissioner Kirk stated he believes if done properly unification should happen over time. He has never been against unification. He stated the two additional commissioners could be appointed, but this is not the Districts way. His proposal was whom ever gets 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Primary in early August, would get those two seats and who wins would take Commissioner Kirk's seat in November. No decisions have been made but this seem to be the most transparent.

Karen Boe, 1915 80th Ave NE – She doesn't understand why expanding they would get appointed if they didn't get to vote on them. The citizens don't want 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Brad Cattle explained the statute for how this works. The statute states the 3 appoint the 4<sup>th</sup> and the three Commissioners together with the 4<sup>th</sup> would appoint the 5<sup>th</sup>. The commission is just stating the process. Commissioner Kirk stated the seats are staggered, and after the appointment they would go through the election. Brad explained there is another way by getting 10% on a petition and it would only be on going to a 5 member board not who is appointed. Mr. Fear asked if there would be a public hearing for unification. Both the City and Sewer District would have to do their own public hearing. Commission Kirk asked to if she was for the 5 member board, Karen stated yes if the people get to vote.

Michael Bowers clarified on the Comp plan mentioned by Todd Welch; The District uses the Cities comp plan for its planning. So there is no separation in the planning. Both may have a different plan on where growth would happen in terms of timing. The City adopted the District's comp plan in their own last December. The fact that we don't disclose our comp plan to the City is not correct. The District presented its Comp Plan nine times to City Council members and staff..

Commissioner Kirk read the emailed letters into record. Tim Crook believes the five member Board is not the correct direction and needs to unify with the City.

Tom Matlack wrote he believes the District should go to 5 members. He states the City was behind the WWTP and now calls it a burden. He stated the City would like a new revenue stream. He believes the two entities should remain separate.

Juanita Williams wrote she is in support of a five member board it will expand the voices that need to be heard.

Patrick Doyle wrote his family supports the decision to go to a five member board; they see only value in expanding the size. Building new infrastructure when costs and rates are low is good planning not a burden. He believes it makes sense to increase the number of commissioners as the population of Lake Stevens has grown very fast recently.

Don and Laurie Erickson wrote the strongly disagree with the Mayor trying to merge the City and Sewer District, combining management would put too much power in the City Council who are rarely familiar with sewer issues. She believes the staff at the District is doing what is best for the community around the lake.

Sally Jo Sebring wrote she believes the city and district are already intertwined. She has been an involved citizen for the past two years attending preliminary plat hearings, planning commission meetings and some city council meetings. She states due to the Cities handling of the storm drains as well as the development at eagle glen. She cannot support the

unification at this time and has more trust in the District than this City at this time. She believes the district is looking out for the community interests.

Commissioner Kirk thanked everyone for speaking and closed the public hearing, opening up the meeting to the Commission. He hope everyone attending participates by also voting for new Commissioners since 4 individuals are running for his spot in office.

B. Resolution No. 929 Adoption – No action was taken.

**4. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS** - Commissioner McDaniel would like to see more time spent discussing this item and would like to see the election process. He holds that issue higher than the commission being able to talk among themselves outside of public noticed meetings. He doesn't want to influence any elections with a lot of unanswered questions to do it right. Commissioner Stevens thanked everyone. Her opinion is that everyone who wanting to run for office are now in the running people and had a fair chance to sign up to run. The voters have chosen by taking the top elected officials. She hopes by the month of June a decision is made with the voters making the decision and who want to make the decisions. Commissioner Kirk had no response either way. Commissioner Kirk stated it was decided before this meeting that no decision would be made. Commissioner Stevens stated she will not be present at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, so a decision may be made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in June.

**5. CONCLUDE** – There being no further business, the Board Meeting was concluded at 7:20 PM

Signed in a regular open public meeting this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017



Pam Stevens, Secretary and Commissioner

Frank McDaniel, Commissioner

Brent Kirk, President and Commissioner

## Tara Bighouse

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**From:** Sally Jo Sebring <sallyjosebring@frontier.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** Tara Bighouse  
**Subject:** Sewer District Commissioners decision and unification with city

Dear Sewer District Commissioners,

I am aware that the item under discussion at tonight's meeting is about the possibility of increasing the number of commissioners from 3 to 5. At the same time, Mayor Spencer has brought attention to this meeting, connected it to the issue of unification with the City and asked that folks insist that the Sewer District start the process of unification with the City of Lake Stevens.

For me, they're intertwined, because the Mayor has put forth the idea that they are intertwined.

I've been a quite involved citizen for over two years, especially attending preliminary plat hearings, Planning Commission meetings, and, at times, City Council meetings. I live with my mother on 5 acres so we're on septic. But, we're also in one of the areas of intense development (99<sup>th</sup> Ave SE).

Due to the City's handling of stormwater issues and subsequent questions on at least two projects on our road, Westlake Crossing and Eagle Glen, and the seeming contrasting handling by the Sewer District of issues at Eagle Glen, I have more trust in the Sewer District than the City at this point. If the Sewer District thinks 5 commissioners would be helpful, I would support that.

I cannot support the unification of the Sewer District and the City at this time. I would have specific arguments with the Mayor's three points of governance, efficiency, and financing. I think the Sewer District is looking out for the community's interests. I cannot say the same of the City.

Thank you for your service and please continue to make decisions that look out for the community's interests. This community needs that desperately.

Thank you,

Sally Jo Sebring  
1023 99<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Lake Stevens WA 98258

## Tara Bighouse

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**From:** Laurie Erickson <lauret@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** Tara Bighouse  
**Subject:** Re: Process of Unification with the City

Sewer District Board of Commissioners,

I thoroughly **disagree** with Mayor John Spencer trying to merge the Lake Stevens Sewer District with the City Council. Combining management would end up putting too much power in the City Council who are rarely familiar with sewer issues.

His reasons for wanting to merge at this time seems a bit suspicious. Especially when violations led to the LS Sewer District closing down Eagle Glen developers when the city was turning their heads. Obviously the staff at the District are doing what is best for the "community around the lake".

Unfortunately, I am not able to make the meeting but I hope there is a good turnout to protest this merge from happening.

Don & Laurie Erickson  
10208 7<sup>th</sup> Pl SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258  
[lauret@comcast.net](mailto:lauret@comcast.net)

Lake Stevens Sewer District Commissioners

Tara Bighouse, Clerk of the Commissioners

May 27, 2017

Letter for the Public Record

Dear Commissioners:

Please proceed with all due preparations to increase the number of Commissioners from 3 to 5. As a rate payer, long-time community activist, and friend of both the City and District, there is no need to merge city and district services.

Mayor Spencer's Facebook page has delineated several reasons the City would like to merge with the District.

1. No merger is necessary. In fact, the district and city are already "joined at the hip" by the frequent Utility Meetings AND the Co-Comprehensive Plans shared by both agencies. In fact, at a recent meeting with the city concerning a controversial, small lot condo development near my house(Nourse), Planning Director Wright insisted the city and school district are hand in hand, cooperating, and mutually "on top" of the added kids to those schools through their Com. Plans. Fine. So the City and the Sewer District should be fine through their shared Comp. Plans.
2. The City was 100% behind the new WWTP. Now they are saying it is burdening the citizens of Lake Stevens? Oooops. Who's being tricky here?
3. Developers should be bearing most of the cost of that in place infrastructure. If the city understood that maybe we would have more sidewalks.
4. Yes, the city would like another revenue stream to pay for all the new Single Family Residences they have permitted lately. Maybe they should look at their roads and parks mitigation fees and permit fees.

Commissioners, please proceed with all necessary administrative maneuvers to ensure the continued separation of the Lake Stevens Sewer District and the City of Lake Stevens.

Tom Matlack

## Tara Bighouse

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**From:** Patrick Doyle <pddoyle81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 10:08 PM  
**To:** Tara Bighouse  
**Subject:** Comment for the Board Meeting on May 31, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for considering and serving the people of Lake Stevens. I feel the Board has performed exceptional in listening to the citizens it serves. My family supports the decision to move to a five person board as we see there is only value in expanding the size, especially as you consider merging with the City. Please take careful consideration on merging with the City. I'm not sure of the value there as I have read some of the Mayor's messages on social media and find the statements questionable. Such as the bringing on of enormous capital costs/debit when our sewer infrastructure is some of the best in Snohomish County. Building new infrastructure when costs and rates are low is good planning not a burden. The fore site of previous Board Members is what has allowed the City to attract developers and spur growth. What is a priority for the city? My assumption is there will be an added tax, can you answer that question? And finally, it makes sense to increase the number of commissioners as the population of Lake Stevens has grown very fast recently. Increasing the Board size will allow for the opportunity of new members that can bring in ideas and knowledge while working with experienced members.

Sincerely,  
P. Doyle



## Tara Bighouse

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**From:** Juanita Williams Brokers <juanita@williamsbrokers.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** Tara Bighouse  
**Subject:** In support of the 5 man board

I, Juanita Williams am in support of a five person board for the Lake Stevens Sewer District. Everyone in Lake Stevens deserves a voice and with a bigger board it expands the voices that need to be heard.

## *Juanita*

**Juanita Williams** | Managing Broker  
Williams Real Estate Brokers| 430 91st Ave NE Ste 6 | Lake Stevens, WA 98258  
O: 425-334-1600 | C: 425-238-2005 | F: 425-334-0563 | [Juanita@williamsbrokers.com](mailto:Juanita@williamsbrokers.com)  
[www.williamsbrokers.com](http://www.williamsbrokers.com) [www.homesinlakestevens.com](http://www.homesinlakestevens.com)

## Tara Bighouse

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**From:** Timbo <tcrook11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 5:41 AM  
**To:** Tara Bighouse  
**Subject:** New commissioners

Greetings from your paying customers. The addition of two commissioners is an idea in the wrong direction. As our fine mayor states we need to unify the sewer dept. by bringing it under the watchful eye of the city council. This would truly be to the benefit of all of us.

Tim Crook  
Lake Stevens

Sent from Tim's iPhone!

VISITOR SIGN-IN

If you would like to address the Board of Commissioners, it will be necessary for you to sign in. Thank you.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Phone	Purpose
Kim DAUGHTON	<i>[Signature]</i>	2615 LAKE DRIVE	425-397-8555	
DICK TODD	<i>[Signature]</i>	825 - 99th Ave SE		
Juanita Williams	<i>[Signature]</i>	9520 - 2nd St SE Lake Stevens	(41) 238-2005	
MICHAEL FEW	<i>[Signature]</i>	820 94th AVE SE	206-755-8856	
Mickie Cooper	<i>[Signature]</i>			
Cory Stevens	<i>[Signature]</i>	930 123rd Avenue	425 377 8152	
Paul Knight	<i>[Signature]</i>			
Michelle Bauman	<i>[Signature]</i>			
Sally Jo Sebring	<i>[Signature]</i>	1023 99th Ave SE	425-299-4231	
Kevin Kosche	<i>[Signature]</i>	5215 Duval	425 367 7227	
John Spencer	<i>[Signature]</i>	1812 Main -	425-241-4435	

VISITOR SIGN-IN

If you would like to address the Board of Commissioners, it will be necessary for you to sign in. Thank you.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Phone	Purpose
Thea Goodwin		621 SR9 NE PMB A47	360 670 3473	meeting
Karen Boe		1915 80th Ave NE	425-377-2207	"
MART FOX		3320 114th DR NE Lake Stevens	425 377-1199	"
Andrea Wright		10815 29th St. NE LUSTVNS	425-610-4378	"
SCOTT SMITH		11019 UCT LODGE RD L.S.	425-334-7200	"
Gene Bazel		1812 main	425-377-3230	" "
Todd Welch		2428 25th AVENUE LS	425-870-7733	"
DEBBIE TETREBAUT		↓	360-631- 8140	↓
September Hammers		GT	360-924 1905	Staff
Michele Hampton		PO Box 596 LS 98208	425- 903-4250	mtg
DON HAGGLUND		1605 99th AVE. S.E. LAKE STEVENS, WA 98258	425-334-3472	"


VISITOR SIGN-IN

If you would like to address the Board of Commissioners, it will be necessary for you to sign in. Thank you.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Phone	Purpose
Souheil Nasr	<i>[Signature]</i>	11450 13 <sup>th</sup> St SE Lk. Stevens	425-232-9376	
Pam & Mark Samer	<i>[Signature]</i>	2411 116 <sup>th</sup> Dr. NE LS	425-335-1442	
Michelle Myers	<i>[Signature]</i>	1106 Vernon Road	425 334 6989	
Maura				
Y. K. K...				

**VISITOR SIGN-IN**

*If you would like to address the Board of Commissioners, it will be necessary for you to sign in. Thank you.*

Print Name	Signature	Address	Phone	Purpose
Michael Liberto			425-397-8324	