

Rim Trail Domestic Water Improvement District Board Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2019

Held – Station 72 Whispering Pines Fire Department

APPROVED AT THE JUNE 1, 2019 BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

Board Members present: Chairman - Bruce Johnson (BJ), Treasure - Ray Tanner (RT), Secretary - John Tanner (JT),

Parliamentarian - Judy Scott (JS)

District Manager: Don Ascoli (DA)

Public: Will Regg, Harry Jones

A roll was called – Chairman Bruce Johnson (BJ), Parliamentarian Judy Scott (JS), Treasurer Ray Tanner (RT) and Secretary John Tanner (JT) were present, and a quorum was established.

JT moved that the minutes of the prior meeting be approved; JS seconded.

Minutes were approved.

Ray Tanner briefly reviewed the budget which was published on the website.

DA reported on Item (B) of the agenda: The District will not be renewing our membership to the Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce. The potential insurance saving is a wash and with the help of RT we were able to get a substantial insurance savings from a new carrier separate from Chamber membership.

The Board received an incoming call from Matt Patterson and Board chose to cover item (A) of agenda on appointment to fill Dave McKibben vacancy on Board. Volunteers that stepped forward to fill vacancy were Harry Jones, Dr. Jim Mouer, Matt Patterson, Shawn Fetter and Will Regg. Matt P. briefly reviewed his bio with those present via phone. BJ reviewed written bio of Dr. James Mouer and Shawn Fetter. Will Regg and Harry Jones (present) gave their personal Bio for the Board. A brief discussion followed and before the vote, Harry Jones recognizing the qualified candidates to fill vacancy, elected to withdraw his name. BJ thanked Harry for stepping forward and to volunteer. The Board voted in two successive “silent votes” and in both votes ended without a majority. In this case of 4 voting Board members a ‘majority vote’ is 2 plus 1. Will Regg and Matt Patterson received 2 votes each. JT moved to table election until next Board Meeting. The Board needs to determine a method of ruling to settle a ‘tie vote’ in a “majority wins” election. BJ second the motion, board approved by unanimous vote.

DA gave a District Manager’s report, referencing the printed notes he distributed at the meeting and via email.

There was two property ownership changes in District: 259 Box Elder (Fetter purchased McKibben Home) and 3051 Belluzzi Blvd. (Sukkar purchased Donboli home). There was one Blue Stake requests since last meeting. DA reported that there were two major leaks in last two months resulting in 40,000 gallons of water lost on Districts side and 47,000 gallons lost on customers side. On January 30th one valve box was hit by Gila County grader, damage was repairable. Well #2 water level is approximately 20 ft. and well #3 is 46 ft. Both wells have gained 5 feet in water since last month. Because of high turbidity from snow run off, Since February 1st, the District has run the filter plant only 5 days out of last 44 days. On February 14th the HACH technician cleaned and calibrated the CL-17 Chlorimeter. He discovered an issue with the Turbidity meter and will have to make a return trip to repair it and complete the final calibration. Software/ Hardware update: the maintenance and support agreement was renewed with El Dorado for the next year. Regarding the District mapping: DA is still working on updates. DA attended Annual RWAA Technical Conference 3/5-7 at Laughlin, NV and met several vendors that will be of help to the District. Payson Water Line (Cragin) will be turned on for testing in April. Once Cragin water is turned on our leak warning and detection methods will be very critical until we can add another source for water while CC Cragin is running.

(C) Board discussed appointment of Engineer as identified in ARS 48-913. DA presented proposal from Dave Dirren of Sunrise Engineering for engineer of record for “on call service” on a time and material basis. This would fulfill the statute requirement of ARS 48-913. There was substantial fine print to the proposal that no board member had opportunity to read. RT motioned to table discussion until board had time to review agreement and address this issue at next meeting. JT second motioned, motion passed unanimously.

(D) DA presented (Rural Water Association of AZ) RWAA ServLine Program relating to water loss on customer side of meter. Basically, an insurance program for customers water line side for about \$1.50/month – to cover expense/cost of water leak and repair for customer. This could be a line item on bill, or a voluntary add by customer. DA suggest ServLine come to board meeting to make presentation and be present to answer our questions. After much discussion, it was decided to schedule this presentation for the next meeting after the budgetary meeting.

(E) DA proposed upgrade of line meters and service meters: There was much discussion on benefits of meters that are AMR ready (Automated Meter Reading) and its use has a District tool for early detection of leaks and their location. We currently are losing roughly 30% of our water thru identified and unidentified leaks. RT pointed out we need to justify expense of replacing meters that are AMR ready and we need a good cost analysis showing the benefits of switching to AMR meters. DA noted that to replace customer meter that is AMR ready is additional \$40/meter. We currently have 12 house meters that need replacing. Installing two AMR line meters helps narrow the time to identify the location of leaks. A motion was made to authorize DA to work with Ferguson Waterworks to spend \$1845.11 to receive one free 2" in-line meter, replace the 3" in-line meter at creek crossing and obtain the remote reading capability. 3 ayes and 1 nay. Motion was approved.

(F) Update on procuring a WIFA loan for new well and District meter upgrade projects. DA estimated new meters would cost 50K and new well would be 80K. It would be a possibility that WIFA could cover 50% of this cost. It was decided to postpone application for WIFA loan pending confirmed evaluation of new well. Current evaluation of prospective well is still on hold, pending drier weather to access well for testing. DA expected to have well assessment by April 1. Assuming we have a well worth pursuing, at that point he may be calling a special board meeting to move forward with WIFA loan application. The WIFA loan application is a four-month process.

(G) Water treatment Plant options. This is tied together with discussion on new well and until we determine action on well the water treatment Plant options are on hold. Easement concerns on well were discussed and DA addressed viable options with owner of well.

Call to public: there was no new agenda items from public.

Call to staff and Board Members: RT: RT has taken time to put together numbers for monthly Water Rates in the Payson area and handed out his rate findings. Going into our next meeting with the Budget rate hearing, he wanted Board to have this to measure our rate on a monthly basis and to do what we can to be in the neighborhood what other Company rates are charging. With budget meeting coming up we have information to better prepare and meet that objective. June 8th is proposed next meeting and Board will confirm date.

Brief question by JT to clarify settlement of vote on new Board member. DA will do some investigating and get back to Board via email or phone to make final determination on new Board appointment.

JT made motion to adjourn meeting, JS 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Tanner
Secretary