

Village District of Eastman
Commissioners' Meeting, February 15, 2012
Final Minutes

In Attendance: Commissioner Duncan Wood, Commissioner Robert Fairweather, Commissioner William Sullivan, Deputy Treasurer Ben Conroy, Moderator David Miller, District Manager Bill Weber, Office Manager Amy Lewis and Water Operators Josh Worthen and Neil Perez.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Sullivan at 0802.

Regarding the approval of January's minutes, the Board had no issue with Office Manager Amy Lewis editing the documents initially created by outgoing Clerk Lorie McClory. The minutes were amended as requested; a motion was made and seconded to accept which passed unanimously. The minutes for the February 7 Budget Hearing were amended as requested; a motion was made and seconded to accept which passed unanimously.

Field:

There was concern that the stainless steel pumps specified by Tata & Howard would not be powerful enough to keep up with current demand of the water system. The recommended size is 7.5horsepower, rather than the 10hp desired by the water operators. The pump curves show the system working more efficiently with the 7.5hp pumps. VDE is limited by permit as to how many gallons per minute can be drawn from the wells; there is also concern that a higher-powered pump would overdraw one or more of the wells, which would put undue pressure on the others. Commissioner Wood asked why water could not be pumped during the day to refill the tanks; Operator Perez said that recovery time is slower during the day because of demand. Commissioner Wood stressed that he did not want to see the pumps and/or wells damaged because of overdrawing. Commissioner Fairweather added that the faster water is drawn through the gravel packs the more chance of substance getting caught in the filters, which could cause damage. More efficient pumps equal energy conservation. The operators' concerns were aired as well as the commissioners'; the Board is staying with the recommendations of the engineering firm to install the 7.5hp pumps. Adapting to any change in the system will be a process for all involved. District Manager Weber indicated that he is talking with Tata & Howard regarding the installation of a pressure-relief valve; the system is designed to run without one. If an option for a PRV is created it will be a change-order to the current contract. Commissioner Wood would like the issue looked into, but if it isn't necessary then the VDE would not invest in the change. Commissioner Fairweather asked if the engineers could work on a design incorporating VDE concerns. District Manager Weber will work with the Operators to locate a small leak in the header.

Financial:

The surplus from last fiscal year is approximately \$16,000. A new check valve is needed for the plant, and a static mixer will need to be replaced as well. These items will be completed before the contractor leaves in June.

The Trustees of the Trust Funds postponed their February meeting; the disbursement request for the month will be submitted for next month's meeting.

The number of liens filed on community properties was discussed; the amount filed this year to date is nearly as many as the total number filed for 2010. There have been 5 foreclosures, and the remainder consists of delinquent accounts. Office Manager Lewis explained the steps taken for collection prior to filing the documents with the county. Commissioner Fairweather stated that the District is in pretty good shape considering the economy as it stands now.

Manager's Report:

There were two small fires in the community in January with some damage.

The District is working with LCS Controls to switch the communication software.

SRF:

The project has slowed down due to material availability; the contractor will continue to work in order to keep the project moving. Once the necessary materials arrive things will pick right back up, as everything is expected to be received by the end of next week.

Old Business:

Given the lack of interest at the first budget hearing, there will be no second budget hearing. The annual meeting is scheduled for March 22nd.

Regarding the DES Water Conservation Compliance letter to the VDE, Treasurer David Wright is willing to work with Bill Weber to fulfill compliance. The commissioners will work on a response to the issue with the radio read meters.

Regarding the proposed water shut-off policy drafted by District Manager Weber, Commissioner Wood wanted to know how the District determined if a property had been foreclosed upon. Mr. Weber explained the steps taken by the operators as well as himself; he is in close contact with an attorney's office which is handling a large percentage of the foreclosures within the community, and believes it to be in the District's best interests to handle each issue on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Fairweather agreed. Commissioner Wood acknowledged that the policy as written gives the District authority to do what needs to be done and moved that the policy be accepted as written. Commissioner Fairweather seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous approval.

New Business:

Tata & Howard submitted a change-order for \$6,800 for necessary adjustments. The budget for the SRF project will absorb this. The commissioners approved the change-order.

The notice for the annual meeting is to be posted at South Cove, as well as the VDE, ECA, Grantham Post Office and the Dunbar Library.

Moderator Dave Miller indicated that he will be running again, as well as Commissioner Sullivan. Commissioner Wood reminded all that the District still needs a clerk, and it was recommended that a notice be placed in the ECA highlights put out by Clerk Lorie McClory and to mention a stipend without providing an actual amount.


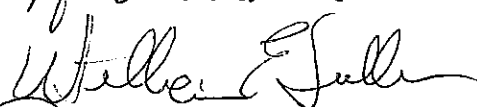
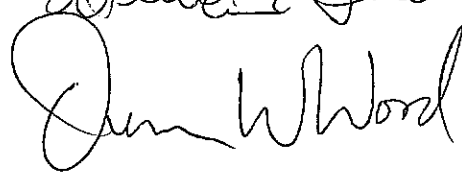
At this time Commissioner Wood made a motion to go into non-public session, which was seconded by Commissioner Fairweather. The motion passed with unanimous approval and the Board entered non-public session at 0906.

The Board returned to public session at 1026, and the motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1028.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Lewis
Office Manager
Village District of Eastman

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