

Monthly Meeting Tuesday April 16th, 2024

Call to order at 7:00 pm

-In attendance: Jacquie Hill, Tally Perry, Rebecca Drennan, Tigran Bailey, Debbie Pennington, Peter Rusinek, Ilaria Morris, Sue Mckenna, Thomas Tullio, John Mlakar, Steve Lacroix

Approval of Previous meeting minutes

- Motion to approve meeting minutes from March 28th passes unanimously.

Board Meeting conduct

- It is brought up by a member of the community that names should not be mentioned at board meetings. Rebecca apologizes on behalf of the board, and expresses that moving forward names are not to be mentioned, only tap numbers.

Prospective Board Members Introduction

- Debbie Pennington expresses interest, and describes past experience on the board, knowledge about water rights, commitment to staying in Somerset.
- Sue McKenna expresses interest, and is a former board member and previous Water treatment operator, Sue also expressed her love for the town of Somerset. Since Sue has applied for the secondary water operator position, Jacquie asks if one interest is stronger than the other, Sue explains that it depends on the needs of the district.
- Tigran informs the board he is moving out of town at the end of May, which will open a second position on the board.
- Chris Young says he has a likely chance of moving out of town as well.
- Thomas Tullio expresses interest to work for the board as contract labor, rather than sitting on the board.
- Steve Lacroix is interested in the position, and says he has experience with water lines and is involved in the community. Jacquie expresses concern with Steve out of town frequently, and Steve says he will be retiring soon and will be in town more often in the future.
- Two current members on the board intend to move, there are three interested and qualified candidates, and three prospective positions to fill. However, we can't nominate all three at once.
- Motion to nominate Debbie Pennington for the open position on the board passes unanimously.

Treasurer Report

- The checking account balance has been trending upwards over the past couple months.
- We will be receiving another invoice from Brown's Hill for moving the radio antenna.
- We are current on all bills.
- There is one tap that has an outstanding balance of over \$7,000. Discussion on whether or not to hire a lawyer to file a lien. It would require a court order, it is decided to discuss in the future.
- The Treasurer 's report passed unanimously.

Operator Report

- The raw tank is low because the river is dirty.
- 177,000 gallons in March. No unusual flow. Lead and Copper tests going out soon, all other tests are scheduled for the first of May. Turbidity is going up and down a lot because the river is dirty, the polymer has needed to be adjusted to bring the turbidity down. The PH is between 8 and 9. There was a surfactant spill, they are not worried since there were kills or macro deaths. Operator report passes unanimously.

Secondary Water Operator & Salary

- Operator costs have increased significantly in the past year, so it has been discussed to change to a salary to be able to stick to a budget. The operator's hours have been back to under forty hours a week. 2-5 hours a day is the appropriate average per day. It is discussed the difference in pay between the primary and secondary water operator. Chuck is available to step in in an emergency. The current operator has been able to take days off throughout the week. It is decided to work on a salary for one operator. Motion to create a subcommittee passes unanimously.

Water Leaks, Park Mowing, and Meter Readings

- John knows who to call for water leaks, but will need to reach board members for approval to pay them. There are meters that need to be fixed, Ilaria is in the office on Wednesdays if John and Thomas come in to grab the tools needed.
- Thomas is hired to do the Water meter readings at \$50 a month.
- Motion to hire a contractor from Hotchkiss to mow the park for \$225 a month passes unanimously.
- The board needs to reach out to Gunnison county to discuss the sprinkler system.
- Public question: is the 2nd tap next to tap 163 relinquished, yes, the previous owner legally combined the taps and it would be incredibly difficult to undo. There are higher priorities.

Meeting Adjourned 8:27pm