

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
January 5, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

PRESENT

Keith Cox
Rick Davis
Gary Harwood
Scott Jensen
Paula Noyes

Jeff Richens
Micha Marrelli
Kendra Seeley

EXCUSED

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Cox asked attendees to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONFLICT WITH AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts with agenda items.

MINUTES

Chairman Cox asked for input or corrections to the minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting. Harwood motioned to accept the minutes as written. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously as follows: AYE: Cox, Davis, Harwood, Jensen, Noyes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD

Harwood reported that at the waste water plant the COVID-19 study is ongoing. Snow removal is ongoing. The lift station sump pump was repaired. The tank drain pumps were serviced.

Noyes reported that the line crew has been removing snow. Staff is cleaning the shop and stripping and waxing the floor. Tools have been sorted and trucks cleaned. Fixed leaks and set meters as necessary.

Jensen reported that the water treatment plant is treating about 1 mgd. Staff cleaned the flock and sediment basins, inspected the piping and everything looked good. The East and West filter channels were pressure washed.

Davis reported that the fleet crew is still waiting on the new vehicles. Unit #8, the 2010 F-250, had minor repairs and is back in service. Unit #23 and #13 had safety recalls and parts have been ordered. The fuel station emergency shut off switch project is completed. The 2021 preventative maintenance books are being updated.

Cox reminded the Trustees and staff that the election of officers and board assignments will be done at the next meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens reported that the SnoTel reports have not been updated since the snow storms, but should be update by next meeting. A customer had an issue with debris in their lines and contacted the Division of Drinking Water. They recommended that the District do additional testing which will take place. A rancher has been hauling water from a fire hydrant for the livestock and the District wants to move away from this practice as it creates problems with hydrants and following State guidelines. This will be brought to a future meeting.

REVIEW OF COVID 19 POLICY

The federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act that allows employees two weeks sick leave if they need to quarantine due to Covid-19 has expired. The current policy was discussed. Until a new policy from the federal government is passed, employees would need to take their own sick leave if they needed to quarantine due to Covid-19. The Board discussed that the health department is mandating them to stay home and some felt the District should take care of the employee by giving them the sick time needed. The policy would need to be extended. Others expressed concern that employees are given sick time for times when they are sick. After all discussions, Harwood motioned to simply extend the current policy to June 30, 2021. Noyes seconded and the motion carried unanimously as follows: AYE: Cox, Harwood, Jensen, Noyes. NAY: Davis.

2021 SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCES

Most of the 2021 conferences have been canceled. The rural water conference will still be held and Staff recommended employees not attend. The Board felt comfortable with that.

PREPAID CONNECTIONS QUESTION

Staff gave a history of the Marsing line and the Board discussed whether the District has taken over the line. Cox discussed that prepaid connections that had been given in the past had a set amount of time that they were good for and that the typical amount of time was no longer than 20 years. The time that these prepaid connections would have potentially been given was much greater than 20 years. The prepaid connections were also constrained to the line that was in question. The Board felt that the time and lack of evidence of the connections would push them towards not giving any reimbursement for prepaid connections. The Board wanted to look at the Bookcliff agreement from the 1980's that might discuss the number of prepaid connections given and how long they were good for.

UPDATE ON LESSAR WATER COMPANY

Richens reported that he contacted the auditor regarding the Lessar Water Company to ask what he has seen other District have done to absorb small water companies. He suggested two alternatives. One was to create a service area for these five connections and charge an assessment against their property. The second was to charge an interest rate that is appropriate while creating individual agreements with each of the connections to upgrade their infrastructure. This would allow any additional connections in this area to participate in paying down the bond. The agreements would be made with each property owner and attached to the property. Staff will prepare the second option and bring it back to the Board as a package in a future meeting.

AUTHORIZATION FOR ACCOUNTING REVIEW PRIOR TO AUDIT

The state auditor is limiting the amount of adjustments an auditor can make or suggest to an entity's budget. The District's auditor has recommended that the District hire an outside company to review the accounting before the audit to ensure that the audit will not have to be suspended. Staff is looking for someone to do this and will need to bring a cost figure back to the Board. Davis motioned to allow Staff to go forward on the authorization for an accounting review. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously as follows: AYE: Cox, Davis, Harwood, Jensen, Noyes.

AUTHORIZATION FOR FORMAL ZIONS BANK PUBLIC FINANCE INQUIRY

The project is on the CIB agenda for this week but CIB Staff has indicated that a loan package will be offered and the interest rates are likely at 2.5%. The Zions Bank package could be a lower interest rate. Staff needs authorization to inquire formally. Harwood motioned to authorize Staff to do an inquiry with Zions Bank. Noyes seconded and the motion carried unanimously as follows: AYE: Cox, Davis, Harwood, Jensen, Noyes.

CLOSED MEETING SESSION

There were no items for a closed meeting session.

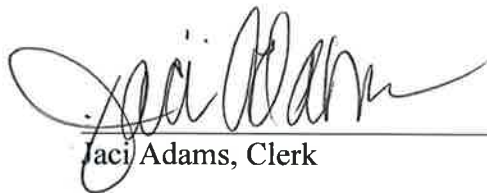
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Seeley, the meeting recorder, will need to be replaced in the near future.

As there was no further unfinished business at 8:14, Harwood motioned to adjourn. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously as follows: AYE: Cox, Davis, Harwood, Jensen, Noyes.



Keith Cox, Chairman



Jaci Adams, Clerk