

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
October 4, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

PRESENT

Keith Cox	Blaine Shipley	Karsten Jennings
Rick Davis	Troy Mastin	Pat Hansen
Scott Jensen	Ross Bryner	Jordan Poole
William Barney Zauss	Jacob Martinez	Chris Matthews
Lenise Peterman	John Singleton	Jordan Pierce
Jeff Richens	John Nielson	Mike Robertson
Micha Marrelli	Bryan Gilson	Tony Mower
Shelly Bird	Zeph Tucker	

EXCUSED

Chairman Cox welcomed everyone to Board Meeting and noted all Board Members as present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts with Agenda Items.

MINUTES

Chairman Cox asked for input to the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting. As there were no corrections or additions, Jensen moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD

Zauss reported a few trucks are still out of service. The Vector is continuing to be worked on. The fence project is going well. Still waiting on supplies for parking paint, garage door and WWTP lawn mower. Normal maintenance and cleaning is continuing.

Jensen reported that lead and copper samples have been sent in and bacterial samples were taken. The maintenance crew set the pressure on the Jensen Control vault as well as installed a bypass. A new 8"-line was installed for Dr. Beecher's new building. A service line was stubbed out for his meter box. End of the month residuals and siphons were checked as well as the air-vac and potentials on the cathodic system. Crews also finished installing a meter in Coal Creek.

Davis reported the plant is running an average of 1.5 million gallons per day due to the rain and cooler weather. Repairs were made to the alum lines which were leaking. The PLC at the sludge building had an issue with the cabinet and card. Crews are still taking harmful algae bloom

samples and it is still showing up as a “non-detect” in the water. Mike Ross from Water Works Engineering and VanCon contractors came and looked at the bearing on the chain and flight project. They will be switching to a different type of grease which will be quite expensive, but the grease they are using is not compatible with the machine. Crews are continuing with safety and operational training.

Peterman reported Covid sampling is ongoing as well as VanCon working daily. The EPA Risk Management Plan inspection was completed. The south secondary sludge pump was repaired. Next year’s budget is being worked on and normal seasonal maintenance is continuing.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Richens reported that Carbon County has taken over all of the building inspections for the cities as well as the county. It was discovered that some of the fees had not been collected. The county will not grant occupancy for these connections until the fees are paid. A sewer flow study is being conducted for Blackhawk Ranch Development to ensure enough capacity for their developments near Kenilworth and Helper City. This year PRWID did not lease any water from the reservoir to the public. PRWID will be staying on reservoir shares until around the end of the year, which will save money. Richens gave a shout out to the fleet department who is doing a great job with the fence project as well as Chris Matthews who was highly complimented by a customer. Richens was notified that the state of Utah ARPA has a southeast Utah reuse program, which entails a project that recycles waste water as a replacement for culinary uses such as landscaping. The application is due by Oct 17. Ideas are needed of how PRWID might be able to use the program. An old backwash blower, which was working at the time, was sent back to Compressor Pump and Service Company to possibly be updated with the purpose of extending the life of the blower. The company took it apart and could not get it back together so they sent it back to PRWID in several pieces. Richens contacted the company and found that they are not able to replace the blower. Jeff will try to negotiate a cost reduction on the purchase of a new blower. The cost will be included on Troy’s new budget.

2023 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Each supervisor presented their projected budget to the board. Questions were asked and situations were discussed. With the exception of the Fleet and the Line Maintenance departments, all of the other departments (Water Treatment, Waste Water Treatment, and Administration) budgets have increased due to rising costs in general. Richens recommends that an additional \$200,000 annually may be needed for O and M, but could be around \$180,000.

ENGINEERING ESTIMATES OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING

Richens shared an email with the Board Members he had received from the engineers regarding an estimate for the building of an East Maintenance building. The estimate seems to include a lot of “fluff” that is really not necessary. A \$300,000 contingency feels like it may be too high. Discussion was held regarding the estimate, financing, best procedure and time frame needed to complete the building. Richens suggested they go back to companies that provide “Pre-Engineered” building and have crews to build them. Direction was given from the Board to move forward with seeking a pre-engineered building estimate. This will need to come before the Board again for approval.

WATER WORKS ENGINEERS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INVOICE

Richens requested an invoice from Water Works Engineering. The balance due is \$52,666.25. Even though the bill will be paid in full, Water Works will continue to be the engineers and do the construction management until the end of the project. Davis moved to approve \$52,666.25 to be paid to Water Works Engineering. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF INCREASED REVENUE PLAN

Richens researched the requirements for increasing property taxes and verified the District can go up to .0008. Because the district is on a calendar year budget, the tax increase would not affect the budget until November 2024. Also the tax division will need to be contacted in order to increase taxes. Jeff will work with the county clerk to set a date for a public hearing. Richens proposed the Board consider an increase of .0008. He estimated that between the proposed changes in wages and benefits, the increases in O and M costs, and the short fall from the past year, around \$610,000 will be needed to cover these expenses. He suggested increasing the rates over a few years' period of time as to not make it a difficult transition for customers. Discussion was held regarding the specific amounts that the different areas of revenue would be increased and how wages will be affected. Micha presented a new wage proposal to the Board which helped show how the wages and the revenue increases should balance out. The Board's discussion regarding the increases favored an increase water rate of \$1.00 for wholesale and \$2.00 for retail at the beginning of the year with the same increase for water rates the next year. An increased sewer rate of \$1.50 for wholesale and \$2.50 for retail at the beginning of the year with the same increase for sewer rates the next year. A public hearing will need to be held next year to increase the taxes to .0008. Richens proposed to the Board to have a public hearing on November 15, 2002 to receive public input regarding these fees and it was agreed to by the board. No motion needed at this time.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL FOR WAGE SCALE MODIFICATION

Chairman Cox reminded all present that the discussion for wage increase has already been completed and would like to move right to the motion. Peterman moved to increase wages by \$3.50 per hour for each employee and increase the starting wage to \$17.20. These increases will begin with November pay period. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, Peterman

Richens asked for clarification regarding steps in wages that would normally take place in January. The \$3.50 will include the upcoming step expected in January. Kim will be the only one affected as she is still on probation. The Board directed to continue to give Kim her \$0.55 raise when she is off her 6 month probation.

CLOSED SESSION

There were no items for a closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items for unfinished business.

At 9:12 p.m., Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.



Keith Cox, Chairman



Kim Wood, Clerk