

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

November 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

PRESENT

Keith Cox	Jeff Richens	Shane Weybright	Kendra Seeley
Rick Davis	Micha Marelli	Zena Robinson	Roger Kerstetter
Scott Jensen	Kim Wood	Ken Snook	Joe Colosimo
Barney Zauss	Laurie Bowman	Lynna Topolovec	Chris Vernon
Lenise Peterman	David Jelin	Tom Matthews	Tuffy Howard
Jaylene Mahleres	Leslie Howard	Bob Teny	Oran Stainbrook

EXCUSED

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Davis led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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 November 7, 2023 Board Meeting. One correction was noted to on the bottom of the first page. With that correction, Jensen moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2023 meeting. Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD

Zauss reported the WTP is running 1.5 million gallons a day. Crews are doing 16 hours shifts and 8 hours on Saturday and Sunday. Price City has increased the amount of water they are giving us from 400 to 600 gallons per minute. There is some trouble with beavers at the diversion structure so crews have been working hard to clear debris. There have been problems with some fixtures in the restroom so lines were flushed. Troy has been looking through job applications for their open position. A second round of pesticide samples were taken and the next sampling will be in three years. Crews flushed the area in front of the diversion to make a deep channel next to the intake gates and two of the flush gates were adjusted to get a better seal.

Jensen reported crews installed a new meter box on Haycock lane as the old one was leaking and repaired or replaced a couple of AY-McDonald boxes. They completed the 6-inch water line at the WTP, worked on some asphalt patches, fixed a leak in Frank Saccomanno's field and set the PRV's at the north hospital vault. They also helped Chris with shut offs and raised three meters for Bob Torgerson. Crews also pumped out the sump in the shop and did bacteria samples and residuals.

Peterman reported staff continued to sample for the Covid-19 study. They are transferring water from the west to the east sludge basin, conducting tests on phosphorous removal with the plant

upgrade, continue to work with Vancon to get the concrete replaced in the primary clarifiers, sample for the quarterly whole effluent toxicity test, and restarted the south primary clarifier by transferring the flow from the north to south clarifier and cleaned out the north primary clarifier. Crews started using the spectrophotometer and training on its usage with the employees. They have winterized equipment around the plant and collected 468 lab test samples over the last two weeks for process control and for the state discharge monitoring report.

Davis reported Unit #16, 2011 Ford F250 had a leak at the water pump so the water pump was replaced and it is back in service. Unit #5, 2005 F250 is being prepared for surplus sale. Bid minimum and reserve amount were set at \$3,500 and 4,000. The bid opening will begin November 20, 2023 and end December 18, 2023. Unit #22, 2013 Chevrolet's tires were below the Utah state legal limit of depth of 2/32, so they replaced the tires, dismounted, and mounted tires, balanced, resurfaced the rotors because of pulsating brakes, checked the suspension, and steering. The steering idler arm and pitman arm were worn. Parts were ordered and have been replaced. Unit #18 is back in service. Unit #6 2004, F250 received four new tires, balanced, and engine oil service. They also found a leaking water pump which was replaced and will be back in use tomorrow. The Yanmar tractor parts came in and they will try to get the engine installed this week. Crews also completely serviced the WTP backhoe by dismounting and mounting the new front tire due to the condition, oil services, repaired exhaust stack, replaced a broken door, window latch, replaced door charged cylinder struts, and greased fittings. Backhoe is back in service. Continued servicing grounds in preparation for winter along with draining and winterizing the evaporative coolers on the building.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens passed a form for the Christmas lunch to the board members for December 12th at the Cowboy Kitchen for meal choices. The RC Solar financial form was presented to give the board some information before RC Solar comes before the board. All government entities are required to change emails and websites to ".gov" for governmental business before January 1, 2025. Employees and Board Members are required to inform their email contacts of this change and any future emails that are received conducting District business are then to remind the sender of the change. Department heads have been advised to try to complete all their 2023 purchasing by the first week of December to try to finish the year on time.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF VARIANCE TO WATER SHARE REQUIREMENT- Mark Morley

Mark Morley wants to put off until a later date. Item was skipped.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT FLAME ARRESTOR AT WWTP

WWTP is requesting to purchase a replacement flame arrestor for \$2,825.00 from Shand & Jurs as the manufacture with L&J as the representative. It has been in service for the last 5 years. The company recommends replacement every other year. Peterman moved to approve the purchase of a replacement flame arrestor for \$2,825.00. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT CHLORINE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE VACUUM REGULATORS

WWTP needs to replace the Chlorine and Sulfur Dioxide regulators. Two options were given. Blaine would like to purchase the Wallace & Tiernan equipment for \$10,908.16. Peterman moved to approve the purchase of replacement chlorine and sulfur dioxide vacuum regulators for \$10,908.16. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

APPROVE PAYMENT APPLICATION #19 TO VANCON FOR CONCRETE WORK IN PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL PROJECT AT THE WWTP

Request to pay application #19 from VanCon for ½ of the concrete work completed at the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$89,273.36. Jensen moved to approve pay application #19 from Vancon for \$89,273.36. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2024- 8:00 p.m.

Davis moved to open the public hearing to receive public input regarding the proposed property tax adjustment for tax year 2024 at 8.01 p.m. Second by Jensen and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman. Chairman Cox began by thanking those in attendance and outlining instructions and guidelines for the public hearing. The majority of the attendees were concerned about the proposed rate increase of 53.7%. Chair Cox reassured the public that no rate has been set and that the purpose of this public hearing is listen to the comments from the public. The first item was an explanation of what the needs are and how the additional revenues will be used.

Laurie Bowman from Price stated that his property value has increased 37 times since he purchased his home. Bowman then expressed concern on the date and time of this public hearing.

Tom Matthews from Spring Glen questioned what the property tax increase will go toward. Richens explained the last tax adjustment was 19 years ago, that the previous tax rate has declined over the years and revenues have stayed flat as increases come from growth. Carbon County has had no growth but has had shrinkage. He explained the revenues from the increase will go toward funding the Administration Department's increasing costs. Costs for the district have increased over the past 19 years, so the District has drawn funds from its reserves for the past few years and have been advised by their auditors of the need to increase revenue.

David Jelin recommends adding an administration fee per connection per month and also having the cities charge their customers administration fees per connection also.

Shane Weybright from Desert Thunder Race Way in Price expresses concern about a rate increase and how much he will be affected by the rate increase.

Zena Robinson stated that she is not in favor of the rate increase because she is retired and lives on a fixed income.

Ken Snook from Spring Glen explained that he was a 37-year employee for PRWID, and how important it is to have this for quality. He supports the increase because he knows what is needed to run the district.

Lynna Topolovec from Spring Glen is concerned about the rate increase because everyone is on a fixed income.

Tom Matthews asks for clarification on bonds and loan, he requests that the board not set the highest rate of increase and not to approve the 53.7% that is suggested.

Kendra Seeley asked about the funding of the District and if those funds are or can be intermingled.

Roger Kersterter from Wellington wants fairness and states that he is opposed to the rate increase.

Joe Colosimo from Price requested to be taxed on per connection and not on the value of his home. He has concerns that the unincorporated not be the only ones included. Richens explained that everyone in the District's boundaries, which includes Helper, Price, and Wellington Cities, will be included in the tax increase.

Chris Vernon from Price is opposed and concerned about when the market drops. He recommends a flat rate. He feels that he is being double taxed because he has a business adjacent to his home.

Shane Weybright thanked the board for listening. He stated he understands that this is a tough decision on both sides.

David Jelin stated that he wants a flat fee for each meter he has for administrative fees. He has two meters on his property and he is willing to pay two flat fees. He doesn't think its fair to go on property values. Richens explains that the Cities would not be charged and there are homes that haul water to their property and have septic tanks. So this option would not be fair either.

Tuffy Howard requested bond pay off timing for the Carbonville/Wellington bond. Richens stated that the outstanding bond payments have been assessed and the District is hoping to have the bond paid off a year and a half early. There will be a payment March/April and the hope is to pay off spring of 2025. So the bond should be paid off in the next year in a half.

Jaylene Mahleres has a farm in Price and suggests a fair amount of increase and knows that an increase is needed. She requests that the board listen to the people.

Leslie Howard from Carbonville is retired and won't be able to work for a while. Her husband is wanting to retire. She expresses concern about the increase because she is on a fixed budget.

Bob Teny lives on Covecrest Street in Price and requests that the board to be fair when they are setting the rate increase. He said everyone is cutting back and he asks that PRWID watch what they spend and cut back too.

Lynna Topolovec asks what is in the administration costs. Richens explains that 5 ½ employees, building and 3 vehicles. The district shares the ½ of a person with another department. Budget for 2023 is on the District website.

Oran Stainbrook from Kenilworth supports an increase and express to all that have attended the public meeting to help your neighbors and show some pride in our community.

Attendees gave many different ideas to try to avoid a property tax increase during the open public hearing.

After all comments were heard, Davis moved to close the public hearing at 9:24 p.m. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

SET DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR 2024

Board members talked together about different options suggested by the public and ways to avoid this level of a property tax increase at the full rate of 53.7%. The discussion also centered around different tax rate amounts and the expected amount of revenue each tax rate would bring in. After exploring all options, the board settled on a rate of .000662 resulting in \$253,000 in revenues. Zauss moved to set the property tax rate for 2024 to .000662 resulting in \$253,000 in increased revenues. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

CLOSED SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to go into a Closed Meeting session. Zauss moved to enter a closed session for a discussion of personnel matters. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman. The recorder was shut off at 7:35 p.m.

At 7:54 p.m. Zauss motion to come out of closed session. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE FILLING POSITION FOR LINE MAINTENACE

Zauss moved to table this item until the next meeting. Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. Jensen seconded the non-debatable motion.



Keith Cox, Chairman



Kim Wood, Clerk