

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

November 7, 2023

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

PRESENT

Keith Cox

Rick Davis

Scott Jensen

Barney Zauss

Lenise Peterman

Jeff Richens

Micha Marelli

Kim Wood

EXCUSED

Chairman Cox welcomed everyone to Board Meeting noting that all Board Members are 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 any Agenda Items.

MINUTES

Chairman Cox asked for input to the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Board Meeting. One spelling correction was noted in unfinished business on covered manholes. Jensen moved to approve the minutes from the October 17, 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 mgd and receiving 400 gallons per minute from Price. The WTP is just running a day shift and afternoon shift through the week and a 12-hour shift on Saturdays and Sundays. The graveyard shift has been cut for the weekends and weekdays. Staff took some filter core samples and checked the depths of the filter media. Then sent pictures to the Division of Drinking Water. They removed our deficiency for the inspection. We are continuing to take PFAS samples.

Jensen reported the line crew was called out on a couple of leaks. One was on Old Wellington Rd. and the second was an AY McDonald meter in Spring Glen. They also fixed a leak on Stake Farm Rd., worked on a water fire flow line at the WTP, helped Chris read meters, fixed a leaking service line on Coal Creek Rd., completed asphalt patches on Old Wellington Rd and Spring Glen, repaired a leaking air-vac on Gordon Creek Rd., helped mechanics wash the backhoes, cleanup leaves, wash trailer repairs and mow lawns. John Jaramillo has been in the CDL class for three weeks. He should complete his CDL test the end of November. Crews also replaced a leaky meter box at Bob Torgerson's and Brad McCourt's, winterized the tank base control vaults,

fixed a leaky saddle on Old Wellington Rd., capped a meter on Stake Farm Rd., then rebuilt AY McDonald replacement meters. They completed all the sampling for the month, fixed an outlet at the Four Mile tank drain, then cleaned and video inspected the sewer line in Lyle Jones' field.

Peterman reported staff at the WWTP continued Covid-19 sampling, finished removing sludge from the facultative sludge basin, repaired the north secondary clarifier skimmer and chlorine lines, repaired the digester overflow pump, and cleaned out debris from overflow basin. Staff is conducting tests on the phosphorous removal plant upgrade and is working with VanCon to get the concrete replaced in the primary clarifiers. Riley is currently in the CDL class at the office and helping the fleet department haul backhoes and rock. Staff winterized the plant irrigation system and collected 342 lab samples over the last three weeks for process control and for the state discharge monitoring report.

Davis reported #16 2011 F-250 has a leak and is out of service, #5 2005 F-250 is still out of service, #22 2013 Chevrolet 3500 has problems with a light and its tires are below the legal limit. The Yanmar tractor is still waiting on two parts which are on back order and could still be another month. The new tire machine has been received and installed. Backhoes were sent to Spanish Fork on the 30th and the 31st and we received the 2024 backhoes. Operators that are in the CDL training were able to use the exchange of the backhoes for their driver training. Both employees are now certified and have completed the ELDT training. The CDL skills test will be November 30th and December 7th. There are no updates on the new 2024 truck.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens reported that RC Solar/Graphite Solar wants to put in another solar field. Only about 35% of the property in this project is privately owned, but the district could possibly see some tax increment for the solar panel structure. No tax increment would come from state or federal land. More information to come. Packets were given to Cox, Zauss and Jensen for the upcoming UASD conference.

APPROVE REQUEST TO RETURN IMPACT FEES, METER FEE, AND WATER SHARE FOR DENNIS PAWELEK

Dennis Pawelek has requested his impact fees, meter fee, and water share be returned to him because he cannot buy the property he was proposing to build on. The total amount of all fees is \$6,050 and one water share. Jensen moved to return Dennis Pawelek his impact fees, meter fee and one water share in the amount of \$6,050 and one water share. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss and Peterman.

RECEIVE UTAH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TRUST TARP SAFETY REBATE

The District received a check from the Utah Local Governments Trust in the amount of \$2,139 that needs to be accepted into the budget as a safety rebate for completing safety standards. Zauss moved to approve accepting the TARP Safety Rebate in the amount of \$2,139 into the budget. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

RATIFY CARBON CANAL WATERLINE RELOCATION AGREEMENT

The Waterline Relocation and Restoration Agreement by Carbon Canal was presented. Davis moved to approve the agreement with Carbon Canal for the relocation and restoration of the

4-inch waterline. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

ACCEPT CARBON COUNTY RIDGE ROAD SEWERLINE FACILITY DEED

All testing and inspections have been completed for the District to accept the facility deed and start maintaining the sewer line. Richens recommending this be accepted. Zauss moved to accept this sewer facility deed from Carbon County. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

ACCEPT SEUALG WATERLINE FACILITY DEED

The SEUALG new facility had a small section of main waterline they needed to install so they could tap the line. We require this deed so we can maintain the line. Richens recommended the District accept this waterline facility deed. Zauss moved to accept the SEUALG waterline facility deed. Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

APPROVE PARTIAL PAY REQUEST FOR WATERWORKS ENGINEERS

This item is for the engineering work on the new concrete at the WWTP. The contractor has first basin mostly completed, then crews will be switching from one clarifier to the other. The partial payment is the work the engineers have done in the amount of \$11,547.50. Peterman moved to approve this payment to Waterworks in the amount of \$11,547.50. Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

APPROVE ENGINE PURCHASE OR SURPLUS OF UNIT #5

The 2005 Ford F-250, with 178,000 miles on it either needs the engine replaced or deemed surplus and sold. The cost of the engine would be between \$5,000 - \$9,000 or a replacement could be budgeted for in 2024. Fleet recommendation would be the second option of surplus. Zauss moved to approve to surplus unit #5 and budget its replacement in the 2024 budget. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

PERMISSION TO CLOSE BUSINESS OFFICE NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Office staff is requesting to close the business office November 24, 2024 and staff would use a vacation day to extend the Thanksgiving holiday. Jensen moved to approve the closure of the business office on November 24, 2024. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

APPROVE DISTRICT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Richens requested the Board to approve the District Christmas luncheon and invited board members to attend. Zauss moved to approve the District Christmas lunch on December 12, 2023 at noon at the Cowboy Club. Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman.

APPROVE ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SAFETY AWARDS

All employees are part of a safety team, with one team that had an accident in this year. Each team will get \$120 and that one team will receive \$110 due to the injury. This program has

greatly reduced the number of employee accidents. Jensen moved to approve the annual employee safety awards. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman

APPROVE THE ANNUAL EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BENEFIT

The employee Christmas benefit was set some years ago by the Board at \$100. Richens wants to get the benefit to the employees before the Thanksgiving holiday. Davis moved to approve the annual employee Christmas benefit of \$100. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Zauss, and Peterman

REVIEW PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET PROGRESS

The administration revenues show an increase from last year because the valuations that are coming from the Assessor's office are higher. There are small adjustments to the previous year but we will need to pull some from the reserves to balance the budget. Liability, auto insurance, and property insurance are not available yet. Water revenues from Spring Glen and Carbonville are specifically to pay the loans for those water projects. Staff hopes that the Carbonville loan can be paid a year and a half early from new growth and interest. Water service fees are down \$58,806.42 from last year because of the amount snow and rain that the area received, so customers did not need to use as much water. Sewer services were up from the rate increase. Capital projects include funding the East Maintenance Building from reserves, and depreciation is again throwing the budget out of balance. Line maintenance is pretty much in balance. Fleet is putting more in equipment maintenance for the possibility of the purchase of the mini excavator, and Fleet depreciation has gone down. Sewer revenues are a little less than previous year, so were not sure how we will finish for the end of the year. Operations and maintenance funds, utility's, equipment maintenance and chemicals are up a little bit. Richens is requesting that the wage scale include a \$0.30 wage increase. Medical insurance is up six in half percent, vision increase is zero, life insurance is zero; while dental, accidental death and dismemberment, and dependent life is only increasing \$134 per month for the whole district.

REVIEW PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

- A. It was advised by the Utah Tax Commission that this item specifically identify the Board intent to increase the property tax rate. The board members all agreed that some increase would be needed after the public hearing.
- B. Amount of Increase- The current tax rate of 0.000514 with an increase to 0.00079 will result in \$472,000 additional dollars, an increase to 0.000652 will result in \$236,000 additional dollars, an increase to 0.000583 will result in \$118,000 the additional dollars, and an increase to 0.000721 will result in \$354,000 additional dollars. These are all estimates due to the property tax assessment. The district would need to increase its revenue by \$200,000 to break even and start to replenish reserves from previous years' past withdrawals. Richens provided a sheet that showed other entities and their proposed increases.
- C. Purposes of Increase- The last property tax increase was 19 years ago, and costs have increased for all departments. Where the administration department is funded by property taxes and not water or sewer revenues, the administration department has drawn down its reserves for the past several years. The District's auditors have recognized the need and have advised the District to increase its tax revenues. The

District has avoided using fees from the water and /or sewer rates to fund administration but it could if the Board directs.

D. Approximate Percentage of Increase- the approximate average rate increase is 53.70%.

CLOSED SESSION

There were no items for a closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Peterman stated that last week they submitted another water infrastructure grant for \$2.5 million to the Bureau of Reclamation. Results will come at a later date.

Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Zauss seconded the non-debatable motion.



Keith Cox, Chairman



Kim Wood, Clerk