

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
December 19, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

PRESENT

Keith Cox	Jeff Richens	John Singleton	Riley Christensen
Rick Davis	Micha Marelli	Karsten Jennings	Tony Mower
Scott Jensen	Beau Fausett	Brian Berggren	Ross Bryner
Barney Zauss	Jacob Martinez	Mike Robertson	Pat Hansen
Lenise Peterman	Troy Mastin	Jake Gray	Bryan Gilson
John Neilsen			

EXCUSED

Chairman Cox welcomed everyone to Board Meeting noting 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 December 5, 2023 Board Meeting. Zauss moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting. Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD

Zauss reported that the WTP is running 1.5 million gallons a day. Crews are still running 8-hour day shifts on Saturday. Price is giving 600 gallons per minute to the District. The clarity and low temperature of the river are causing some issues. Crews changed a couple of solenoids in the chlorinators. Johnson Heating and Air has been repairing the vents on top of the pretreatment building and putting some barriers to keep the snow from damaging the vents. Linde's excessive delivery charges are being worked on.

Jensen reported that the line crew was called out on a problem with the airport pump house with the power. They fixed a main line leak by Snake Pit blow off, set two one-inch meters, had a manhole lid come off on Hwy 6 so they put a locking lid on it for now and will be doing some more work on it. They helped Chris read meters, took middle of the month samples and residuals. They are also working on the hydrant and valves books and test centers. They completed repairs on Delmar Nielsen's service line and have been doing inventory.

Peterman reported that the WWTP crews continue to sample for the state COVID 19 study. They built a primary bypass to bring raw influent into the fermentation zone, they are conducting

tests on phosphorus removal upgrade and built a chemical transfer system in the chemical room. They refurbished the north primary clarifier skimmer and replaced three slide gates. Riley passed his CDL driving test. They have collected and performed 246 lab test and samples over the past two weeks.

Davis reported Unit #4, the 2007 Dodge Ram 2500, HVAC door actuator is done. The fleet department found the exhaust manifold was leaking and the manifold was broken. They installed the new parts and a gasket and the truck is back in service. Unit #5, 2005 F250, was surplus has been sold to someone in Ogden for \$4,150 and will be picked up today. Unit #11, 2003 Chevrolet 2500, had the instrumentation cluster going dark. This was replaced with a new part and the truck is back in service. The Yanmar tractor engine has been installed, all the fluids have been changed and it is at the WWTP. The Kenworth vactor that would not go from road to work mode is back in service. One employee is working on their skills test for their CDL, crews are working on the annual inventory, and there is still no date for the new truck.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens presented a SnoTel report showing that precipitation through December 1, 2023 is well below normal. The forms have been sent to the County and State Tax Commission and accepted for the tax increase for next year. He participated in a podcast today with Oran Stainbrook from Kenilworth. He is interested in all things Carbon County and wanted to know about PRWID, the water and sewer systems, and to ask questions about the tax increase. He is doing ten interviews in the county for his podcast. Staff wants to modify a couple of policies about driver's license and CDLs which will align the policy with current practices. This will come before the board in the January 2, 2023 meeting along with a policy on computer use and cybersecurity which was developed with the Utah Cyber Center and CISA which was presented to the board to review.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVED INPUT REGARDING THE OPENING AND ADJUSTMENT TO THE 2023 BUDGET AND TO DISCUSS THE 2024 BUDGET

Jensen moved to open the public hearing at 7:19. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Aye: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

Chairman Cox began by asking if anyone present had questions about the 2023 budget. Then asked Marelli to explain the financials dated November 30, 2023 and walk the board through the adjustments needed for 2023. In December, the District received \$790,471 in property tax from the county bringing the District revenues almost to the amount that was budgeted. The Administration department will be \$80,940 in the positive after funds are recorded but still needs to transfer \$60,000 to Fleet. The Water department revenue in December should be much the same as received in November. The water budget will draw \$180,000 from the water PTF to adjust their budget. The Line Maintenance department budget balances to zero. The Fleet department budget will balance to zero after the transfer from Administration. The estimated revenue for the Sewer department for December should be the same as November. Reserve fund from the sewer PTF will be used in the amount of \$127,260 to cover that expected shortfall. Chairman Cox asked for any additional comments for the 2023 budget. As there were no comments or questions from the Board the public, Cox asked Marrelli to present the details of the 2024 budget. This proposed budget is the same as what the Board received in November. Staff has received the final costs from Utah Local Government Trust and these amounts are accurate. Marrelli then stated that the employees

here are concerned about the wages and salaries in the 2024 budget. Chairman Cox's asked the public if anyone has any concerns or comments.

Tony Mower, Fleet Supervisor, first approached the board with concerns about the cost of living. Social Security has received an increase of 3.2% and he feels the \$0.30/hour increase that is proposed is not adequate. He estimates that the average wage of the District multiplied by 3.2% is closer to \$0.80/hour. He expressed concern about the newer guys and that you don't know how long they might be here. Mower is concerned with having to rehire and rehire. Also, older employees' wives are not able to work, so they are feeling the increase in cost of living.

Beau Fausett has spoken with his guys and their discussion was about reevaluating the wage scale so that we do not fall behind in wages resulting in a large adjustment like last fall.

Chairman Cox expressed appreciation to the employees for attending, supporting and giving input in the meetings.

Peterman asked for the process on the 2024 budget. Richens stated that any changes need to be made tonight at this public hearing, and he is not sure that there is enough information to make those changes tonight. Davis asked about opening a midyear budget adjustment. He does not think that we should wait a year to look at this problem. Richens said the Board can do anything they want with the budget and can make changes later in the year. Jensen asked if we could put more money into the wage budget tonight or if they could make the change anytime they want. Marrelli stated that the board has had the budget for three months. Chairman Cox said he would like to get more information and move on it in the next couple of meetings.

Pat Hansen said that the board was supposed to review the wage scale when the raises were talked about the first time. This should have been on the agenda a long time ago. He stated that Peterman had previously said that this needed to be brought up so that we do not fall behind again, but it was just brought up tonight.

Fausett wanted to clarify that the board is talking about approving \$0.30/hour plus the step be approved tonight, and then give the board more time to review the wage increase.

Chairman Cox explains that the \$0.30/hour plus the step is already in the budget and will be approved tonight. He stated that he is just not comfortable approving any other number until some information can be reviewed and then a motion can be approved. This could take a month from now, but any changes can be added on when the board decides.

Mower stated that it's important that the board does its due diligence and look into it and that is what the employees are requesting.

Jake Gray questioned the 2023 budget that in January no one received any step. So, this year some people will not get any step. He expressed concern that because of the wage increase last fall and no steps being given at that time, that now steps have been missed.

Richens explained that the raise was given earlier in the year and everyone agreed that when January came nothing would change until the next January it would go back to exactly where we were.

Gray asked about if you were on your second year of three you would not receive your step, but you would receive it this year. Gray says that does not seem fair. The \$3.00 was to be a "catch up" to get the scale where it was supposed to be, not throw a year out. So essentially you lost a year, or you say you gave everyone a step and a \$2.00 raise and \$1.00 as a step. Everyone is moving on the scale different and so has fouled up the scale.

Chairman Cox said that the board should look it all over in a future meeting. He said that if it is a concern, they would like to hear it so that they can reflect and show the appreciation to the employees.

Hansen said that the last time the review was mention and that we would talk about it, yet here we are on the last meeting of the year talking about wages.

Peterman talked about what Gray was referencing and, how when the raises happened last year, they were not looking at what the unintended consequence were. She agrees with Cox about getting the information to decide.

Davis stated that he agrees that the wage scale needs to be looked at with Gray's concern.

Zauss requested to get information and suggested that Hansen watch the agendas and make sure to show up to make sure the meeting for this discussion happens.

Peterman would like to see the scale and know where everyone is at person-by-person to know if we missed something.

Cox stated he remembers that everything was rolled up into the same on the raise given last year.

Gray said one of the issues that effected an employee at the plant that missed three raises was because he did not pass the certification test. He said that there are issues with it, but it is not perfect.

Davis moved to close the public hearing at 7:56. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Aye: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

OPEN AND MODIFY THE 2023 BUDGET

The Board needs to take formal action to open and modify the 2023 budget according to the discussion. Zauss moved to open and approve the changes that need to be made for the 2023 budget. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

ADOPT THE 2024 BUDGET

The Board needs to adopt, or modify and adopt the proposed 2024 budget. Peterman moved to adopt the 2024 budget as proposed. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss. Chairman Cox gave Richens direction to look at the employee wage schedule and report back to the board regarding employee compensation in wages and benefits.

APPROVE PAYMENT APPLICATION #20 TO VANCON FOR WWTP PROJECT

Pay Request #20 from Vancon, the second 50% of the concrete work in the amount of \$88,875.00 was received. Davis moved to approve payment to Vancon in the amount for \$88,875.00. Peterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE 4-PLEX PLAN IN SPRING GLEN

Mark Morley is proposing now to build two 4-plex structures and sell them as individual condominiums. They will be 2 bed/1.5 bath units. There is already a water meter and sewer connection there and he would like to supply all four units with that meter and have them share the sewer connection. Staff is requesting to discuss this item, receive board input, and then approve. Zauss moved to approve the 4-plex plan in Spring Glen, utilizing the existing water and sewer connections. Jensen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

APPROVE FOUR EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND THE RWAU CONFERENCE

Staff is requesting to send four employees to the Rural Water Association of Utah conference in St. George on February 27- March 1, 2024. Those proposed to attend are Ross Bryner, Beau Fausett, Troy Mastin and Brent Richardson at a cost of \$360 each plus motel and per diem. Jensen moved to approve four employees to attend the RWAU conference in St George February 27- March 1, 2024. Zauss seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Cox, Davis, Jensen, Peterman and Zauss.

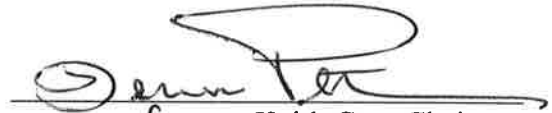
CLOSED SESSION

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Cox will be out of town beginning December 27, 2023 and will not be back for 14 days. Davis will Chair in Cox's absence. In the case that a new person is appointed to represent Price City, then the three board members attending will decide who would serve as the Chair pro tem.

Zauss moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Jensen seconded the non-debatable motion.


for Keith Cox, Chairman


Kim Wood, Clerk