

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
November 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

PRESENT

Keith Cox	Jeff Richens	Larry Jensen
Scott Jensen	Micha Marelli	Zeph Tucker
Ed Chavez	Kim Wood	Beau Fausett
Rick Davis	John Houston	John Nielsen
Barney Zauss	Bobby Houston	

EXCUSED

Chairman Cox welcomed all in attendance to the meeting noting 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 Agenda Items.

MINUTES

The Chairman asked for input to the minutes of the October 1, 2024 board meeting. Chavez moved to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2024 meeting as written. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen, and Zauss.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD

Chavez reported that the line maintenance crew helped dig and install the 2-inch service line for the new building along with the 6-inch line. They helped with asphalt patching, located a sewer lateral for Kevin Callahan, cleaned a line at the WWTP, marked all incoming Blue Stakes, took end-of-the-month Bact-T, THM, and HAA samples, and took end of the month residuals. They backfilled McCourt main line leak, fixed a leak at Paletta's, fixed a meter box on HWY 6 east of Wellington, set a new meter for the Amazon Center, replaced a leaking AY-McDonald box in Spring Glen, and set a meter box for Morley. Staff also worked with Sunrise Engineering to make sure our lead service inventory was sent to the Division of Drinking Water.

Davis reported the plant is running 1 to 1.5 million gallon a day. They have stopped the graveyard shifts and reduced the weekend shifts to two 8 hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. They are receiving 600 gallons a day from Price City, all fire extinguishers have been inspected, and winterization projects are finished. They are having problems with the back-wash flow. The air rate flow valve has stopped working. LimiTorque is trying to help fix the motor and bad wiring.

They are still having PLC problems with the valves in filters 3 and 4, but they are still able to backwash manually. They have called an electrician to work on the sand trap screen.

Zauss reported that sampling for COVID and refining the effluent phosphorous process is ongoing. Crews finished cleaning the west sludge basin and have moved the bio-solids to the farm fields. They have cleaned and repaired the methane gas flare and are pumping the water from the east sludge basin to the hay field. They collected 357 samples in the last three weeks.

Jensen reported that Unit #8 was having a hard time starting. The mechanics found it had a bad fuel pump, replaced it, and it is back in service. They finished rebuilding the 16-foot Big Tex trailer and it is back in service. The WWTP Polaris Ranger had a misfire on cylinder 1 and is out of service. The large Kobelco Trackhoe is leaking hydraulic fluid and is out of service. They are working on the International Dump truck, servicing, and repairing its break light switch. The Main Office fuel pump #2 quit pumping, so they will need to call an electrician to diagnose the issue so it is out of service. They have winterized the swamp coolers, HVAC, sprinkler system, and the dump station. They are still working with RMP to move the anchor cable that is in the way, but the fencing barbwire and chain link is finished except for a few minor items. Unit #6, the 2004 Ford sold for \$3,450 and the owners have pickup it up. Braxton and Hunter have passed the written test for their CDL training and they are now working on their driving. The backhoe trade out is scheduled for December 2nd.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The backhoe renewal contract is a month late, so staff signed a contract for 1 extra month. The Workers Compensation, Liability, and Vehicle insurance reports were reviewed with the Board. There have been 2 small claims for Workers Compensation, no vehicle claims, and no liability claims for 2024 so far. The river commissioner reports that Scofield Reservoir is 6.5 feet below spillway and is storing. The remaining available water shares in acre feet as of November 1, 2024 shows PRWID has 688-acre feet, but that the irrigation companies have almost 10,000 in aggregate. The fire suppression company wants an approval signature for payment requests, so Richens is asking if the Board would like him to sign it or have Ross sign it. Chavez suggested Ross sign to have two reviews of the submittals. Richens reminded the Board that the UASD conference starts November 6th at 1pm. Per diem checks were given to the Board members.

REVIEW AND APPROVE TAX INCREMENT FINANCE PROPOSAL FOR I.E.

Intermountain Electronics is requesting a two-year extension on the Intermountain Industrial Plan because they could not get all the proposed properties into the plan as they did not own all of the properties. Richens explained that the District's legal counsel is requesting certain items be included in this agreement as the two-year extension agreement isn't clear whether this is a replacement to the original. Property parcels from the original agreement should be attached as well as the financial impacts and expectations that were requested several week ago. Nothing has come back from the financial officer at Intermountain Electronics or from Stuart Clason. Richens suggested we include the language that our attorney has suggested into the agreement and approve the agreement at the next meeting in two weeks. Bobby Houston requested that the language be forwarded to him so they can get the correct information into the agreement. Chavez moved to table the approval of the tax increment finance proposal for Intermountain Electronics. Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

APPROVE CHANGE OF EMPLOYEE STATUS FROM PROBATION TO PERMANENT

Hunter Sherman has completed his probationary period and Beau is requesting to change his status to permanent with the customary wage adjustment. Chavez moved to change Hunter Sherman from probationary to permanent with the customary wage increase. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

PARTIAL PAY REQUEST FOR IMPACT FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

Impact fire has provided the design and submittal of a fire suppression system to Carbon County for the East Maintenance Building and is requesting partial payment #1 in the amount of \$4,489.60. Davis moved to approval the partial pay request to Impact Fire in the amount of \$4,489.60. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF FLAME ARRESTOR FOR WWTP

The WWTP is requesting to purchase a flame arrestor for the digester gas system for \$2,825.00. Jensen moved to approve the purchase of the flame arrestor for \$ 2,825.00. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

UPDATED TAX INCREMENT FINANCE PROPOSAL WITHIN PRICE CITY

This item is for discussion only and is a draft update for the two motels proposed to be in Price City north of JB's Restaurant. Richens updated the Board about the Tax Increment Finance Proposal. Carbon County requested an increment of 50% rather than 67% as before proposed. Price city prefers to keep all parties equal so the proposal is 50% for all involved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF WAGE SCALE ADJUSTMENT

The Consumer Price Index has indicated an increase of 2.4% has affected the U.S economy over the past twelve months as of September 2024. The Board instructed staff to calculate the average hourly wage of all employees and compare that to the CPI. As the CPI is 2.4%, that calculates a \$0.61 per hour cost of living adjustment. Additionally, 22 employees will be receiving a step increase. Cox asked what the cost of living amount would be in dollars to the budget. Richens' rough calculation is about \$77,000. Jensen moved to approve the wage scale adjustment of \$0.61 and steps to those employees who meet those requirements effective January 1, 2025. Chavez seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF LIFE/DENTAL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE RENEWAL

The Life/Dental insurance coverage from MetLife has an increase of \$1,367.64 annually for the whole district. The current medical insurance coverage by Regence Blue Cross is requiring an 18.9% increase which staff feels cannot be absorbed. Staff has requested two reviews by Regence due to our longevity and history with Regence, but the underwriters are firm with that increase citing the fact that we're in the "Small Employer's Pool". PEHP is offering very similar coverage at a 9.5% increase. There is another option that will decrease benefits but for a cost increase of 2.2%. Richens is requesting the Board approve the 9.5% proposal by PEHP. We have requested comparable quotes from Regence, Cigna, United Health Care, Select Health, and PEHP. We have also looked into the ACA plans, but those are all more expensive for coverage. Zauss

moved to approve the PEHP proposal at a 9.5% increase. Davis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

APPROVAL OF ANUUAL EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BENEFIT

The Board has budgeted and given a Christmas benefit to the employees of \$100 in the past. Chavez moved to approve the Annual Employee Christmas Benefit of \$100. Zauss seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL SAFETY AWARD

Each month, teams of employees earn a \$10 safety award. There are two teams that have had a minor incident in 2024 resulting in those teams missing one month's award. Zauss moved to approve the annual safety award. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

PERMISSION TO CLOSE THE BUSINESS OFFICE ON 11/29/2024

The Administration Department is requesting to close the office on November 29, 2024 as there is little to no business transacted on the day after Thanksgiving. All employees will take a personal leave for this day. Chavez moved to approve closing the business office on November 29, 2024. Zauss seconded and the motional carried unanimously. AYE: Cox, Chavez, Davis, Jensen and Zauss.

CLOSED SESSION

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Richens mentioned that the Christmas lunch is expected to be at the Cowboy Club 12/10/24 at noon.

Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Jensen seconded the non-debatable motion.



Keith Cox, Chairman



Kim Wood, Clerk