

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Board of Directors of Timberon Water and Sanitation District
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.
Timberon Community Center, "Lodge"
1 Bobwhite Circle, Timberon, NM 88350

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Salute to the New Mexico Flag *"I salute the flag of the state of New Mexico, the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures."*

ROLL CALL

Chairman David Cruey, Vice-Chair Mark Harding, Treasurer Terri Borzoni, Director Paul Hagemann and Director Jess Radle were all present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Harding made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Director Hagemann seconded. A vote was called. All in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Vice-Chair/General Manager Harding gave his report: Our total water production last month was 5,471,754 gallons. Total sold was 1,688,853 gallons. 3,782,901 gallons (69.1%) water loss. This month, the crews repaired 14 line leaks, 3 meter box leaks, and we have 3 meter installations pending. 7 roads were graded. The Well To Treatment Plant water line project is scheduled for completion by week ending Oct 23rd. The crew is currently working on replacing the gravel and the intake lines at the springs to improve water flow to the treatment plant and the ponds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Borzoni gave her report on the bank balances: Standby \$30,307.50; Loan \$166,803.45; other loan \$7,924.80; Operations \$45,990.15; USDA \$230.92; Savings \$85,977.92; F&S \$100,329.46
Director Hagemann asked for some specific clarification on how the F&S monies are spent. Treasure Borzoni supplied a general idea of the distribution of the funds and suggested that for a more detailed accounting, Director Hagemann come to the office and look at the transfer slips, which indicate exactly how the money is being used.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss / Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2023

Vice-Chair Harding made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Radle seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the Sep. 26, 2023 minutes passed.

2. Discuss / Approve Special Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2023

Vice-Chair Harding made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Hagemann seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the Sep. 30, 2023 minutes passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Closed Session: "Limited personnel matters" to consider applicants for the position of Water Systems Operations Manager.

Chairman Cruey announced that the meeting would continue in Closed Session.

2. Motion to go into Closed Session.

Vice-Chair Harding made a motion to go into Closed Session per New Mexico Statute 10-15-1 paragraph 1 to discuss limited personnel matters to consider applicants for the position of Water Systems Operations Manager. Treasurer Borzoni seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Treasurer Borzoni voted yes. Vice Chair Harding voted yes. Director Hagemann voted yes. Director Radle voted yes. The motion to go into Closed Session passed. The Board of Directors went into Closed Session at 4:19 PM.

3. Closed meeting.

4. Motion to come out of Closed Session and return to Open Meeting.

Chairman Cruey declared that a motion was made and seconded, to come out of closed session. A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed. The Board of Directors came out of Closed Session at 4:50 PM

5. Chairman statement that matters discussed in Closed Session were limited to those stated in the notice of the Closed Meeting.

Chairman Cruey stated that the matters that were discussed in Closed Session were limited to the consideration of applicants to the Water Systems Operations new manager of which we have a very valid candidate for the position.

6. Discuss / Approve hiring of applicant as Water Systems Manager.

Vice-Chair Harding explained the process: He submitted the request using Zip Recruiter and received approximately 100 applicants for the position. Out of those, there were two that lived in Otero County, and one that lives in New York, but is a New Mexico native, has family living in New Mexico and wants to move back here. She is a level 4 water and wastewater operator, and for the past 11 years has been superintendent of the Greenville water system in New York.

7. Discuss / Approve contract offer to applicant for the position of Water Systems Operations Manager.

Director Radle made a motion to approve the contract offer to the applicant Rene Hamilton for the position of Water Systems Manager. Director Hagemann seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the offer of Water Systems Manager to Rene Hamilton passed.

8. Discuss / Approve / Disapprove Standby fee rate increase from the current \$61.15 per year to \$79.50 per year. Rate increase request to be filed with the NM PRC before December 31st 2023.

Vice-Chair Harding spoke about the current Standby charges, and the issue of some incorrect information that was on the PRC rate increase filing (it was submitted that the Standby fees were \$50.00 a year, when they are actually \$61.15 a year) causing the opportunity to raise the Standby rates to be missed for that filing. Due to time constraints, we will probably not be able to submit this request for a rate increase until next year.

There was some discussion with audience members about Standby fees and what they included. Director Hagemann made a motion to table this item until we can get more details from our water attorney. Director Radle seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to table passed.

9. Discuss / Approve / Disapprove 5 Standby Liens and 1 Metered Water lien for a total amount of \$4,982.14.

Vice-Chair Harding made a motion to approve the liens. Director Hagemann seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the liens passed.

10. Discuss / Approve / Disapprove a Cost Of Services Study proposal from New Gen Strategies & Solutions, for filing with the New Mexico Public Regulations Commission (NMPRC).

Vice-Chair Harding spoke on the Cost of Service Study that the PRC required us to have done as part of granting us the interim rate increase into a permanent rate increase. The cost not to exceed \$35,000.00. Some of the questions New Gen brought up were concerning the maintenance of the Golf Course and the Roads, ordered by a Judge in 1992. New Gen requested to see that order, as it is extremely unusual for a water district to be responsible to maintain roads. Our attorneys will be looking into finding that order to confirm that the district is actually required to maintain roads in Timberon. Audience member Arden Schug offered that those kinds of documents should be in the TWSD safety deposit box at the District's bank. There was additional discussion concerning Timberon roads vs County roads and whose responsibility it was for maintaining them. As enough discussion was accomplished, Director Radle made a motion to approve the Cost Of Services proposal from New Gen Strategies & Solutions. Director Hagemann seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the Cost Of Service Study proposal from New Gen Strategies & Solutions passed.

Director Hagemann asked for a Special Meeting to be held on Saturday Oct 14 at 2:00 PM to discuss the necessary repairs to the deck and ramps at the High Country Lounge.

Public Question and Answer Session: Have a question and want an answer? Ask the Board.

Chairman Cruey opened the meeting to public comment and questions. An audience member asked about the Foreclosure policy on the Standby liens. Vice-Chair Harding answered that our attorneys were working on that policy, and it was very close to completion – he expected to have a firm Foreclosure policy for submission sometime this coming week.

DIRECTORS REMARKS

There were no Directors' remarks.

Treasurer Borzoni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Hagemann seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Approved October 24, 2023

Chairman 

Secretary Wharell

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