

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

## POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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### \*\*\* Minutes for March 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting \*\*\*

#### I. **Call to Order at 7:00pm.**

Directors present include Joanna Adams, President, Harold Herman, Vice President, Naomi Einarson and Aaron Anderson. Also present were Wes Kruse, and Matt Nerdig, and substitute for Tina Bondy, Tanya Brothwell.

#### II. **Reading and approval of the minutes.**

Tanya read an outline of topics covered during the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes were accepted.

#### III. **Public comment.**

Clarence Taber, needs to talk to accountant and settle with them, board mentioned that he needs to make an appointment. Phone number was given by Joanna. He was also upset by letter about plowing. Never charged any money but, requests that some monetary compensation be given for his work plowing and digging out pump houses. Very upsetting letter or its tone. Joanna was not intending to be rude. Clarence is still upset regarding monetary compensation on plowing. Letter is attached as Exhibit "A" to this document.

#### IV. **Operator's report.**

Wes Kruse visited D.E.Q. (Department of Environmental Quality) office, for convenience store dump station backflow prevention valve that needs to be installed. It will be due for an inspection. He could install inexpensive part, and would be happy to do so, which would repair violation. It would repair back flow deficiency. The C-store should pay some sort of the cost if not all. Once report has been compiled then the board can vote on responsibility. Proposal to be presented next month, must be done by spring. Device should be tested annually by backflow qualified tester.

Water usage- homeowner repaired their leak and since had a significant increase in reservoir level. Something going on with well 1 and well 2. When pipe was put in behind beauty shop, pumps should work in order. But one on the wells is not operating correctly. Not sure if it is his fault or natures fault. Can't determine until snow/ice berm melts. Otherwise pumps are working well and as they should. Sampling schedule for 2017 will be provided with C-Store estimate. He is making a change to sample site, will be using Harold's house. Will make that change with C-store.

Will look at copper and lead sites and past records. Homeowner do it themselves, then he collects the bottles. Not absolute we have to do it, suggested but not absolute. Needs to be more familiar with homeowners and may change some of the sites. Hoping for homes built in the 80's. 1981-1988. Joanna can look at past records and see what the old records state about sample sites etc. Spoke to David Bolts, and his situation had been resolved. Water usage repairs will be compiled and done as needed. He will be gone from March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**V. Financial report.**

Secretary provided current financials and included aging account report.

Net income : 89,510.43

Gross Profit: \$77,913.88

Total Expenses: \$59,488.91

Bills paid tonight: March 7, 2017

Eclipse accounting \$434.97

T.M contracting Inc. \$1925.00

Wesley Kruse Enterprises \$500.00

Board Members each received \$60.00, totaling \$300.00

**VI. Correspondence.**

None to address.

**VII. New business.**

There are 9 items to discuss under new business this evening.

1. Review and discuss letter to owners/purchasers regarding delinquent accounts and follow up steps. Letter was sent in February. Door tags are an option to help collect. Tina researched options from Vista prints. Only those delinquent over \$100 would be "tagged". Tags to read as below:

Notice/Water Service to Be Disconnected

Service Location:\_\_\_\_\_

Due to delinquent payment, the water services will be disconnected in 30 days if not paid in full.

For balance due call (406) 270-7632

\*\*\*There may be disconnect/reconnection fees up to \$400.\*\*\*

Please Remit payment to:

Flathead County Water District

PO Box 1141

Decision on tag style and wording discussed and approved.

Disconnection time limit discussed, disconnection fee and reconnection fee. Notice/Water Service to be Disconnected Motion made to approve notice as read. Seconded and approved. Motion as soon as Tina is back tags made and distributed, seconded and approved.

2. Update (by Matt) on water rights and switching all claims to a decree by June 2017.
3. River Bridge property / Columbia Falls Historical Society
  - a. hook up fee- getting closer to hook up to system. Initial amount is less than originally thought. Is there a shut off value, YES, has 2 back flow valves: 1 by river bridge and 1 by motel. Columbia Falls Historical Society is responsible for bills and fees. Working with current owners. Need okay from Linda Boswell (property owner) to turn on water. In the middle of lease agreement, will cover all necessary information with her. Time frame to open to public still quite a ways out, probably about mid-summer, but still needs water to carry out renovations and bathroom facilities.
  - b. monthly rate prior to opening to public-commercial rate verses household rate? Board is comfortable with house hold rate. Board needs to establish a change of ownership fee. \$200 is too much, \$100 seems more fair. If operator is in the area, would lower the cost. \$50 would be fair then, otherwise it would be more. \$50 will be connection fee (dependent on Wes's schedule) and then house hold rate. Clarence may take proposal to board for \$50 connection fee and then house hold rate per month after that.
4. Baltz property
  - a. frozen lines
  - b. number of connections- he has 3 connections and only been paying for 2. If curb stops are there feels like he should only pay for 2. But regardless he should pay for 3. He tried to justify why he was only paying for 2. Discussion regarding whether there should be any retroactive charge. Board determined, since there was a warning letter that was sent out with the bills, he should be responsible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> line costs since November 1, 2016. Motion made and approved.
5. O'Brien property (formerly Weaver – 440 Gordon Ave)
  - a. change of ownership fee- January 18<sup>th</sup>, no one has been living there for at least a year, new owner is O'Brien. She owns trailer (Weaver) O'Brien owns land. Joanna will give her (Weaver) a call and get O'Brien's new information. He should be responsible for bill.
6. Discuss letter to property owners regarding election votes and drafted message to be distributed before May 2018 elections.  
Tabled until April.

7. Review of proposed 2017 budget.  
No new information from last month.
8. Review and Approval of Revised Bylaws.  
Tabled until April.
9. Add parameters re Board seats that (1) no spouses can be on Board at same time & (2) must be current in payment of all assessments.  
Tabled
10. Discussion and vote on the banning of car washes in the district.  
Tabled

VIII. Old business.

1. Update on status of Income Survey. Voted on letters, Lyle and Steve decided there probably hasn't been a huge change in incomes, so they would accept 2015 numbers. BUT they decided to make contact with residents through surveys.  
They have reviewed aerial photos in our district and the properties are acceptable, but they would still like to use surveys. Handed out packet, a new survey for back side of the mountain needs to be done. New mailings need to be done, with information of actual resident (not necessarily owner). Then a double check can be done. A new list needs to be done.  
May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline where the list MUST be done and at the Rural Developments office. Need a median household income below \$ 47,757. Search Grant application needs to be filled out once income survey has been accepted. The search grant needs to be done at same time.
2. Status of loan closing and payments to be made for the loan. Inner Cap Loan Statement: Principal \$450 does not include interest. First payment is not due until August 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. Status of Flathead Electric deposit that is due to be returned to the District. Joanna will give them a call, may be reflected on April's bill. A deposit to open an account, should be refunded after a year.
4. President to give status of payments owing to Streeter for tank house meter. Joanna will look this up and bring to next meeting.
5. Updates to website. Tina had updated.
6. Hiring a GM. Still waiting for a job description.

**IX. Questions and answers with District staff.**

Discussion was made concerning updating addresses. Some service addresses and billing addresses don't match.

New Accountant was discussed. Joanna presented options that she researched. Is switching over worth it? Current accountant is doing better. Wait to discuss with Tina. Also giving current accountant more time to better their work.

Joanna Adams to announce the next General Meeting of the Board is to be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.

**X. Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 9:30

**Exhibit A**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joanna Adams <[adamsjoanna89@gmail.com](mailto:adamsjoanna89@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Jan 13, 2017 at 1:41 PM

Subject: Snow Removal Information

To: clarence taber <[taber@aboutmontana.net](mailto:taber@aboutmontana.net)>

Hi Clarence,

I heard from Harold that you had mentioned having to bill us for the snow removal from the pump house. I certainly understand the financial constraint that fuel would be, but have to remind you that the water district board never agreed or voted to pay for these services. We cannot spend money that we don't agree to.

It was my understanding, as well as Harold's, that this would be an easy sweep for you since you are keeping the River Bridge parking lot clear anyway and obviously have interest invested there. I apologize for any confusion, but repeat, we cannot pay for these services at this time.

Please do not remove any snow with the expectation that you will be reimbursed.

Thanks much!

~Joanna

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Joanna Adams

*President*

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Joanna Adams

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