

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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\*\*\* March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 Meeting Minutes \*\*\*

## **General Meeting:**

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call.
  - a. Harold Herman called the General Meeting for FCWD #101 held March 6, 2018 to order at 7:11pm.
  - b. Directors present include: Harold Herman, President, Naomi Einarson, Russ Barnett, Brian Rohletter.
  - c. Also present, Shane Pierson, Certified Water Operator, Tina Bondy, Board Secretary (by telephone) and Matt Nerdig, A2Z Engineering.
- II. Reading and approval of the minutes from previous meeting.

Secretary reviewed the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with the Board. After discussion, Harold made a motion to approve the Minutes; Russ seconded and all voted in favor of approving the February 6<sup>th</sup> Minutes.
- III. Operator's report.

There was a significant power outage this month, and storm damage to the pump house. Went to get space heaters but power was restored.

Overflow occurred with main tank for awhile, all dried out now. Roof also blew off the building that evening.

Reading on 2/3 and again on 3/3 – about the same amount of use as last month.

Need 3 letters to DEQ for exception waivers for the water tests.

Hour meter for well 2 is still on backorder. That mounts the way we need it to, which is why we are waiting this one, rather than going with another design option.

Consumer Confidence Report – by next month – will need to put up on website – form to DEQ on how notified.
- IV. Financial report.

Secretary reviewed current financials and provided reports on all including aging account report.

Profit & Loss since September 2015

Gross Profit: \$83,309.86

Total Expenses: \$80,201.04

Net Income: \$2,706.28

Balance Sheet as of March 5, 2018

Glacier Checking Account: \$16,391.44

Emergency Repair / Asset Replacement: \$5,204.79

Loans & Grant Account: \$3,000.00

Total Accounts Receivable: \$4,241.30

Total Assets: \$28,981.99

V. New business.

1. Emergency Storm Repairs – cost approximately \$1600 for a pumphouse roof repair. Also – during the power outage, after the power came back on, it was discovered a bit later that evening that the pumphouse had no power and the transformer was arcing. Called the electric company out. Harold shut off the main power behind the hotel in the meantime.

2. PER Presentation

Matt Nerdig discussed that the PER is now listed on the website and the public can view and make comments. This needs to be posted for at least 30 days. April 3 will be the next Board Meeting, and we should notice it for a Public Hearing as well, after which the Board should vote on whether or not to accept the PER as drafted.

We are still waiting on comments from Rural Development, the City Engineer had a couple of questions, but nothing major.

Further discussion about the PER process and some of the discussions Matt has had with the State Engineer and Rural Development over the past month. There may be a push for meters by Rural development, though the State Engineer understands why we did not go that route with the PER.

Regarding meters, we have close to 80 connections, and if installation is around \$1500-\$2000 each, and each meter costs between \$300 and \$500, looking at around \$2500 per connection.

The District has a finite amount of money available, so if RD requires meters, we need them to consider the funding and increase the grant percentage.

Shane offered that in Martin City, the system is read by handheld meters. 110 connections takes 2 people 3 hours a month to read. So 1 person would be 6-7 hours). Shane also posed the question to Matt whether we can use the District to do the installation, rather than contractors. Matt was not sure.

Russ emphasized that our primary interest is to get good water and not raise rates! Low income area, need these rates to cover the costs. The rates can't change - so project needs to stay within in. This is a hard limit.

According to Lyle, Rural Development did fund the highest grant to loan ration last year – at 70/30.

Next steps: Comments and meeting.

Once we receive the RD comments, Matt will update the PER. Once the PER is accepted, a full set of plans goes to DEQ, who then has 90-120 days to review and provide comments. The DEQ oversees all public water systems. Once they sign off, then a full set of the plans go out to bid. Best time for bids to be due is mid-January, not in the fall.

Before the RD funding, we need the PER accepted and we need to complete the Uniform Application. Matt is getting this set up for the FCWD. It is an electronic process. He will be in contact as he's getting this set up for the board. Does need someone from the Board to also be registered. Naomi agreed to be registered.

Discussion about what the Board is obligated to do after the vote to accept the PER. Noted that this is somewhat a formality, the Board agrees with what issues the PER covers, and the general parameters of the project are set.

Discussion about the several customers that need to be annexed into the district. Once we get the new signed annexation forms back, will need to record the new borders of the district.

### 3. Streeter – Tank Relocation Discussion

- a. Received legal opinion of Randy Snyder, the easement is not time restricted. No obligation to relocate the tank.

### 4. Discussion of delinquent accounts.

Naomi will get notification cards ready and will find out money left owing. Will notice those properties that they have 30 days to pay.

## VI. Old business.

1. Status of loan payments to be made; next payment due August 1, 2018.
2. SEARCH Grant status update.
3. Status of payments owing to Streeter for tank house meter.
  - i. Paid quarterly in December. Next payment will be March.
4. May 2018 elections – Info to property owners regarding election votes.

VII. Correspondence

Email received from Linda about customer Bruce Schultz and his water. He says there is a lot of sludge, and no pressure. Considering whether this is plugged up and also considering whether we can loop that into the system, pulling the connection across to this lot, though shut off will be needed.

VIII. Public comment – 5 minutes available for public comment

No public in attendance.

IX. Questions and answers with District staff. Any other items to discuss?

President announced the next General Meeting of the Board is to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.

X. Adjourned at 8:21pm