

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

## POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

---

\*\*\* Meeting Minutes September 3, 2019 \*\*\*

### **General Meeting:**

#### **I. Called to Order 7:00pm**

Directors present include Harold Herman, President, Russ Barnett, Vice President and Brian Rohletter.

Also present: Shane Pierson, Certified Water Operator / General Manager, Matt Nerdig, Engineer, District Customers Ben Campbell, Bruce Schultz, Mark Ainslie and Kelly Bennett; and Board Secretary, Tina Bondy (by telephone).

#### **II. Minutes: Reading and approval of the August 6, 2019 minutes.**

Secretary reviewed the Minutes from the August 6, 2019 meeting. Harold Herman made a Motion to accept the Minutes as Presented; Brian Rohletter seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

#### **III. Time for Public Comment and Discussions.**

District Customer Ben Campbell discussed with the Board and Matt some issues around the loss of water pressure and the District map of the services/service lines.

District Customer Bruce Schultz discussed with the Board the ability to turn off a water service to a rental unit he has.

District Customer Mark Ainslie discussed with the Board the definition of a hook up for purposes of the water district, as well as the definition of separate dwellings. He is concerned with properties that may be using parts of their home as vacation rentals, which increase the amount of water use, and potentially decrease the pressure for others in the district. Further discussion about ways to offset this for the other customers, whether the system should be metered, or if it should be allocated by number of people living on the property. Matt explained that the System Improvement Project does include meters on all hook ups, which is a fair way to allocate, as well as the fact that given the expanse of this project, the rates are going to have to necessarily increase. There are currently only 66 residential properties and 9 commercial properties and the project is a \$1million undertaking.

#### **IV. New business:**

- a. Matt Nerdig, A2Z Engineering - Engineering Update on System Improvement Project / ETA on Bid Process
    - i. Matt provided a summary to the Board and to the District Customers that were in attendance about the next steps in the System Improvement Project, including the upcoming meeting with the Rural Development representative and the bid process.
 

There was a proposal that after the contractor selection process and the negotiations with the contract, to have some inside work done during the winter months, this may help get ahead of the timeline and not wait for all parts of the project to be completed in the spring. There will be a definite time period on the project, but to do this inside work ahead of time, may end up better for all parties.

Further discussion with Matt about the need for filters on the houses. The Board recommends filters on all houses, even with the new system, although the new system will have bigger mains and big flush hydrants. We are putting in all of the safety features that we can.
  - b. Discussion of Answers to Questions on Future Rate Increase.
    - i. Deferred until next meeting.
  - c. Potential New Board Member.
    - i. The Board has identified a possible new Board Member, Shannon Hensen, who plans to attend next month's meeting.
- V. Old business:
- a. Prospective commercial customer – A&W
    - i. Russ did talk to the owner of the A&W, who is legally already within the District boundaries. He had a hook up previously, so it will be easy to incorporate him into the District.
- VI. Operator's report provided by Shane Pierson.
- Monthly water test was satisfactory.
- Meter readings for this month were taken on September 3. Well 1 reading was 5,956 (had turned over), Well 2 estimated at 400,000 and gallon total for the month was 1,191,500, which is consistent with previous months.
- The monthly electric bill was \$409.61
- Harold and Shane ran a hydrant flush on the north side of the road for approximately 40 minutes, but only got 2-3 minutes of black. Tried to turn on/off to get more, but did not.
- Discussion of aging accounts that were due to get notices.
- VII. Financial report

Secretary provided financial reports as of September 2, 2019.

VIII. Correspondence

- a. Discussion of any correspondence received by the FCWD Board.

IX. Additional items for discussion

Board discussion about the FAQs for the Customers as far as why the District is going to have to raise the rates again. Discussion also on timing of the rate increase. Anticipating a public meeting in January to address this. The Bond attorney needs to see bids before the public notice/ meeting on the Resolution and Rate Increase.

Follow up discussion also about properties that have added 5<sup>th</sup> wheels, with water/septic hook ups, which constitutes a home or dwelling. We also need to take action and charge for additional hook ups to account for vacation rentals. The district needs to be consistent in enforcement.

X. Adjournment at 9:00pm

Next General Meeting of the Board is scheduled on October 1, 2019, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.