

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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\*\*\* Special Meeting Minutes June 29, 2021 \*\*\*

## **General Meeting:**

Call to Order / Roll Call. 7:00pm

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

Also present: Tina Bondy, Board Secretary (by telephone), Joni Emrick and Buck Wetzel

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

- a. No public comments.

### **II. New Business**

Following the news of Shane Pierson's passing, this emergency meeting was called to discuss the water tests and water operator services that were being provided by Shane and determining a strategy for continuing tasks he was managing.

The Board has been approached by two individuals, Joni Emrick and Buck Wetzel, both with the desire to help the FCWD 101 at this time. They were invited to attend this emergency board meeting.

Harold explained the variety of tasks that Shane had been performing for the district:

- flushing the system;
- exercising all main valves at least 1x a year;
- provide shut off notices to 60 day late accounts;
- water testing/taking samples;
- identifying issues and working with the Board to resolve;
- minor emergency repairs;
- on site with all digs/installs for new meter pits;
- annual consumer confidence report;
- weekly pump checks;
- meter readings 1x a month, including emailing data to billing service;

handled trouble calls from district customers;  
provided necessary paperwork for new accounts;  
attending Board meetings (quarterly at this time) and providing  
operator's reports;

Shane had a flat rate for most of the tasks listed above. If there was something that required his extra time, he would bill the district at \$35 an hour.

Meter reading: Martin City has agreed to read the meters for FCWD 101.

Water testing: Joni has experience with water testing. The Board discussed with her proposed pricing for her to step in and do the water testing/submitting to ME Labs for the time being. Discussed in addition to the monthly samples and testing, that lead/copper testing is due by the end of September.

Board and Joni agreed that \$35 an hour for taking/submitting these tests seemed fair.

Water operator: Buck has experience with water systems, he was previously a retirement center wastewater operator. Familiar with the valves, wastewater tests, etc. 35k gallon system; 20k gallon tank covered system where he had to chlorinate as well. Buck also has a mechanical background.

Buck would need to get certified. The Board has talked with Mike Kropp from DEQ about this and he has recommended that the certification happen before September. This may depend on when the next test is scheduled. The District would pay the \$140 for him to take that certification test.

Buck would need to be on call and would be checking the system 1x a week. Buck would be an independent contractor. Buck advised that he has his own LLC already established.

Following Board discussion, suggestion that until Buck is licensed, this be a trial period. Also proposed as he has the LLC, hiring him on a hourly basis until after he is certified, then could move to a monthly contract. In the meantime, have Buck provide a monthly invoice, with Joni's supervision. He will also be working with Harold to train on the District's needs.

Buck's information:  
Buck Wetzel  
Riverbend Metalworks  
406-871-1699

Russ made a Motion to hire Buck Wetzel as an independent contractor at the rate of \$35 a hour and can be cancelled by either party without notice; Harold seconded, all voted in favor.

Discussion of testing locations with Joni.

**III. Additional items for discussion**

None noted

**IV. Adjournment - 8:01pm**

President announced the next General Meeting of the Board is scheduled on September 7, 2021, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.