

FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

*** Meeting Minutes September 7, 2021 ***

APPROVED BY BOARD – 12/7/2021

General Meeting:

I. Call to Order / Roll Call. 7:00 pm

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

Also present: Tina Bondy, Board Secretary and Randy Springer, lawyer. Nikki Bond, District Customer also joined at end of the meeting.

II. Minutes

- a. Reading and approval of the June 1, 2021 and June 29, 2021 Minutes.
- b. June 1 – Harold made a Motion to accept the Minutes of the June 1 Quarterly Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary. Russ seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.
- c. June 29 – Harold made a Motion to accept the Minutes of the June 29 Special Meeting as presented by the Secretary. Russ seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

III. Time for Public Comment and Discussions

- a. No public in attendance.

IV. New Business

- a. Estate of Shane Pierson

Randy Snyder, lawyer and counsel to the FCWD 101 board was in attendance; Harold gave him background on the concern.

Developer bought several lots in the district, 1 commercial and 5 residential meter pits were to be put in; Shane had taken payment from him in order to buy the meters / pits. The digging had been done and the pits installed, but not sure about the meters.

The district bought meters at Core & Main to hook up, but still need to do the commercial line. Will likely take another \$2000 to get finished. The Developer provided receipts and info following Shane's passing. Shane did keep a business account, but when contacted by the developer,

Shane's wife didn't know what it was for and didn't seem to know much about his work. She was not a signatory on his business account.

Harold gave Randy receipts as well for what the District has purchased. The board has asked Randy to contact Bonnie Pierson, in order to either return the funds that were prepaid or to have the estate probated. Randy explained the probate process. He explained that probate law in Montana is scaled according to the size of the estate, and that he would approach Bonnie on behalf of the district, but would do so kindly and with an attempt to help her get this process done.

Russ made a Motion to authorize Randy to look into the matter of deposits provided to Shane Pierson for on behalf of the customers in FCWD101. Harold seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

- b. Open Board Seat – there is an interested new owner in District that will address the Board at the end of the business meeting.

V. Old Business

- a. Membership with Montana Rural Water System (MRWS)
 - i. There was a question as to whether Shane had begun this process. Tina was asked by Harold to look into this matter. The District is interested in joining this system.
- b. UDig Enrollment
 - i. There was a question as to whether Shane had begun this process. Tina was asked by Harold to look into this matter. The District has learned that they must be registered with this notification system.
- c. DEQ Water Test Requirements
 - i. Joni has been doing these currently. She sent June, July, August water samples. All water tests submitted have passed. Joni also took samples for the copper and lead tests, which were not yet back. No obvious problems have been noted.

VI. Operator's report

Harold delivered the Operator's report to the Board.

The Becker's complained of a sulfur smell in their water. Joni went over to tank house and took a water sample which was sent to Billings. The info returned was only 6.6mg. Sulfur only smells at 250mg. Joni sent the water

test results to Beckers and advised that it was their water heater, filter or softeners.

Gordon Well, 2 weeks ago the control box was out and then reset. 2 days later, same thing happened. The pressure switch is on, so the Well thinks it's supposed to be pumping. Harold called for an electrician, which scheduled but then did not show up. The district needs to find a reliable electrician.

End of September the tank needs to be relined, but an electrician is needed to change the pressure switch. Harold contacted Greg at Martin City for a reference. For the tank relining, since the switch is running off both wells, need to drain the tank and John / T5 needs to patch where leaking then let it sit a few days before refill. Once refilled, water will need to be tested. Joni will be there when they are doing it. Matt is working on scheduling with T5 to get this done.

Radio-Read Meters. District is currently paying Martin City \$100 a month for the use of their reader. Now that Ben Schaefer, operator for both Martin City and Coram has agreed to take over reading the FCWD 101 meters. The district will still be billed for the \$100 a month and for Ben's time.

Clarence Taber is seeking to evict some tenants, and has asked the District to turn off their water. The Tabers have been paying us, the water account is up to date, so the Board cannot do this.

Deli building has been sold again. New owner plans to turn it into 2 cabins.

VII. Financial report

Secretary provided and reviewed financial reports as of September 7, 2021.

Revenue to date this fiscal year: \$ 19,860.64

Expenses to date this fiscal year: \$ 4,068.42

Checking account balance: \$ 30,086.69

Reserve/ Asset Replacement bank balance: \$ 31,528.79

Checks written / Payments issued in June, July and August from Glacier Checking Acct.:

June 2021

Check # 481 to Pierson Services for monthly service: \$470.00

Check # 482 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$384.65

Check # 483 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00

Check # 484 to Martin City County Water District: \$100

July 2021

Check # 485 to Bonnie Pierson for Shane's last monthly service: \$400.00
Check # 486 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$384.65
Check # 487 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00
Check # 488 to Martin City County Water District: \$100
Check # 489 to City Service Valcon for gas: \$392.85
Check # 490 to Paynewest for insurance: \$1,736.40

August 2021

Check # 493 to Joni Emrick for water testing services: \$70.00
Check # 494 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$384.65
Check # 495 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00
Check # 496 to Martin City County Water District: \$100

Flathead Electric Bill for June - \$169.87
Flathead Electric Bill for July- \$219.82
Flathead Electric Bill for August - \$324.61

VIII. Correspondence

No additional correspondence noted.

IX. Additional items for discussion

Nikki Bond arrived at 7:50pm. She had previously emailed to the Board Secretary the following:

*My husband and I purchased 150 Steeles Drive. We will be moving in soon. I'm aware there is an opening on the water board and would be interested in taking part if it is still available. My background is a Bachelor's of Science in Geography, Cartography with GIS emphasis from the University of Idaho. I was previously a county planner and building inspector in Latah County, Idaho and a city planner for Whitefish where I oversaw floodplain and Lakeshore regulations. After switching from the public sector, I've worked for Montana Shirt Co. for the last 10 years and co-own Outlaw Diner in Columbia Falls. Please let me know if the board position is still open or if you have any questions about me or my background.
Thank you,*

Nikki is interested in the open Board seat. Her background is in community planning. She moved to the Flathead Valley 16 years ago to work for city of Whitefish. She is the current owner of the Outlaw Diner in Columbia Falls and has also worked for a shirt company here for the past 11 years..

She and her husband bought house on Steele Drive, behind Junction Gas.

She was asked why she was interested in the board. She has done previous board work and is currently not volunteering anywhere. Seeking a new spot to help. Harold explained that the District has just gone through a complete rehaul of the system, with all new mainlines and some new service lines. The system has been running smoothly, compared to the past when there was no pressure during the summer months. Board discussed the commitment, including quarterly board meetings.

Nikki advised that water is important. She is also good with government paperwork and grants.

Following discussion with the Board, Harold made a Motion to add Nikki Bond to the board. Shannon seconded and all voted in favor.

Shannon Henson called out that this was his first physical meeting. He is buying/building another house for him and his wife, but will maintain ownership of the current house so he will continue to serve on the Board.

Shannon also discussed the possibility of getting certified as a water operator. Discussed with the Board the parameters. Given that he has a construction company, he would need to add or set up separately and also have insurance. Either have to be a corp/llc and liability insurance and give up rights to Workers Comp or pay for a policy.

X. Adjournment - 8:10pm

-- President to announce the next General Meeting of the Board is scheduled on December 7, 2021, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.

--President to say, "This completes our business for this September General Meeting. This meeting is now adjourned."