

FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

*** Meeting Minutes March 5, 2024 ***

General Meeting:

I. Call to Order - 7:10pm

Directors present include Nicole Bond, President, Russ Barnett, Vice President and Brian Rohletter

Also present – Jeff Soyland, Certified Water Operator, Rob Smith, A2Z Engineering, Tina Bondy, Board Secretary, Harold Herman and Christine Herman, district customers.

II. Minutes - Discussion and approval of the December 5, 2023 Minutes.

Brian Moved to approve as drafted; Nicole seconded and all voted in favor.

III. Time for Public Comment and Discussions - 5 min allotment / property owner.

Harold Herman was addressed by the Board and thanked for his many years of service and dedication to the District. The Board presented him with a gift card as a token of it's appreciation.

IV. New Business

a. Presentation – A2Z Construction regarding possible grant money for replacement of service lines discovered during the survey.

- i. According to Rob, the EPA and DEQ are coming up with new standards as far as chemicals pfas, etc., and the state is taking on the manganese in water systems. Limit of .05 mg per liter – FCWD 101 has 4-5x as much as where the state is going to set the limit. There will be an expectation that water systems exceeding will need to treat and remove.
- ii. This is not a new problem. Currently the State DEQ has a pot of money set aside to do some of these fixes. Rob wanted to make sure the Board was aware of this, and the expectation that by the time the standards are in place that money will be depleted.
- iii. Usual treatment is to use an oxidizer or chlorine which causes the manganese to precipitate and drop out of the water. The kind of system we have – aerating – isn't going to be enough. Questions though as far as space available, the current pump house will be tight to add the chlorination equipment. Will also take more monitoring.
- iv. Further discussion about a more permanent water storage facility.

A2Z is willing to make a call to the state and do some info gathering for the District.

b. Accounting Discussion

Discussed the problems the district is having with 406 Consulting, errors, not timely entering of payments, etc and frustrated customers. Board discussed evaluating using a new bookkeeping service.

c. DEQ Annual Fees

Per hookup annual fees are due in the amount of \$192.

V. Old Business

a. **Open Board Seat(s)** - Board discussion that there are two open seats that are to be on appointment. Nikki has been asking everyone she is coming into contact with - no one has shown an interest.

b. **Flathead County elections** - will have 5 open seats this year; Russ will talk to Harold about possibly coming back to the board; This could be by appointment.

c. 811 - UDig Enrollment Status

Board Secretary has forms, has added Jeff Soyland's CWO info and will have the forms notarized (as required) and submitted.

VI. Operator's report - Quarterly Report presented by Jeff Soyland, CWO

a. Routine samples fine

b. Did flush last April for manganese - ran for 20 min or so

c. Sanitary report - storage tank has a slight film on the water; probably due to manganese. It needs to be drained, disinfected and cleaned. There are companies that do this and DEQ will provide the names. Toftum was supposed to drain - April would be good to do that. Also a minor leak on a corner of the tank to be repaired. Reach out to him to get a plan scheduled. April or May would be good.

d. Backflow device at the RV dump and clean up site needs to be tested by certified service. This can be done this spring. Per Nikki - they don't appear to be using the RV dump site any longer.

e. Pressure tank baffles blow up and have to be replaced - Jeff and Dave could probably replace these.

VII. Financial report - Secretary provided financial reports as of March 5, 2024

Board discussion about aging accounts and that Jeff will tag some of these significantly aged accounts.

VIII. Correspondence and Additional Discussion

Board discussed the hotel accounts, and in particular the opening schedule for the updated River Bridge. Wonderstone has their own pressure tank (old Super 8) not sure if they have one in the new River Bridge.

Discussion about the rates for the hotels as well as commercial accounts. Russ and Nikki will work this out and review the rate structure. Things are getting more expensive, labor, cost of parts, supply chain, etc. Additionally the District doesn't own the land where the well house is, it's a 99 year lease; so we will need a new water reservoir in the next few years, as well as space for chlorination.

The Board discussed the need to have a process and system for new builds, and that owners should be buying the meters and pits through the District. Also discussed looking for an excavator, someone that we can call in and get lines dug. Brian can talk to one. Rather than having the customers source their own, we should be providing at cost and not making a profit off these.

Discussion about looking at the Bylaws for the install / meters and pits guidance.

Discussion about the county and utilities sign off for airbnb / vrbo. Thanks to Nicole, FCWD 101 is now on all of these sign offs.

Brief discussion that the district could use a GM.

IX. Adjournment 8:37pm

-- President to announce the next General Meeting of the Board is scheduled on June 4, 2024, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.