

DURANGO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT #2
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
February 15, 2023

- I. Call to Order
President Carly Thomson called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Other Board Members present were Directors Beverly Lawrence, Derek Ryter and Wayne Schrader. Also present: Jane Looney, District Manager and Dave Marsa, Water/Wastewater Operator. Stacie Tucker, District Accountant, was ill and attended by phone. Two guests from La Plata County Emergency Management attended. No residents attended.

- II. The minutes of the January 18, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Wayne made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Beverly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- III. Administration
 - A. Financials
 - 1. Jane presented the accounts receivable list for January 2022.
 - 2. Accounts payable were presented for approval. Beverly made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Wayne seconded. Motion was approved.
 - 3. Financials – Financial statements ending January 31, 2023 were presented.
 - 4. Approve 2022 Budget Amendment – Beverly motioned to approve. Wayne seconded.

 - B. Water & Wastewater Operations
 - 1. Water and Sewer Operations Report – Well production is still not good. Well 5 had power issues and lost its monitor.
 - 2. Wastewater Operations Report – Dave got the new motor in and running. Ammonia levels in December were high due to the blower motor being out from the power outage. January levels were better than January 2022 as we only had one blower then. The VFD is out on one of the blowers but should be under warranty.

 - C. Roads and Open Space
 - 1. Snow Removal Update – already over \$60,000 spent.
 - 2. Open Space Update – Beverly made a motion to approve the Animas Mosquito Control District 2023 contract not to exceed \$1500. Wayne seconded. The motion passed. Jane submitted the safety grant to our special district liability pool and we should receive a \$400 check for tree removal.

- IV. Business
 - 1. Wildland Fire Evacuation Exercise Participation – Alison Layman, La Plata County Office of Emergency Management and Scott Nielson from Durango Fire presented information and answered questions about the Wildfire Evacuation Exercise and participation by district residents. The board was supportive. We

will include information in the newsletter and post flyers/posters in April so residents know about the exercise and signing up for Code Red.

2. Fire Mitigation Proposal on Adjacent Property – Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP) confirmed that the property owner could pay the mitigation contractor and we could reimburse the owner and still qualify for the matching grant with really good documentation of transactions. Jon will contact the landowner for her initial agreement to proceed. Next steps are for him to submit a bid to us and the landowner which we give to WAP. They send an award letter for us to before work begins. Work is completed. We pay the landowner \$15,000 and then WAP compensates us 50%.
3. Review Solar Easement and Boundary Adjustment – Wayne, Beverly, Jane and Bud met with the Hutchisons and their attorney. The board discussed the easement and boundary adjustment agreement points sent by their attorney. Bud recommended removing the indemnification clause and stipulating that if they wanted a Phase 1 environmental assessment, they would need to pay for it. Beverly made a motion to approve the agreement with Bud’s changes. Wayne seconded. The motion passed.
4. Review Response to Terlun Drive Attorney – the board discussed the proposal from Jones’s attorney. They said to send Bud’s initial response along with a counterproposal. Beverly made a motion to offer \$10,000 with an iron clad note and the authority to negotiate up to \$15,000. Wayne seconded. Motion passed.
5. LDWA Increase in 2023 Rates – LDWA emailed notice of a 15% rate increase on February 10, 2023 effective January 1, 2023. And we received a bill for January that included the rate increase. The board discussed the lack of adequate noticing, lack of documentation as to justified rate increase and the unreasonable size of the increase after we had adopted the district 2023 budget. The board will send a letter to the LDWA board and to our representative that the district requests they rescind the increase and wait until there is a rate study.
6. Review Right of Way Policy – the board reviewed the latest draft with Bud’s edits. It approved it with the deletion of the words “at least” in the fourth paragraph.
7. Other District Correspondence: ice pond on Cedar and Aspen and grateful response; 4 self-nomination forms emailed out; check on bills paid, late fee; community bulletin board; water spigot running; thank you for icy road cleanup and communication; water bill drafted after due date concern; hydrants snowed in (2 residents); amount of snow received questioned that was 7.5 feet – said only 4.5 feet; dog poop complaint – please remind residents
8. Newsletter items – evacuation exercise; dog poop – why important to pick up

IV. Adjournment – Beverly motioned to adjourn meeting. Wayne seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35p.m.

Jane Looney, District Manager / Secretary