



Board Meeting via Conference call or Video

February 18, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order 2:03

Roll Call: Charles Bogle, Steve Lasswell, Randy Wilhelm, Peter Ewing, Greg Smith, Dave Schneider, Peggy Quint, Laura Ippolito, Tracy Ballard of The Valley Beat , Elliot Jackson of The Wet Mountain Tribune, Carl Hurst P.E., Director/Engineer of Iconergy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Due to the current situation with the Corona Virus, meeting will be either by conference call or video conference. Public input will continue to be limited to 3 minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING – Water/Meter/Well Replacement Project

Dave presented a Power Point that was shared with DOLA to Update the Board on the grant process. This was also to update the public on the infrastructure upgrade. He discussed the replacement of the Smith Well and some old meters. The Smith well, installed in 1975, has completely failed. We are running on one well now. When we replace it, we will be upgrading that water treatment system to meet with the current standard requirements. We are looking at putting in a 50 KW solar array at the well site to produce electricity for that well and the well treatment house. It will also have an onsite generator. We have senior water rights on the Smith Well that will give us 270 gallons a minute. That well only produced 75 to 90 gallons a minute. We are going to try to upgrade the well to give us at least 250 gallons a minute. We hope to move it up hill and then put in a new treatment system with a new treatment house.

We will be replacing about 670 residential meters; some are 30 years old. The average life-span of a meter is 20 years. They will self-read through cell service directly to our office, integrate with our billing software, and have a consumer data interface for our customers to use. We did a study on meter accuracy. We are projecting that most of our system loss is due to the old, inaccurate meters. We are hoping to capture unbilled revenue of approximately \$85,000 to \$100,000 per year with accurate meters.

Carl Hurst explains FUNDING...There are 2 main programs from the State of Colorado. The DOLA grant will provide 48% of the project cost and requires the district to make a match which will be provided through the Colorado Energy Performance Contract. This allows us to take a lease purchase over a 20-year period at .5% against the equipment that will be installed to cover the additional cost. From our drinking water revolving loan fund we get a \$10,000 green meters grant and they have also approved us for a \$129,250 grant to cover the engineering cost. We will also be looking into a battery assistance program. Carl explained how funding works and how the excess solar power will help to cover what the grant will not. This will make a minimal impact on the District. Customers will see a difference in their bill only if they were not being charged for their actual usage. Charles commended Dave on his work on this funding.

Additions to the March 18, 2021 Board Agenda

None

Administrative Reports

1. District Business Manager – Peggy Quint

We put up a new sign at Bulk Water Station to cover legal aspects of water quality.

Dave passed his 2 Certification tests.

A customer praised Sterling for his professionalism.

Audit prep is getting started with Fromm. Peggy would like to have them here in person soon to go over procedures.

2. District Operation Manager – Dave Schneider

Update on Draper Proper: It has been cleaned out and ready to show.

We have purchased the Camera Van.

Update on the water case: Opposer comments are due February 19th. Then we go in front of the water referee.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
2. Financial Report and Approval of Checks for January 2021

Motion: Randy Wilhelm

Second: Greg Smith

Vote: 5-0

Old Business

1. Bob Baker property account – 114 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe. Dave is composing a letter to Bob Bakers' descendants stating that we plan to abandon that water and sewer tap. We will write off the bad debt.
2. Coleman Lease approval: In 2019 we signed a 5 Year Lease.
3. Real Estate update on Draper property: It is up for sale and the realtors will start showing it.

New Business

1. Meter Replacement Program- This was covered in the public meeting portion.
2. Personnel Policy discussion: We need to look at our personnel policy on vacation time since Dave & Peggy have struggled to take enough vacation time and are rolling over more time than our policy allows. They will also look into any salary/hourly changes and the "certification policy payment" that was proposed last October. Randy, Dave, and Peggy will meet to come up with amendments to the personnel policy and present it at the next meeting.

3. **DOLA Update:** We were granted \$850,000. More was covered in the public meeting portion.
4. **Resolution to Approve Leak Policy addendum:** From the last meeting...**RE: Amendment clarifying the fee structure and guidelines of how we would charge customers for service line leaks. Dave has Resolution 2021-4 ready.**

Motion: Randy Wilhelm

Second: Steve Lasswell

Vote: 5-0

Charles asked about the pressure of sprinkler systems and who is the governing agency for those requirements. Dave said the EPA. We have the supply but not the pressure.

Tracy Ballard asked if we are considering going back to in person meetings. Charles said that we have not talked about that.

Dave finished up the second USDA application for the loan grant and sent it out.

Adjourn 4:07 pm