

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 7, 2023

Members Present – Jim Jones, David Anderson, Jim Gerdes, Tony Salvador and Frank Hilliard. (Mr. Salvador via teleconferencing).

Members Absent – None

Public in Attendance – None.

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Frank Hilliard. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: February 2023 was made by Frank Hilliard and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adopt resolution No. 558 - A Resolution to Oppose Initiative 21-0042A1 was made by David Anderson and seconded by Jim Gerdes. Motion passed 4-0. (Mr. Salvador left the meeting before the voting process on this item)

Meeting – 02/07/23
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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Consent Items – A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items.

Public Forum – None.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis reported the water loss for January was 10.36%, higher than we typically see. The total water pumped was 14.061MG and we billed for 12.603MG. The Woody Well (Well #7) has been pumping clear water since putting it back together. TSS for January was 55mg/L and BOD was 32mg/L. The two most recent TSS results were below the State standard. January 24th the TSS result was 39mg/L and on January 31st it was 23.5mg/L. The hope for February is that all the results will be back to compliance. We will continue to work with Aquafix by using their products at the WWTF. The max flow at the plant was .344MG and the average flow was .293MG.

Curtis informed the Board that Well #7 is back online, as mentioned earlier. Cody did a great job of supervising the process with Fosters Pumps. Curtis also stated that Jonathon will be taking his Grade 2 test for wastewater operator tomorrow. Wishing him all the best on test day.

Curtis reported he had 2 calls regarding grant opportunities. One was with QK Engineering. There are good grant opportunities with the State programs. They believe we are good applicants for grant

funding. Curtis stated, we will be getting to the point where we will need to go forward with projects even if there are no results with grant funding. The other company he had a conversation with, regarding grant opportunities, was the Ferguson Group. They deal with Federal Grants. Curtis had requested awhile back to have them look at what grant opportunities might be available if we were to purchase a building etc. Curtis recently contacted them again and they apologized for not providing the information sooner. They did provide Curtis with a 16 page report this week and they are not charging the District due to lack of a timely response. Curtis did learn from the correspondence with the Ferguson Group that USDA does not provide a lot of grant funding. Normally only up to \$50,000.00.

Curtis reported we are coming up on year 5 of the Median Household Survey results. In order to verify the District will still be considered as a disadvantaged community, another survey needs to be conducted. We requested authorization from the Water Resource Control Board to have the Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC) conduct the study. On Monday we received the authorization to have RCAC conduct the study. We are estimating the study to cost anywhere from \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00. By having the study done and determining if we are a disadvantaged community, we then have reductions on our annual water and sewer State fees.

Curtis informed the Board, since all bids were rejected for project TF01 WWTF Safety Improvements, he has been working on breaking up the project. He is working with MHK Construction on the safety aspects at the effluent sampling station. In place of using a stainless-steel walkway, he is working with HCI Docks to use a marine dock walkway. He believes by using a marine dock walkway, the same safety features can be accomplished. We are looking at a more economical aspect for the walkway. HCI Docks is a local company based in Oakdale.

Curtis reported a pesticide user training was conducted by Safety World from Visalia. They provided all documentation needed for Merced County. Jonathon will be maintaining all records necessary based on the County's perspective.

Curtis informed the Board, he received a call and email today from Mr. Mike Wadsworth, who has the development project south of Geer Road. He wanted to have a conversation regarding changing his Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice. Merced County is requesting Mr. Wadsworth to increase the number of units by 31. We may see more of this type of request by the County for new development.

Director Reports – None.

Action Items –

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in February were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.
- B) Curtis presented Resolution No 558 a Resolution to Oppose Initiative 21-0042A1. This resolution was provided to the District by the California Special District Association. The measure threatens billions of dollars currently dedicated to state and local services, and could force cuts to water, sewer and storm drain services provided by Hilmar County Water District, as well as public schools, fire and emergency response, law enforcement, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, services to address homelessness, mental health services and more. The measure would also reduce funding for critical infrastructure like

streets and roads, public transportation, ports, drinking water, sanitation, utilities, and more. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 558.

Discussion Items –

- A) Curtis presented the six-month budget figures. The report is in a new format. Working with streamlining budget documents and using the information based on the accounting software. The printout provided does not reflect the \$10,000.00 allocated to purchase new equipment and it does not reflect the internal fund transfers. We will continue to work on fine tuning the report. The development fees revenue is not inline with the budget as there has not been new development. The court settlement will be inflating the revenue for this fiscal year. Overall, the expenses are inline with the budget.
- B) Curtis provided an update on the two claims the District had received. Customers were provided with a settlement letter and checks were issued.

Mr. Frank Hilliard inquired if we had SCADA on the manholes? Curtis stated, yes! Smart covers have been installed at 8 locations where it will monitor for any backing up issues.

Closed Session –

The Directors Convened to Closed Session at 6:18 p.m. to conference with Real Property Negotiator per Government Code Section 5496.8. Location: 19903 First Street and Location: TBD, Potential Test Well Sites.

Directors returned to Open Session at 6:47 p.m. Staff was given direction by the Board of Directors.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Approved by:



Board Member

3-7-23

Date