



PUD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2009

PRESENT: Tom Ashmore, Mike Elmore, Gene Tobie, Rod Peterson, Marla Skroch, Roger Prowell, Lea Stephens, Tom Peachey and Ben Beseda.

GUESTS: Nate Pope.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Tom Ashmore.

Motion by Gene Tobie; second by Mike Elmore to approve the November 10, 2009 minutes and consent agenda. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ENGINEER OF RECORD REPORT: Starting plans for the Hodges partition project – Roger and Ben will have discussions on this. The issue here is a deep bury depth of the pipe.

Nothing new from the city of The Dalles.

Roger and Ben talked with a group about funding potentials and Ben commented that construction prices are down considerable from last few years.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 1) Weather issues: after hour calls; 20 – 30 people froze up – none of them our side of the meter
- 2) Call/email to Ray J. about news article re: “Do you know where your shut of valve is..?”
- 3) A couple fires during the month – hydrants worked well!
- 4) Main break – Murray Addition – may pour concrete for temp patch
- 5) CUSI/QB interface process working well so far
- 6) We played movie maker to have handheld process (load, unload, print reports) for meter reads on video for future reference
- 7) Compound meter billing issue– no negative feedback.
- 8) BBQ – 2nd annual BBQ/lunch with City of The Dalles – Sam cooked burgers – had a great time. Had some discussions re: 2nd St. with Ray J.
 - a. City has capital improvement project on 2nd St that will dovetail with our plans for another connection to the City for mutual benefit. Ray commented that the transmission lines for their surface water are in poor condition due to age.
 - b. When City's done with backflow ordinance CWPUD will copy their ordinance – so all patrons have the same ordinances throughout the community
 - c. Talked about field tech stuff and snow bird rates with Ray J.
- 9) Did coliform sampling plans – will do 2 times a month sampling days
- 10) Hydrant flow and valve data on spreadsheets – should be ready for meeting with Ben
- 11) Jeb Miller is now VP of Underground Council
- 12) Lost VFD booster pump drive at well 4 – got new one – under warranty
- 13) Water usage is up a little bit with the cold weather
- 14) Crew is doing a great job and keeping busy and engaging in good public relations.
- 15) Kudos to Nate for passing the Distribution One cert
 - a. Nate is also our “IT” tech expert for the office and telemetry and is doing an excellent job of learning.

- 16) Resolved Turn Off/Larry Black water issue communication and and great council from Tom Peachey.

Question from the Board: Mike asked if there were any complaints of water quality? Roger explained the only water quality issue was a lady on W. 10th who had partially frozen pipes and when they thawed, she had rust in her lines. Her water travels quite a ways up a line. After running water for a 100 gal. or so her water ran clear.

OLD BUSINESS: None to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grants and Loans update

Three options:

- 1) Lone Stallion: Buckle down – build our LGIP – be patient – hope no issues in the system force us to utilize savings. Saved money can apply towards “projects in works” as we get money available. Upside: no regulators, keeps us in less debt, and utilize the “pay as you go” method
- 2) Lone Stallion looking for a herd: this option provides for background work on projects and funding. Focus is on the Master Plan and getting hydraulic model built. OAWU – Sheila - gave numbers for poverty side of things; CWPUD qualifies for “poverty level” by \$190. – We would qualify for 3.375% interest rate and have a grant ratio between 35% and 75%. The downside is: #numbers s are based on the 2000 census – we’ll see what the new numbers say – but they will probably show CWPUD still at poverty level.
- 3) The Lone Stallion pushes his herd: Takes enormous amount of time and lots of paperwork and would create a debt load. Sheila with OAWU says there’s still about \$2 billion left in funding for loans and grants and she would be happy to assist the District. The Master Plan will drive this process.

Roger would like the Board to discuss and give him direction on which action to take.

Prelims: Tom and Marla (and Ben) are more inclined with option #2

With a Master Plan and paperwork done – and all our “ducks in a row” we would want grant monies

Rod and Mike are more inclined with option #1.

Per Mike, the word “debt” is bothersome; if the census comes back and our numbers drop and we are still in poverty level, we may be taking on debt we can’t afford. Grants would be great but loans are questionable. Mike recommended a cautious approach with an eye on economic conditions in the area.

Roger noted there are no identifiable “big issues” in the field to qualify us for emergency funds. We do need new meters, mainline replaced, paint reservoirs, 2nd St/freeway issue, but none critical for emergency funds now. He emphasized that the LGIP funds were not at District Policy levels and until we get funds accumulated over the next year or so, the District is not in a good position to take on additional debt.

Rod P asked: Do we have a 1 yr, 3 yr, or 5 yr plan for rates – projects? Ben noted we will have a 6 yr and 20 yr plan, with Master Plan.

Sewer project in Lower Chen too expensive – very hard to make it happen – won’t happen until state says “sewer systems unacceptable” and health dept. puts the pink slip on it – then we could get grants.

The consensus of the Board was to take a modified approach with the option 1 and option 2. We will not seek additional debt at this time but will pursue grants. The Board was in agreement that our LGIP balance needs to be around 750K before any major capital improvements will be funded.

TRAINING SEMINARS & CLASSES:

March 20, 2010 Roger will be attending/presenting at the Sunriver Conference with his Water Wolves Presentation.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Per Mike, CWPUD offered something to employees – the Board would like to offer \$100 bonus and ½ day off on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve, District Manager’s discretion.

With no further business, motion by Rod Peterson; second by Mike Elmore to adjourn meeting. Motion approved 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Roger noted the employees social soiree will be somewhere around January 4th – 6th – Jeb and Nate are looking into dinner options etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted By: _____
Lea Stephens

Approved as to content at regular meeting held January 12, 2010.

By: _____
Tom Ashmore, President
Board of Directors