

RUSSIAN RIVER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Burr, President
Richard McGowan, Vice-President
Janet Zagoria, Director
Ed Monroe, Director
Alan Horobin, Director

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brent Beazor, District Engineer
William Adams, District Counsel
Jamie Dunton, District Manager
Vicky Mwangi, District Administrator
Stephanie Voet – RRU staff
Customers – Harriet Katz, Steve Finnegan,
Becky Boyle

The Board President Kimberly Burr called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 5:06PM on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. The Board considered AB 361 that permits virtual meetings during the proclaimed Covid health emergency. On motion by Janet Zagoria and second Ed Monroe, the board unanimously approved for the meeting to be held via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Ms. Katz reiterated her concern regarding EMF (Electric and Magnetic Fields) radiation and possible negative health impacts. She also raised the issue of atmospheric rivers and the District's preparedness for such an occurrence.
2. Cleaning around Fire Hydrants – Mr. Finnegan acknowledged that this issue was postponed to next month. In addition, he requested the issue of emergency vehicle access around water tanks be considered.

CONSENT -AGENDA

NOTE – Roll call voting was used to pass all motions in this agenda.

Agenda – The following items under New Business were postponed:

- (1) In-person meetings
- (2) Director Zagoria's report on Fire Meetings and Links for Website:
- (3) Discussion on procedures to harden the system, and
- (4) Online Billing prospect-Nextbillpay.

On motion by Alan Horobin and second by Janet Zagoria, the agenda was approved as amended.

Minutes - On motion by Ed Monroe and second by Janet Zagoria, July 26, 2022, regular meeting minutes were approved, as amended.

Warrants - On motion by Rich McGowan and second by Alan Horobin, Operations Warrant Register #4 for \$53,859.13, Register #5 for \$200, and Register #6 - Meter replacement project for \$7,825.54, were unanimously approved.

**PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE
PUBLIC HEARING – OPENED AT 5.37PM**

Mr. Beazor summarized the Water Rate study and the recommended tiered water rate structure. Overall, the water rate increase is necessary to cover both the District's operations and capital projects to maintain the water system. This includes the meter replacement project, for which the District has secured a loan of \$833,000 from USDA Rural Development. The estimated increase in rates is about \$5 per month.

The meeting was opened for public comments.

Ms. Katz's concern was the hardship created by the higher rates to her and other customers on fixed income; second she inquired whether the District will rescind the \$3 rate increase directly related to the debt incurred to cover the meter replacement project after it is fully paid.

In response, the board reiterated that the rate increase is necessary to also cover operations that guarantees water supply to all customers. The tiered rate structure shifts the cost responsibility to the customer. Regarding the debt, this is a 40-year loan agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSED – 6.02PM

Protests to water rate increase – two protests were received.

Ordinance No. 27 – *An Ordinance Adopting Amended Water Use Fees for Extended Operations of Water Services*, on motion by Rich McGowan and second by Janet Zagoria, the ordinance was unanimously approved.

**BUDGET AND TAX ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
PUBLIC HEARING – OPENED AT 6.08PM -**

Budget – Ms. Mwangi summarized the budget as follows: Total Revenue = \$565,736, this will be generated by water sales and a flat charge on most parcels. Total Expenses = \$565,736, these are operating expenses including small system repair projects. Capital project expenses = \$120,000 to cover projects such as the meter replacement project.

Tax Roll – A flat charge of \$30 will be assessed on parcels within the District and this will generate \$49,560.

The meeting was opened for public comments. None.

PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSED – 6.10PM

Resolution No. 459 – *Approving the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023*, on motion by Ed Monroe and second by Alan Horobin, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 460 – *Overruling Protests and Confirming Report on Water Service Charges and Delinquent Water Service Charges for Fiscal Year 2022-2023*, on motion by Ed Monroe and second by Janet Zagoria, the resolution was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

None

ENGINEERING REPORT

Meter replacement project – Mr. Beazor presented a memo prepared by Mr. Locey addressing EMF radiation emitted by the smart water meters. It noted that the radiation emitted by these meters is in the same frequency and similar power level as a cell phone; second the distance from the radiation source decreases the power level and all meters are placed outside the house approximately 15 feet away; and third communication between the meters and the cellular network will be approximately 2 seconds, 4 times on a weekday and 2 times on weekends.

Ms. Katz reiterated her concern regarding radiation emitted by the smart meters. The memo mentioned above plus additional documentation from Badger Meters will be forwarded to her. Her other questions regarding meter-to-meter communication, meter to cellular network communication, poor cell communication in her neighborhood, and meter errors, were addressed. It was pointed out that due to poor cellular communication in her area a different style meter requiring ‘drive-by’ reading will be installed. Ms. Katz thanked the board for taking time to address her concerns.

Bids on the meter replacement project will be presented at the next board meeting for awarding. Equipment will be received by mid-October with work to start by end of that month. This is expected to be a 90 days contract. Line of credit funding for the meter replacement project is fully funded.

LEGAL REPORT

Drought update – No new developments.

NEW BUSINESS

Director stipend – The current \$100 board stipend has remained the same for many years. The board discussed increases to the stipend by considering the amount before and after tax withholdings. On motion by Ed Monroe and second by Rich McGowan, a net stipend amount of \$125 + taxes of approx. \$10 for a total of \$135, was unanimously approved.

The following items were postponed

- (1) CSDA Take Action: Initiative #21-0042A1
- (2) Conflict of Interest 2022 Biennial Notice

Regarding the emergency generator and propane tank located at Boyle Tank, Mr. Dunton explained that they are partially on Ms. Boyle’s property. Ms. Boyle confirmed that she would like to have the equipment moved. The board discussed this issue and agreed that the appropriate action is to move both the propane tank and generator to District owned property. The cost to move the equipment will be shared between the District and RRU.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Dunton reported that at Z-1 tank there is a brand new motor and brand new rebuilt pump for booster #2 and a brand new rebuilt pump for booster #1. These additions greatly enhance water pumping capabilities.

AD HOC

None

NEXT AGENDA

1. Postponed agenda items
2. Meter replacement funding
- 3.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM on motion by Rich McGowan and second by Janet Zagoria. Next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 27, 2022 at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Mwangi,

District Administrator

APPROVED:

Ed Monroe: _____

Rich McGowan: _____

Janet Zagoria: _____

Alan Horobin: _____

Kimberly Burr: _____