

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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\*\*\* Meeting Minutes June 7, 2022 \*\*\*

## **General Meeting:**

### **I. Call to Order / Roll Call. – 7:16**

- II. Directors present include Harold Herman, President, Russ Barnett, Vice President, Brian Rohletter and Nikki Bond

Also present – David Baltz, Certified Water Operator, Water District Customers John Tuftom and Casey Becker, and Tina Bondy, Board Secretary

### **III. Minutes**

- a. Reading and approval of the March 1, 2022 Minutes  
Harold made Motion to accept the Minutes of the March 1 Quarterly Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary. Brian seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

### **IV. Time for Public Comment and Discussions**

- a. John Toftum – had comments that the way things are going with the district is going well. Concerned however, that the district should not have been billed for what appeared to be an unnecessary survey. There have now been 3 surveys done on that part of the district to mark the same lines. If that property owner has a problem with the survey results, he should take it up with his personal lawyer. Board discussion as to whether the district had paid the bill on the 3<sup>rd</sup> survey, and suggests that if not, the district should hold off payment. Russ offered to call the survey company owner and explain the concerns.

### **V. New Business**

#### **a. Unauthorized/Unmetered hookups**

- i. The district needs to have an escalation process for the unauthorized / unmetered hookups. There are at least 3 customers that appear to be using service lines hooking up to another meter/line. This is illegal according to the DEQ. Board discussion about sending targeted letters to those owners. For the escalation process, do we need to set a time for putting in another water pit? Russ – would be interested in knowing what are the rules? Do we have anything in the bylaws / regulations that we can refer to so we know what we are doing? If not – we need to establish some before we do anything. If we don't already have this, we need to get from the DEQ language around these rules. DEQ says one service / one resident unless there is an umbrella, or multiple businesses in

the same building, etc. Can't allow additional hook ups through existing service lines for permanent or semi-permanent hookups. Board clarified that temporary visitors hooking up is not the issue.

Russ would like to see something in writing from DEQ for the Board to refer.

Russ and Harold can call the DEQ tomorrow to discuss. Then we will write a letter to the owners in default, targeting to an extent, so we have a record of the enforcement.

**b. Radio Read Meter – Core & Main/ MasterMeter**

The new radio read meter computer was received. Last week, Tina and Nicole and Ben from Hungry Horse – took the reader around to get the readings from May and next month, will have Ben help one last time. After that, we should be able to run it by ourselves. Can save the district a couple of hundred dollars a month by doing it ourselves.

**VI. Old Business**

**a. UDig Enrollment/ Montana 811**

Now that we have a water operator, these enrollments need to be completed. Secretary has requested a map of the district required for the UDig enrollment from A2Z.

**VII. Operator's report**

David advised that all seems to be going well, other than one valve that Harold and David are working on. When the valve gets stuck, overflows happen. Looking at a possible alarm for the overflow. Have a screen in there now though it is not catching the fine stuff and trips the valve. Looking for a finer screen to help.

All samples are good so far / satisfactory. We will be working through the 9 year samples the next couple of months.

Monthly numbers were about 400-500k gallons a month. He noted that he is keeping track of these so that there is a baseline established.

**VIII. Financial report**

*Secretary provided and reviewed financial reports as of June 7, 2022.*

Revenue to date this fiscal year: \$ 77,255.45

Expenses to date this fiscal year: \$ 12,520.71

Checking account balance: \$ 50,646.61

Reserve/ Asset Replacement bank balance: \$ 33,640.79

*Checks written / Payments issued in March, April and May from Glacier Checking Acct.:*

March 2022

Check # 538 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$550.00  
Check # 539 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$505.96  
Check # 540 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00  
Check # 541 to Martin City County Water District: \$203.71  
Check # 542 to Randy Snyder Law: \$102.00  
Check # 543 to ME Lab: \$305.00  
Check # 544 to Core and Main: \$677.48  
Check # 545 to Ferguson: \$3315.91

#### April 2022

Check # 546 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$585.00  
Check # 547 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$387.12  
Check # 548 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00  
Check # 549 to Core and Main: \$10.89  
Check # 550 to Ferguson Waterworks: \$125.00  
Check # 551 to Martin City County Water District: \$233.70

#### May 2022

Check # 552 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$550.00  
Check # 553 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$389.64  
Check # 554 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00  
Check # 555 to Martin City County Water District: \$233.70  
Check # 556 to ME Lab: \$40.00  
Check # 557 to Core and Main: \$167.28  
Check # 558 to Henning Rutz & McCormack PLLC: \$225.00

Flathead Electric Bill for March – \$ 247.37  
Flathead Electric Bill for April– \$ 259.76  
Flathead Electric Bill for May – \$ 243.05

#### IX. Executive Session

- President to announce “We will move to an Executive Session, as the issue of discussion concerns personal, confidential matters and the right of the individual’s privacy exceeds the public’s right to know.”
- Secretary to move any non-board attendees to a virtual waiting room for this period. Once the Executive Session topic is discussed, Secretary will bring back any non-board attendees to the public meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL:

Discussion with the board as to what has been going on. Randy was not present although he had said he would be in attendance for the call. Due to the subject matter and the meeting attendees – uncomfortable discussing in public. Board at least wanted to make the motion to hire Randy to help the board with a civil matter.

<<Executive Session Ended and General Meeting Resumed.>>

**X. Correspondence**

No additional correspondence noted.

Russ- made a Motion to engage Randy Snyder the District's attorney to help the Board with a civil action. Nikki seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

**XI. Additional Topics**

- a. Meter readings – June, Tina and Harold with Ben; July, Nikki will be involved.
- b. Board website – Tina and Nikki will connect in early summer to begin working on an upgraded website.

**XII. Adjournment 8:03pm**

-- President announced the next General Meeting of the Board is scheduled on September 6, 2022, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.