

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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\*\*\* Meeting Minutes September 6, 2022 \*\*\*

## General Meeting:

### I. Call to Order / Roll Call. – 7:00pm

Directors present include Harold Herman, President, Russ Barnett, Vice President, Brian Rohletter, Shannon Henson,

Additional present: John Toftum, David Baltz, Certified Water operator, Tina Bondy, board secretary and Lloyd Bondy, guest

### II. Minutes

Reading and approval of the June 7, 2022 Minutes.

Harold made Motion to accept the Minutes of the June 7 Quarterly Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary. Brian seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

### III. Time for Public Comment

No topics were addressed.

### IV. New Business

#### a. Semi-annual water system flushing schedule

- i. The water system will need to be flushed before winter, possibly October when usage goes down a bit. Harold found a hydrant that didn't end up getting painted. Harold and Dave will coordinate on when the flushing will be conducted.

#### b. 406 Consulting

- i. Secretary advised the Board on the transfer of accounting and billing from Eclipse to 406 Consulting. Discussed the need for a pre meeting with Russ / Nikki / Harold to discuss layout of bills.

#### c. Commercial Rate Discussion

- i. Property owner and developer Jay Wolfe told Harold that previous operator Shane didn't explain the total cost per month for paying the meter costs before they were hooked up. He has a 1.5" meter – (3/4" \$45 flat rate, 1" 90 flat rate – 1.5 - \$225 a month before water use). Wants to shut it off if nothing else – but what Harold is proposing – we charge 1" commercial pits \$90 – proposing we knock it down to that rate until he starts using the larger hookups. At this point, he is not using any water, but did purchase the meter himself. Once the meter is operational, the cost would revert to the \$225 rate, but asked whether there was a possibility of a lower rate during this stage of his

development where there is no use of water. Board took this into consideration, along with the need to be fair and consistent across the district. The board would like to understand what the plans are for the property. Once it's turned on - \$225 a month plus use. Russ proposes that he and Harold have a call with Jay to find out more.

David Baltz advised that with Martin City, no charge until use, and then the base rate kicks in.

Harold proposed a cost of the \$90/commercial rate for the time being. Russ wondering if it is worth anything?

2 properties that have commercial and no current building, this one and the old Phygg's Deli where water lines hooked up. One has a meter we paid for - excavation we paid for - that property owner should keep paying the \$90 a month. The other customer paid for it themselves, to have it all put in, but if they aren't using the service yet. We aren't incurring any costs from them, so perhaps he shouldn't pay until he gets hooked up.

Going forward, customers are going to be buying their own meters and paying for installation. They put out the \$ to start with, and not getting any benefit yet. This does not apply to existing customers that want to shut off for periods. This is for new lines only.

Harold made a motion, from today forward, the District won't charge the flat rate for water until the customer starts using the water, provided the customer bought their own meter and paid for the new installation. Shannon seconded. All voted in favor.

Harold advised he will call Jay tomorrow and let him know that he doesn't have to pay anything until he hooks up. The bill that just came out - if he hasn't paid it, he won't need to.

## **V. Old Business**

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

- i. Harold did get in touch with Mike Krop and got some language from DEQ about educating customers on the requirements for individual hookups. According to the DEQ, everyone needs to be attached separately to the water main. "Umbrella Law" applies to buildings with multiple businesses, but for residential, campers, apartments, etc., must be individual lines.

Board discussed the possibility of drafting a letter to customers, advising that per DEQ you must be connected to the water main. If you are running several lines -

that's commercial. It's a subdivision. Would have to have a meter for each one. \$90 a month plus gallonage.

Board further discussed details as far as escalation clause and timing. Would like to understand from the DEQ how we go about enforcing? Do they have an enforcement letter?

Russ and Harold are going to try again to meet with Mike Krop at DEQ.

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

- i. Kerry from Core & Main gave Secretary the name of the local sales manager for MasterMeter to connect with to make sure we are getting the full benefit of the meter and software.

**c. UDig Enrollment / Montana 811**

- i. Secretary following up with Matt / A2Z – need MAP of the district to file with UDig.

**VI. Operator's report**

Dave provided Operator's Report – took sample today (due to holiday yesterday) and has now completed the 9 year tests.

Usage is approximately 1 million gallons a month.

One small plumbing issue – David was exercising the valves and one didn't want to move. Harold fixed it. The valve discussed at the last meeting, after being cleaned out, has been working great.

Dave proposed to the Board that the district agree to bring on a backup water operator. This would be under Dave's insurance and would not cost FCWD 101. The proposed backup operator works in GNP with Dave and lives in C Falls. This would be a resource for us to call when Dave may be unavailable. He can't be paid – can only be a volunteer. Would be a great deal – someone to know our systems.

Board discussion – according to Russ, we already have a copy of Dave's insurance – and this person would be under that. Workmans comp wouldn't be an issue either, as he is covered under Dave as an independent contractor.

The well control box kicked out again about 2 weeks ago. Harold reset it and hasn't had a problem since. There likely was a power surge from a storm. If it happens again we can ask an electrician whether a surge protector may help.

Main shut off valves need to be found – Harold, John and Dave will arrange to locate these together. 2 by Gordon Ave – by Ken Kahn's place, 1 or 2 on the other side of the highway.

Would be good to know where they are all located should we need to be able to find them in a hurry.

Valve that we purchased through Ferguson, after the last meeting the check was sent to the main branch in Idaho Falls, as instructed by Ferguson. The check went missing. Harold issued a stop payment which costs the district \$30. At this point, we can now pay directly in Kalispell. So that's what we will do going forward.

## **VII. Financial report**

*Secretary provided and reviewed financial reports as of September 6, 2022.*

Revenue to date this fiscal year: \$ 20,230.55

Expenses to date this fiscal year: \$ 4,006.87

Checking account balance: \$ 21,616.78

Reserve/ Asset Replacement bank balance: \$ 54,168.79

*Checks written / Payments issued in June, July and August from Glacier Checking Acct.:*

### **June 2022**

Check # 559 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$570.00

Check # 560 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$387.12

Check # 561 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00

Check # 562 to Martin City County Water District: \$161.56

Check # 563 to Core and Main: \$12,189.58

Check # 564 to Core and Main: \$624.18

### **July 2022**

Check # 565 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$635.00

Check # 566 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$387.20

Check # 567 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00

Check # 568 to Martin City County Water District: \$166.85

Check # 569 to Core and Main: \$914.12

### **August 2022**

Check # 570 to David Baltz for monthly service: \$500.00

Check # 571 to Eclipse Tax and Accounting: \$387.80

Check # 572 to Tina Bondy for Board Secretarial: \$400.00

Check # 573 to PayneWest for Insurance: \$1,979.45

Check # 574 to Ferguson Waterworks: \$113.44

Check # 575 to M E Labs: \$135.00

Flathead Electric Bill for June - \$ 254.76

Flathead Electric Bill for July- \$ 245.12

Flathead Electric Bill for August - \$ 301.84

## **VIII. Correspondence and Additional Discussion Topics**

No correspondence this quarter.

Brian reported that Austin Weaver got ahold of him and said he couldn't get any water out of sprinkler. His pressure wasn't working although neighbor had plenty of pressure. Harold said people around didn't have any problems. Asked John Toftom whether Weaver's (Steel drive) had their service lines re-done during the project. According to John, he put the pit in and ran the line, but it was not replaced all the way through to the house., even though there were problems with the line.

Mr. Padjnich died and his kids sold to a new customer in Whitefish. There's a leak at that house, with old 2" galvanized lines. That's their responsibility. The new owner mentioned that she did a water test and took it to ME Labs, where it failed. Dave explained that you samples must be very specific conditions. For example, if you leave the aerator on in your sink, bugs can get in there, and come back out and you will get a positive test.

## **IX. Adjournment 8:05pm**

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