## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

APRIL 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Buttonwillow County Water District was called to order by Vice Chairman Albert Ghilarducci at 5:30 PM at the Ag Center, 289 Main Steet, Buttonwillow, CA.

The following directors were present: Albert Ghilarducci, Mike Burleson, Vanessa Montemayor and Samuel Ghilarducci.

Others in attendance: Regina Houchin, Mario Cervantes, Jeff Eklund, Tom Vontz, and telephonically Melissa Bergen, Self-help Enterprises.

The minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Samuel Ghilarducci. Carried. (Ayes 4 – AG, VM, SG, MB; Absent 1- RG)

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for April 20, 2022. Regina Houchin brought to the boards attention that she had contacted Terry Chicca, board member of the Buena Vista Water Storage District about the Landowner Well Use bill received. The board had previously been told that no assessment would be charged to the water district and were concerned about future billings. It was decided to withhold the payment to BVWSD check number 4595 until more information was available. On a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Mike Burleson, the following were approved for payment with the exception to check number 4595:

M & O – Sewer $ 9,136.28 Vouchers #4596-4615

General – Water $ 8,886.93 Vouchers #4596-4615

Well #2 $ 1,573.98 Vouchers #4596-4615

Well #3 $ .00 Vouchers #4596-4615

Well #4 $ 1,014.76 Vouchers #4596-4615

Well #5 $ 2,284.97 Vouchers #4596-4615

Less: P/R Tax $ ( 22.95) to be paid with Payroll Returns

for a cash disbursement total of $22,873.97. Carried (Ayes 4 – AG, VM, SG, MB; Absent 1- RG)

Cash Account balance information, disbursement analysis and P G & E summary were provided by the secretary and reviewed by the Board.

# Accounts Receivable

Board members reviewed the delinquent accounts receivable report. Customer accounts over 90 days reduced from $24,115.23 to $21,559.34. Shutoff notices were mailed to 23 customers which included information regarding payment arrangements. All 23 customers receiving shutoff notices, signed the payment arrangement contract and was notified that failure to meet any of the required payments, would result in immediate termination without the benefit of making partial payments. Regina submitted the Sewer Arrearages applications in the amount of $3,377.10, representing 12 customers that fell within the state allowed time frame.

Correspondence:

Buena Vista Water Storage District – Notice of posting – Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Kern LAFCO – Vote for Special District Representative – Board submitted Carlos Chavira as their candidate.

State Compensation Insurance Fund – Rate Quote

DOXO-Information on bill payment software. The board was not interested in this service.

Public Time:

None

District Business

Mario Cervantes presented his March/April monthly report. After repeated visits to shut off water at 410 Cotton Avenue due to squatters cutting the valve lock, Mario removed the water meter and disconnected service. Squatters are living in the house and causing ongoing problems. Shut off notices were hand delivered 7 days prior to the final date. Mario reported that the homeowner at 209 Dunford had contacted him about sewer issues. The homeowner has already had his line cleaned and videoed only to find that his connection was to the west in a connection that runs through the farming property owned by Tazioli. It doesn’t appear that the sewer lateral is the problem, but Mario will continue to work with the customer if needed.

Tom Vontz approached the board requesting a Will Serve Letter be provided for a sewer connection to the rear of his property. He explained to the board that he had found a septic tank and called out a knowledgeable person who explained that it wasn’t adequate for the number of residences on the lot. He needed to extend the “lines” to accommodate the homes, but it would take several months to remedy the saturated ground. Tom said he thinks the front house was never connected to the sewer but had paid sewer fees since he owned the property. Mario had trenched portions of the property and found no line, however a concrete driveway prevented him from extending the trench the entire width of the property. The board explained that connection for the lateral to the homes were the property owner’s responsibility and the house at 412 Sudan should have been connected to the sewer system. The board explained that they would be videoing the lines as part of a grant and if there wasn’t a sewer lateral at the location, one would be installed. The Board indicated that a will serve letter could be provided to the residence at 412 Sudan, but Tom wanted it for the back of the property where the trailers were located. The board reminded him that the lateral is provided to the property, but any connections were the responsibility of the property owner. Mr. Vontz withdrew his request for the Will Serve and left the meeting. The board was concerned about the septic tank that wasn’t operating properly and any potential contamination. On a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Mike Burleson, Regina was instructed to contact Attorney Tom Schroeter, providing information as discussed and request his comments on the matter.

Jeff Eklund reported P & P has received comments from DFA for the Project Report. P & P will address the comments over the next two weeks and resubmit the report. They will revise and resubmit the Report of Waste Discharge as well. Tom Dodson’s subconsultants are currently working on the biological review, cultural review, and air quality analysis. P & P will need to move the solar field further north away from potential culturally sensitive areas.

The 1st Quarter Progress Report was prepared. The request for reimbursement needs to be signed by Richard Garcia, which mainly recovers the cost from the Report of Waste Discharge preparation. Once signed, the progress report and reimbursement requested will be submitted to DFA. The Sewer Main Inspection Contract was presented to the Board. P & P will solicit proposals from other companies.

As noted above additional information has been requested prior to approval of the Water Usage bill received from Buena Vista Water Storage District.

Once funding is approved for the Wastewater Arrearage Program, funds will be applied to approved customers.

Attorney – Nothing

Secretary – Still waiting for ethic training certificates from Richard Garcia and Samuel Ghilarducci

Chairman – Nothing

Directors – Nothing

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board