## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

MARCH 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Buttonwillow County Water District was called to order by Chairman Richard Garcia at 5:30 PM at the Ag Center, 289 N Main Street, Buttonwillow.

The following directors were present: Richard Garcia, Vanessa Montemayor, Albert Ghilarducci, Mike Burleson, Samuel Ghilarducci

Others in attendance: Mario Cervantes, Regina Houchin, and Jeff Eklund.

The minutes of the February 17, 2021 regular meeting and March 4, 2021 special meeting were read and approved on a motion by Albert Ghilarducci and second by Mike Burleson. (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, AG, MB, SG)

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for March 17, 2021. On a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Samuel Ghilarducci, the following were approved for payment:

 M & O – Sewer $ 20,186.31 Vouchers #4292-4318

 General – Water $ 17,543.39 Vouchers #4292-4318

 Well #2 $ 731.34 Vouchers #4292-4318

 Well #3 $ .00 Vouchers #4292-4318

 Well #4 $ 1,572.34 Vouchers #4292-4318

 Less: P/R Tax $ ( 51.61) to be paid with Payroll Returns

for a cash disbursement total of $39,981.77. Carried (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, AG, MB, SG)

Cash Account balance information, P G & E and Disbursement Analysis for month and year to date comparisons were provided by the secretary and reviewed by the Board.

# Accounts Receivable

Board members reviewed the accounts Receivable Report for March 17, 2021. 48 accounts were 91+ days past due with a total balance of $16,550.20. Four new liens were recorded due to failure to meet payment arrangements necessary to prevent filing.

Correspondence:

State Road Project -Houa Yang – Regina provided detailed information to include in the contract to protect the District from any damage to the 4” main-line that is beneath the area where they are proposing to use as a staging area.

Public Time:

Albert Ghilarducci brought to the board a complaint he had received regarding the dry grass and unsightly hedges at Well #3. Mario reported that the sprinkler system needs to be replaced and he would contact the gardener about trimming and or removing any dead shrubs. All agreed the area needs to be cleaned up.

District Business

Mario Cervantes presented his February/March monthly report. In addition to normal monthly maintenance, Mario reported that he had installed a new water meter outside the fenced area at 240 3rd Street. This has been an ongoing problem and the owner has not made it possible to enter the yard to find out what is going on with the meter. Mario inspected two new water services at 279 3rd Street. The $760.00 inspection fee will be billed to the customer as outlined in the Will-Serve letter. Additional monitoring continues at the WWTP making sure it is functioning, preventing overflows.

Jeff Eklund reported that no Well #5 progress payment was due at this time. Due to delay in materials, no work performed on the project in February. Change Order #3 was presented and reviewed. The order contained a 59-day extension request to complete the project due to material delays and a change in the type of coupling that replaced the original item in the bid that was unacceptable. Completion date would be May 27, 2021. On a motion by Samuel Ghilarducci, second by Vanessa Montemayor, Change Order #3 was approved. Motion Carried. (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, AG, MB, SG). Jeff reviewed the March status update provided by Jeane Hill. Work in progress for the remainder of March and April will be the above ground piping at the discharge and irrigation tanks and installation of the well pump.

At the request of the chairman, each board member that participated in the Taft sewer plant tour was asked to share their opinions. It was noted that the Taft plant is not under any nitrate order and therefore additional testing and reports were not required. Disposal to farm ground was not required and the use of additional ground water unnecessary. It was noted there were more moving parts, and the operation was not as simple as previously thought. Jeff reviewed, with the board, the costs associated with both options being considered. The Pond’s overall capital costs were greater, with the maintenance and operation costs higher with the Bio Lac system. After reviewing known facts and weighing possible future water costs, pumping restrictions, and uncertain cultural studies and findings a motion was made by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Samuel Ghilarducci to proceed with the Bio Lac Treatment option. Motion Carried. (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, AG, MB, SG). With the decision made, Jeff would proceed with the project, taking into consideration previous changes discussed, including the location of the plant on district property and would notify state agencies of the decision.

Regina reported the billing system is being updated with the approved water and sewer increases and the April 1, 2021 bills would reflect the increase.

Attorney Schroeter provided information regarding proposed Federal Legislation to give Special District’s financial assistance to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Should the legislation be adopted it could address the growing receivables due to the Governor’s Executive Order prohibiting termination of water service for non-payment.

Notification was received from Ferguson’s indicating that warranty to the handheld Trimble Ranger, due to the repair, was extended to June 30, 2021. The annual maintenance Contract following this date would be $1,430.72. Approval was tabled.

No additional update on pending business.

Secretary

No additional comments.

Chairman

Chairman Garcia extended his thanks to Jeff for scheduling the tours and to Mario for his input and joining the tours.

Directors

Albert Ghilarducci was glad the WWTP decision was made based on all information available, and that it will be one that will benefit the community.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021 at 5:30PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board