## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 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 Buttonwillow Lion’s Den, 291 N Main Street, Buttonwillow.

The Oath of Office was administered to Albert Ghilarducci, Mike Burleson, and Richard Garcia by Secretary to the Board Regina Houchin.

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-via teleconference

The minutes of the January 20, 2021 regular meeting were read and approved on a motion by Vanessa Montemayor and second by Albert Ghilarducci. (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, AG, MB, SG)

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for February 17, 2021. On a motion by Samuel Ghilarducci, second by Mike Burleson, the following were approved for payment:

M & O – Sewer $ 14,084.38 Vouchers #4265 - 4291

General – Water $ 40,516.64 Vouchers #4265 - 4291

Well #2 $ 582.01 Vouchers #4265 - 4291

Well #3 $ .00 Vouchers #4265 - 4291

Well #4 $ 1,660.93 Vouchers #4265 - 4291

Less: P/R Tax $ ( 28.70) to be paid with Payroll Returns

for a cash disbursement total of $56,815.26. 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 February 17, 2021. 38 accounts were 91+ days past due with a total balance of $12,524.45. Having received no response to the letter indicating liens would be filed, 29 Liens were filed and recorded. Upon receipt of payment, a release document will be completed, and the property owner will be responsible for filing the release and payment of any fees.

Correspondence:

P G & E Time of Use Rates effective in March

P G & E Peak Day Pricing Information

State Compensation Insurance Fund – Notice informing of Covid-19 Requirements.

Ca State Controller – Government Compensation Report due 4/30/21.

Gavin Newsom, Governor – Legislation to extend evictions, etc. for those impacted by Covid-19.

Public Time: No one was present.

District Business

Mario Cervantes presented his January/February monthly report. In addition to normal monthly maintenance, was called out due to low PSI and found Wells #4 and #2 both tripped. Reset. Called out twice due to power outages, reset water and sewer systems. Installed concrete boxes on 3rd and Main Street. Continue to monitor WWTP- 7 days per week. Submitted a credit application for Regina to complete providing another vendor to use as Ferguson’s is unable to keep some items in inventory.

Jeff reviewed the schedule update provided by Jeane Hill. He reported that the contractor is claiming “an act of God” preventing him from receiving items for the project. No change order was made at this time. Due to lack of supplies, no work has been done and no pay request submitted. Jeff reported the possibility of receiving an additional $5,300.00 from the Tulare-Kern PAC Funding Grant. If the additional funds are granted, he requested they be forwarded to P & P for the additional time spent on the project.

Board members Albert Ghilarducci and Richard Garcia reported on the Caruthers Biolac System tour. Ongoing concern about “Equipment” failures were shared. Noise on site was loud but once off site, minimal noise was heard. There are options for use of other blowers that would reduce the noise level. Jeff indicated that several modifications would be made regarding the engineering; rectangular clarifier design; changes to the sludge handling-belt press; an A frame barge be included in the grant funding; sludge separation instead of chemical use. Other than the solar, the operator had positive comments about the system. The board will need to weigh the concern for repairs against the concern for on-going regulations regarding discharge, SIGMA and irrigation costs. Jeff will schedule a tour of the Lerdo Jail Biolac System so that all board members can see the operation. Due to the major decision facing the board, Chairman Garcia encouraged all board members to participate in the Lerdo WWTP tour.

Jeff reported that a call has been set up with the State to discuss the cultural study. He felt the initial study would be $30,000 or less. After discussion, a motion was made by Samuel Ghilarducci, second by Vanessa Montemayor to proceed with the initial study at the $30,000.00 or less cost.

Responding to the request about rate increases, Attorney Schroeter reported that the board can commence with the first increase anytime in the 20-21 year, followed by the second increase in 2021-2022 even as early as July 1, 2021. Increases beyond June 30, 2022 would be based on the CPI. Anything greater than the CPI, would require holding the Proposition 218 hearings. The board felt the increase was necessary to meet the financial needs of the district and advised Regina to proceed with the water and sewer increases beginning 3/1/2021 which would be billed on 3/31/2021. Water would be increased $2.00 per month for the Ready to Serve charge and .10 cents for the Water Use Charge. Sewer will be increased $5.00, for a total of $35.00 per month. It was decided no customer notifications were required as the amounts had previously been made public.

Regina reported that notice to comply to the salt control program had been received. Compliance will change at the next permit renewal. Richard Garcia said that he will work with Regina to provide the necessary information.

Forms 700 were presented to board members. Regina asked that they be reviewed, and any changes made. They are to be completed and available for review by the public April 1, 2021.

Pandemic Relief Funds may be available. Self-Help Enterprises would provide information as it becomes available.

No additional update on pending business.

Secretary

No additional comments.

Chairman

Nothing

Directors

Nothing.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021 at 5:30PM.

Meeting adjourned, Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board