## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

December 15, 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 Main Steet, Buttonwillow, CA.

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

Others in attendance: In person Regina Houchin and Mario Cervantes. Jeff Eklund (P & P) and Melissa Bergen (Self-Help Enterprise) attended via teleconference.

The minutes of the November 17, 2021 were read and approved on a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Samuel Ghilarducci. (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, MB, AG, SG)

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for December 15, 2021. On a motion by Albert Ghilarducci, second by Samuel Ghilarducci, the following were approved for payment:

M & O – Sewer $ 8,646.64 Vouchers #4506-4529

General – Water $ 37,720.18 Vouchers #4506-4529

Well #2 $ 1,160.02 Vouchers #4506-4529

Well #3 $ .00 Vouchers #4506-4529

Well #4 $ 569.83 Vouchers #4506-4529

Well #5 $ 44,505.89 Vouchers #4506-4529

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

for a cash disbursement total of $92,573.86. Carried (Ayes 5 – RG, VM, MB, AG, SG)

Cash Account balance information and disbursement analysis were provided by the secretary and reviewed by the Board. The detailed P G & E analysis was unavailable.

# Accounts Receivable

Board members reviewed the delinquent accounts receivable report. 59 accounts were 91+ days past due for a total balance of $31,143.70, an increase from last month.

Correspondence:

Letter from the CA Department of Water Resources notifying the district that an airborne geophysical survey would be conducted in the area.

Several Christmas cards from Businesses had been received.

The holiday gift box from Provost and Pritchard was received containing nuts and candies and shared by the board.

Public Time:

None

District Business

Mario Cervantes presented his November/December update. Other than continuing to daily monitor the wastewater treatment plan, he only had two call outs. Service, due to a broken water line, was shut off for repairs. A call out for a sewer backup was investigated and found to be on the customer side. The property has 6 homes being served by a single connection, which isn’t sufficient to adequately serve the homes. Mario found no backup in the mainline. Regina was asked to look at the rate for the customer as it should be billed as a multiple unit complex. Mario reported that the irrigation flowmeter issue had been resolved at the park.

Jeff Eklund shared that Self-Help Enterprises had completed the WWTP workplan and is circulating for signatures and will send to the state. Once the State Water Board reviews and signs, the project will move forward with the environmental work. Jeff estimated the environmental portion should be completed in Spring 2022, with final grant funding available end of 2022. He anticipates the new plant to be operational mid-year 2024. Melissa had no additional information to provide, only to say Self-Help communicates with the various state agencies to help move the process along.

As the park irrigation system is operational, the only item remaining are the water analysis from the labs. Upon completion of the radium analysis it will be sent to the State, and the Title 22 can be issued.

Regina reported that connection fees for the Will Serve request at 280 W 4th Street was not received, therefore the application is still pending.

Chairman Garcia has been forwarding requests he receives from the state to Regina regarding the Arrearages Application. She has been responding with information and believes the application is complete. Funding should come within 30 to 60 days.

The district received information from California Office of Emergency Services regarding grant funding for mitigating hazards. Regina forwarded the information to Jeff Eklund for any projects that would be eligible for this round of funding. At this point there does not seem to be a project that would meet the criteria but will continue to watch for opportunities.

The latest report regarding Kern County Tax Default properties revealed one that was of interest to the district. It is located on Williams Road and could be of use for a future water tank. Regina will respond to the County indicating the district’s interest. Liens have been filed for other properties listed and served by the district.

Information regarding denial of variance for Clean Harbors of Buttonwillow was received. The public comment period ends January 24, 2022, should the board wish to provide additional information on the tentative denial. As there was no additional information, no response was necessary.

Attorney – Nothing

Secretary

Regina indicated that a request from the Kern Council of Governments was received through Joe Heide of Self Help. Unfortunately, nominations were due the day received. Regina nominated Dave Warner for the Ronald E Brummet Regional Merit for Lifetime Achievement and listed the Buttonwillow County Water District in the application. The board expressed appreciation for her making the nomination and submitting the application.

Regina expressed her thanks to Jeff Eklund for his support of the district. His wealth of knowledge is an asset for the district and his quick responses to grant questions and technical advice is very much appreciated. Regina acknowledged and thanked Melissa Bergen of Self-Help Enterprises for willingness to serve. Melissa is quickly assessing the needs of Buttonwillow and seeking ways to assist. Merry Christmas to all.

Chairman & Directors

Chairman Garcia expressed his appreciation to the board. It is a pleasure to work with such a great team, one he hopes will continue as the district works through the many needs of the community.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board