## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

JANUARY 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Buttonwillow County Water District was called to order by Chair Richard Garcia at 5:32 PM at the Ag Center, 289 Main Steet, Buttonwillow, CA.

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

Others in attendance: Regina Houchin, Mario Cervantes. Jeff Eklund and Melissa Bergen attended telephonically.

Chairman Garcia moved the closed session item to follow District Business.

The minutes of the December 20, 2023, meeting were read and approved on a motion by Vanessa Montemayor second by Mike Burleson. Carried. (Ayes 4- MB, AG, RG, VM; Absent 1)

Board member Samuel Ghilarducci joined the meeting at 5:35 PM.

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for January 17, 2024. Regina Houchin noted that check #5109 payable to California Rural Water Association was under District Business Item I, if the board would like to pull that check pending approval of membership renewal. On a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Albert Ghilarducci, the following including the CRWA renewal, were approved for payment:

M & O – Sewer $ 14,491.82 Vouchers #5087-5109 General – Water $ 11,840.62 Vouchers #5087-5109

 Well #2 $ 11,212.06 Vouchers #5087-5109

 Well #4 $ .00 Vouchers #5087-5109

 Well #5 $ 278.77 Vouchers #5087-5109

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

for a cash disbursement total of $37,794.57. Carried. (Ayes 5- MB, AG, RG, VM, SG)

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. 32 customer accounts over 90 days totaled $14,284.14. Required notifications have been sent and disconnection notifications delivered.

Correspondence:

Notice of Public Hearing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Carbon Terravault I Project. Richard briefly explained the process. A workshop will be held on January 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Taft and another on January 31st at 6:00 PM in Buttonwillow. Another workshop will be held prior to the EPA Hearing on February 28th at the Buttonwillow Recreation & Park District. Regina has more information for anyone interested.

Public Time:

No Public Time

District Business:

Mario presented his December/January operators report. Mario had multiple callouts to turn water off for customer repairs. He reported he had problems clearing the sewer main at the canal crossing at the end of Meadow. He indicated a sag in the main prevented a clear video of the line in that area. This is a newer section of the sewer mainline. Continues to have issues at the WWTP requiring daily monitoring. Notification of power outage at the WWTP required the use of the generator for most of the day. Mario reported a problem with the backhoe registering high RPM’s. A new injector pump would be $5,800.00 and a rebuilt one $1,800.00. It was decided to fix the backhoe using a rebuilt injector pump.

Jeff Eklund, P & P, provided updates on projects:

* Sewer Main Inspection Project – National Plant Services completed the sewer mains as accessible. Sag at canal prevented inspection north of the canal. P & P prepared the draft PER and will add the final inspection details to be presented at the February Board meeting.
* WWTP Engineering – Melissa Bergen reported that the work plan has been submitted and is waiting for state comments and approval. P & P met with Cedric Irving, DFA Environmental Review, going over CEQA addendum requirements. Set meeting with Tom Dodson to complete the changes. Data has been received from Regina and Mario to update the PER, which will be presented at the February Meeting.
* Jeff presented a quote from Tiger Tanks for the Hydropneumatics Tank. Additional costs were recommended to complete the project. After review, a motion was made by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Samuel Ghilarducci to proceed with the purchase of the Hydropneumatic Tank from Tiger Tanks in the amount of $73,300.00. Carried. (Ayes 5- MB, AG, RG, VM, SG) The bid ready construction plans will be completed by the end of summer.
* CRC EHO-SEP – Richard Garcia received an email from Juan Campos of CRC. CRC and EPA indicate that the work will start this quarter. They are currently working on obtaining Air Permits.
* AVANTUS SOLAR PROJECT – Their basemap was received and the CAD maps overlayed to confirm no conflicts were present regarding the new WWTP location. The layout was added to the site plan. Avantus has not sent the draft easement agreement for review and approval.

The district has not received any information regarding the Community Development Block Grant Submittal.

Regina presented the request for nominations to fill the two Independent Special District representative positions and one alternate position on the Kern Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). There were no nominations made by the board.

Membership in the California Rural Water Association was approved with the accounts payable in the amount of $631.00.

Chairman Garcia adjourned to Closed Session at 6:05 to discuss correspondence received from Legal Counsel regarding Anderson v. Buttonwillow County Water District.

Open Session resumed at 6:12 PM with no action taken.

Attorney – Nothing

Secretary –Nothing

Chairman – Richard suggested the district consider moving forward with the removal of Well #3, at district expense, while the team is on site to remove well #1. Coordination will be needed.

Directors – Nothing

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board