

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 7, 2021

Members present – Jim Jones, Frank Hilliard, David Anderson, David Alvares, and Jim Gerdes.

Members absent – None.

Public in Attendance – None.

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Alvares. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: December 2021 was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Frank Hilliard. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the Southside Utility Project as Complete and to Close Out the Project was made by David Alvares and seconded by Frank Hilliard. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting – 12/07/21
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The meeting was called to order at 5:29 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Consent Items – Curtis Jorritsma went over the Savings Accounts Worksheet for the Month of November. Under the Replacement Fund breakdown, there was an adjustment to the balances of each entity, water, sewer and storm drain. It was discovered the allocation on this worksheet was incorrect. The total account balance has always been correct. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items.

Public Forum – None.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis Jorritsma reported we billed for 17.266 MG of water and pumped 21.330 MG for November. That makes it for a 19% water loss. We are still working on determining what reports in the new system will give us a better picture of what is the total amount billed for water used. Based on our new rate structure we may not be capturing all the water consumption billed based on the on the current report we are looking at. We have not seen any issues with water breaks. Curtis reported for the month of November, TSS was 57mg/L and BOD was 43MG/L. He also reported the results for October, TSS was 58/mg/L and BOD was 48mg/L. The results continue to be high and Jonathon and Curtis have been discussing as to why these levels continue to reflect high results with the cooler weather. One reason may be, due to the length of the detention process. It takes about 145 days for the process and looking back we did flush lines and the residue from that process would still be in the pond. Based on this, the levels should be down by January/February. Mr. Hilliard stated, that something may not be working correctly at the ponds and maybe we need to add an aerator to the ponds, possibly rent one to see if it assists with our levels. Curtis stated we will continue to look at the data to determine if any changes will

be needed at the plant. Curtis reported the average daily flow at the plant was .323MG and the max flow was .365MG and the total flow for the month was 9.704MG.

Curtis provided an update on the Grant Programs. The WaterSmart Grant applications were submitted and we are waiting for results. We will be submitting the Small Community Grant application (Approximately \$8 to \$10 Million dollars) by December 15th, if not sooner. We will be finalizing the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Public Benefit Grant, where we were able to purchase two electric rangers, the cost to the District will be approximately \$6,000.00. The SJVAPCD provided up to \$20,000.00 per vehicle.

Curtis informed the Board Zac Vasquez and Jonathon Sousa are both taking operator exams this week.

Curtis reported the District has had a lot of changes in the past couple of months with the new utility billing system, new rate structure and the implementation of credit card processing fees. Overall things are good. The meter reading process was a lot better in November compared to October. In October we had used the new "Belt Clip" device, which is designed to walk and get the reads not drive by. Unfortunately, this was not specified to the District when we purchased it. For the month of November, we borrowed the MRX unit from Neptune, and the process was great. We are working with Neptune to receive a credit for the Belt Clip and purchase a MRX unit. The cost for an MRX unit is around \$10,000.00. Staff continues to learn the new billing system. The District did have a lot of calls from customers regarding the new rate structure. Staff has done a great job addressing customer questions, and there were a lot of questions. We estimate to have had 5% of customers that were very upset with the new rate structure, another 5% were concerned their bills dropped and 90% just wanted to know what was going on and wanted to understand the new process of water consumption and billing.

Curtis reported CalTrans has decided the plan to address the flooding issue at the corner of August and SR 165, by using our storm drain system, is not a good solution to the flooding issue.

Curtis informed the Board, the District had a meter issue calculation for one of the accounts for the Hilmar Unified School District. The meter was changed in 2019 and it had a multiplier of 10 for the older style register and when the new register was installed the multiplier was not removed. With the new billing system, the issue was discovered. We are working at calculating the amount we will need to refund to the school. The amount will be substantial and we will be working with the school to have the refund configured into the fees the school will be owing the District for the new school.

Director Reports – None.

Action Items –

- A) Curtis went over a few of the bills listed. The Teeples invoice in the amount of \$4,987.50 was for work done to pump sand at the algae settling pond. Another bill was to California Consulting in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the WaterSmart Grant applications. We also have an invoice from Ferguson in the amount of \$3,017.00 for the new Neptune software for a one-year subscription. The bills that are due to be paid in December were presented and a motion was made and seconded to pay them.
- B) Curtis presented the next item on the agenda in regards to getting final acceptance from the Board for the completion of the Southside Utility Project. This project was paid with

District funds and it does not require a notice of completion but it is a common practice to complete the notice of completion. This project was completed in August of 2020 and Mr. Spencer Supinger mentioned we had not completed the notice of completion. Staff recommends approving the notice of completion for the Southside Utility Project and closing out the project. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Notice of Completion for the Southside Utility Project.

Discussion Items –

- A) Curtis informed the Board we received an email from Mr. Stuart Spencer regarding the proposed emergency water conservation regulations. Mr. Stuart Spencer stated the State will be voting on the regulation in January. Curtis will be looking over the proposed regulations.

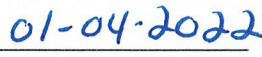
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Approved by:



Board Member

Date