

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
April 1, 2021

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

Members absent – David Anderson.

Public in Attendance – None.

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Revised Preliminary Rate Study Analysis was made by Frank Hilliard and seconded by David Alvares. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting – 04/01/21
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The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Public Forum – None.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis Jorritsma reported we will have a new provider for our copier/printer service. The price will be a little less than what we currently pay. The new provider, Power Business Technology, offered to pay off the current lease, which was about 3 months, and start providing us their service.

Curtis informed the Board at the next meeting he will be going over the new utility billing software quotes. CUSI is the current early leader with their software options. We will also be looking at our IT service needs and what will entail once we update the utility billing software. He will provide more details next Tuesday.

Curtis updated the Board on the progress of the Safety Audit, he is still looking at options.

Director Reports - None

Action Items –

- A) Curtis presented the revised preliminary rate study analysis to the Board. The revised preliminary rate study reflects no CIP Plans for the next fiscal year. Curtis will be working with Clayton Tuckfield on updating definitions for the reserve accounts. There are no changes to the sewer portion of the rate study analysis from the last meeting. There are two scenarios being presented for the water portion. Curtis requested Clayton to move the tank project up and move the other projects, how Clayton saw fit. The first scenario reflects moving up the tank project to have it build FY 24-25, reflecting an annual increase of 12%. Mr. Hilliard inquired if the District would seek grants. Curtis replied, he will be going over that later in his presentation. Mr. Gerdes asked what would happen if we were to move the

construction of the redundant transmission line. Curtis replied, in order to keep the percentage of the annual increase at this level, the order of the projects will remain as listed. Curtis added should a funding opportunity come up, we could possibly adjust the time frame of some other projects and maintain the annual increase as broken out on the analysis. The second scenario reflects the tank project to be constructed in the FY 23-24 reflecting an annual increase of 15%. Curtis discussed with Spencer Supinger, our engineer, regarding the price of the tank project, when considering a reduction in inflation and including treatment costs, the preliminary estimate was left at \$6,300,000.00. The price includes \$1.1 million for arsenic treatment as the board requested. By having the water tank, we will have the opportunity to have all wells pump water and have it blended. Mr. Alvares stated, by being able to pool water from different wells, makes it for a better option for water. We will plan to do a well analysis for well #4 and #6. Curtis will continue to work with Spencer to see what the process will be. Curtis stated looking at the CIP list, we have important projects listed and the goal will be to maximize our funding to benefit rate payers. We will analyze, if it works to align projects together and utilize funds to design and build the projects. Mr. Hilliard inquired if there is a firm we can hire to assist the District in securing grant funding. Curtis replied we can look at enlisting a firm to chase funds for grants and other available funding. Curtis, when he worked in Patterson, worked with California Consulting. They would have the knowledge of how to complete the applications and secure the funding. Mr. Gerdes stated if the District is able to secure grant funding the question may come up from customers "will rates go down"? Curtis replied, it would need to be evaluated based on the projects the District has on the CIP list. A motion was made and seconded to go with the scenario that will include a 15% annual rate increase for water and a 13% annual rate increase for sewer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Approved by:



Board Member

4-6-21

Date