



**FORT SMITH WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes-Friday, October 25, 2024**

-OPENING – ROLL CALL- Alan Shaw called the meeting to order @ 9:00 AM on October 25, 2024 meeting was held in person and via phone conference; call in number was 1-224-501-3412, Access Code: 695-210-141; Board members attending: Alan Shaw, Katie Steele, and Jim Hyde; Employees attending: Sandy Kust and Josh McCraw; public attending: Bonnie Evans and Eric Anderson, public attending via phone: Jeff Buzmann.

-APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, MEETING MINUTES AND PUBLIC MEETING- Motion by Mr. Hyde to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2024 as printed, 2nd by Dr. Shaw; motion carried unanimously.

-FINANCIALS/BILLS- Sandy Kust presented the treasurers report for October 2024. Expenses: \$16,072.54, income: \$21,268.00; checking account balance: \$101,061.15 + CDARS \$29,976.00; total: \$131,037.15. Motion by Ms. Steele to pay the bills, 2nd by Dr. Shaw, motion carried unanimously.

RPA Engineering is anticipating substantial completion on November 1, 2024, and insurance will need to be put on equipment once substantial completion is issued, Sandy will contact 1st West to get the quote for additional equipment that will be put on the insurance. Sandy will email board members with the information from the insurance company for review. The cost of the new policy will be used to determine whether a rate increase will be needed to cover the additional premium.

-DELINQUENT REPORT- Currently there are 8 accounts that are past due, totaling \$2,310.13; the water is turned off on 3 accounts and 4 have been sent turn off letters if not paid by October 29th, 2024, and one is paying the current balance plus \$75.00 of the past due balance monthly.

-WASTEWATER PROJECT

1. WASTEWATER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE:

Schedule I – Prospect Construction – The lift station, generator, force main, lagoons, aeration equipment, and irrigation system have been tested. The inlet and outlet control structures at the lagoons were painted October 21st and will be cured by October 25th. The SCADA/telemetry company will be onsite on October 24th to complete their programming and meet with Josh & Trig. MDEQ was on site on October 23rd for a site inspection with Trig. RPA Engineering should be able to issue substantial completion on October 25th for this schedule and update the punch list.

Schedule II – Western Municipal Construction – Western will start back up on October 25th with pumping out railroad cars, removing the train tops, and filling full of washed rock. Western will connect the gravity sewer mains into the lift station and install the half block of gravity sewer main behind the church. Western will remove the sludge/biosolids from the existing Yellowtail lagoon and haul to the landfill and fill the in the lagoon.

RPA Engineering is anticipating wastewater will start flowing through the system the last week in October or first week in November, 2024. Western Municipal is anticipating seeding alleyways when work is completed with railroad cars.

Dr. Shaw stated the FEMA grant for the reclamation of the lagoon is denied, but he is researching a hazardous waste grant, in which the lagoon site would have to be dedicated to a conservation easement and the District could not sell. Dr. Shaw will conduct more research before starting on grant application.

-OPERATOR REPORT- Josh has taken the lead/copper samples and submitted the paperwork to DEQ as well as posting results at the office. Josh had to take 5 samples in 5 places throughout the distribution system and the 90th percentile results for lead are: .001mg/l, the DEQ maximum contaminant level for lead is: .015mg/l; results for copper are: .085mg/l and the DEQ maximum contaminant level for copper is: 1.3 mg/l, Fort Smith does not exceed the level for lead or copper. Josh continues to work with contractors on the wastewater project and is getting training on the new system as it comes online and is still fighting with chlorine smell in certain places on the north side. Josh stated he will be leaving November 8th through 25th and Mike Williams will be taking daily residuals and Mike Williams, Todd Query, and James Unrudd will be onsite as needed.

-STATUS ON 2ND OPERATOR: Dr. Shaw stated the part time operator has left for two months and the District is looking for a replacement. Dr. Shaw will put together a letter of employment opportunity to be sent out with the billing.

NEW BUSINESS:

November/December Meetings- The November meeting will be held on November 22, 2024 @ 9am and the December meeting may be held via phone conference only.

-PUBLIC COMMENTS- Bonnie Evans asked how the reclamation of the lagoon site will be paid for if FEMA funds were not awarded. Dr. Shaw stated the reclamation project will be paid for using loan funds and can then be sold. Bonnie stated the District get an appraisal on the lagoon site as well as the site the District purchased from Jensen for the needed easements.

Eric Anderson asked how the District will handle power outages and if the District has backup and maintenance agreements for the functionality of the water and wastewater systems. Josh stated the water pump houses each have a generator which automatically switches to backup power in the event of a power failure. The lift station also has a generator which will automatically switch to backup power, the sewer system also has to sewer pumps installed which will alternate run times and in the event one pump goes out the District will at least have one pump to use while the other is getting repaired. Josh is working on getting maintenance agreements with contractors on the lift station control panel, the sewer pumps, aerators and irrigation system. Josh stated the contractor that installed the lift station and pumps recommended either getting a redundant pump and store until needed or purchase a by-pass pump in case sewer pumps both go out or cannot keep up with flows.

Employment review: Dr. Shaw asked employees to submit a self-assessment to the board before the next meeting as the board will be conducting evaluations.

-ADJOURN MEETING- Meeting adjourned at 10:13AM