



Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association
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The following minutes are from the Regular Board Meeting of Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Board of Directors, November 17, 2016; convened at 9:00 A.M. in the Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Board Room located at 5535 Ledesma Mr., Las Cruces, NM 88007:

Call to Order & Roll Call

President Melton called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and called roll:

Vice President – Jamie Stull, Present

Secretary/ Treasurer – Kurt Anderson, Present

Board Member – Raymond Ponteri, Present

Board Member – Justin Sparks, Telephone Conference

Others in Attendance:

Executive Director – Jennifer Horton

Legal Counsel – Joshua Smith

Community Members – Jim Hayhoe and Nancy Simmons

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the agenda for the November 17, 2016 Regular Board Meeting as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ponteri. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Minutes

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 03, 2016; Mr. Stull seconded the motion. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Mr. Melton updated a grammatical error. Mr. Anderson amended his motion to include the correction. The Chair called for a vote on the modified motion for the amended minutes; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

New Members & New Meters

Mr. Stull moved to approve the New Members and New Meters list as presented for November 2016; Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Mrs. Horton advised there are twelve (12) names on the list consisting of five (5) new meters and seven (7) new members. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Customer Issues and Public Input

Mr. Jim Hayhoe from the Picacho Hills Property Association (PHPOA) advised the project for the pressure reducing valves (PRV) in the Village of Picacho Hills is ongoing with over one hundred (100) installations completed. At this time it appears there will be close to three hundred (300) hook ups once this project is completed.

Board President Report

President Melton reported the last few weeks have been hectic due to several line breaks and PRV failures. When we purchased the Picacho Hills Utility Company we inherited quite a few pieces of equipment that had been neglected with regard to maintenance and upkeep. We have diligently attempted to keep the system operational and running while we install upgrades and ongoing rehab. Unfortunately, we are now beginning to experience almost daily failures with the old PRV's. We do not have the

capability to instantaneously respond to change out each of the PRV's, however we do have procedures in place to work as quickly as we can. We are hoping to have the PRV upgrades completed by the end of December to resolve some of these issues. Until all system updates are complete we will continue to experience water outages. We will do our best to provide notices of the outages, however there are times the outages are out of our control. The Association asks for patience from the Public as we do sympathize with the inconvenience, but things will get better once these modifications are complete. Mr. Melton has spoken with Forrest Beason, the PHPOA President, and will continue to do so in order to communicate with the overall populous in that Village.

Mr. Melton visited the Rural Water Conference that was held at Hotel Encanto. After attending the conference it is extremely evident that future funding is up in the air. We at Dona Ana Mutual will continue down the path we have set for our contracted funding to proceed forward with our approved projects.

Mr. Melton also reported we have received a write up and diagram from Doug Roby at Water Technology as to how the meter testing is completed. At this time it is apparent that we need to acknowledge meters do not fix themselves; if a meter begins to fail it will continue to fail. Mr. Melton has completed extensive research with meter functionality and would like to point out our accuracy with regard to meter testing is within two to three percent. Mr. Melton is reasonably satisfied that our testing procedures are adequate and accurate. We do purchase meters that are compliant with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards, and the information that Mr. Melton continues to receive is that if water is registered through a meter, and a failure cannot be proved through the Association's due diligence, then there is no way we can forgive high water utilization. The home owner is responsible for the water, not the Association. We have no knowledge or control as to where a homeowner's water goes. We have ordered hardware to report in excess of 90 days per hour in order to complete data logging to further assist as to when the high water usage occurred. We follow the Constitution of the

State of New Mexico and it does not currently allow for leak forgiveness. We the Board empathize with the difficult matter; however we cannot pass the burden of one consumer's water to the rest of our Membership. Mr. Ponteri questioned what Mr. Melton's research discovered with regard to dirt or debris in the meter? Mr. Melton advised that positive displacement meters on the input side have a screen present in order to filter out significant amounts of crud. Additionally, what would be a possible failure mode if dirt were to be present? The chamber size would reduce and the seals would show damage over a period of time. Mr. Ponteri advised the reason he asks is due to receiving a complaint from a neighbor that had a new meter installed as his old meter did not register any use for three (3) months; according to the neighbor it was because it was filled with dirt. A replacement registered normally, but his neighbor reportedly also had to repair the on demand water system due to sand. Mr. Melton asked if Mr. Ponteri had any additional information; he did not. Executive Director Horton will look into this. Mr. Ponteri commented on sediment present in the water after a main break and how common the breaks are in the Picacho Hills area. He understands the Association's interpretation of the State Constitution, however he would like to point out that the cities of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces have leak adjustment policies. Mr. Melton advised we employ a man who is an expert on the law and his opinion is that leak adjustments are a violation of the law. Additionally, the entities Mr. Ponteri mentioned are municipalities who are governed by an entirely different set of rules. Mr. Anderson commented that he has been receiving advertisements for leak insurance and suggested we include this information in our upcoming newsletter in order to promote public awareness as to additional options for leaks.

Staff Reports

2. Executive Director

See Attachment

Mrs. Horton advised we have been experiencing an increased amount of vandalism in the Village of Picacho Hills, including damage to our brand news tanks. The contractor has filed a police report.

New Business

No New Business

Unfinished Business

Mr. Anderson moved to approve Item Three (3), approval of paving project award to Renegade Construction; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Executive Director advised with a break this substantial we have to finish with paving, and this bid does follow State Procurement. Renegade Construction is the low bidder and is in the process of submitting a traffic control to the County. The requirements are attached. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve Item Four (4), approval of Resolution 2016-11 CIF 3507; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Mrs. Horton advised this is a \$1.2 million, 10% loan and 90% grant combination project with 0% interest. This is for Fairview Phase II to install twelve inch water line, and legal counsel has reviewed the agreement. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve Item Five (5), approval of Combine and Comingle Application; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Mrs. Horton explained our legal counsel, Mr. Peters, prepared this application. If approved this would connect all of the Association's systems. The


State Engineer Department has reviewed this and is ready for the Association to submit. The application is subject to protest; however we are requesting emergency authorization as this only encompasses our service area. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Open Session

No discussion was brought forward

Adjournment

Mr. Stull moved to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.; Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote on the motion: the motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.



Kurt Anderson
Secretary/ Treasurer

12/15/2016
Date