**MEETING**

**ACADEMY WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT**

**November 16, 2022**

All participation in this public meeting, including public participation, will be remotely to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public caused by the Covid pandemic and in conformance with state orders

This meeting is being held via SKYPE. For sign on please go to AWSD website.

ATTENDEES VIA SKYPE:

(X ) Steve Callicott President

(X ) Mike Nero Vice President

(X ) Brian Houghtaling Treasurer

(X ) Loring Wirbel Secretary

(X ) Ronald Curry Director/Webmaster

( ) Neil Nalepa Operator

Other Attendees:

( ) Dave Frisch GMS Engineering

(X ) Anne Porter

(X ) Marsha Curry

(X) Christine Lane

(X) Kevin Moss

(X) Steve Scott

(X) Carolyn Stetson

(X) Tyler (Goelzer?)

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**: Ron moves October minutes be approved. Unanimously approved.

**REPORTS:**

 **SECRETARY**: No issues. Added additional item to agenda. Will send minutes out late in week.

 **TREASURER**: Discussion under New Business. Our current status – total revenue according to budget, and total expenses are slightly less than projected.

 **OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT:** Semocor, meter reading ops
 (RON TO ATTACH OPERATIONS REPORT)

**POTABLE WATER SYSTEM**: All operations working well. Water tanks 29 feet, close to capacity.

**WASTE WATER SYSTEM**: Augmentation (treated sewage) going well.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

* Resignation of Anthony -- remaining items of transition – Kevin asks if long-term contractor is best option, or if a FT employee might be best in the long run. Steve said we have reached out to local colleges to determine interest of students seeking licensure. Ron said the fact of backup employees with Semocor may make this more economical in the long run. Kevin asked if the steady-state would mean less work for board, Ron said it would be hybrid. As we move to more automation, this may give us opportunities to do basic contracting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* -Disclosure of Board Member Conflict of Interest: None

Discuss 2023 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges:

* Brian said that in addition to inflation, there are such new capital expenditures as water filter refurbishment. Donala (DWSD) is increasing the sanitation fees they charge AWSD; however, Donala is not halting the service. Someone mentioned that Donala is negotiating to send wastewater to the Tri-Lakes Waste Water Treatment Facility rather than to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility that DWSD is currently using. There are other capital expenses such as remote meter-reading, and daily plant start-up, which could be automated.
* We would propose increasing water fee by 9%, and sanitation fee by 9%, for a total fee charge rising from $148 to $161 a month. Steve C. said that we have some reserve, but the unrestricted portion of reserve has been used for four years, and are dwindling.
* Kevin asked if there were opportunities to get grants to offset the increase in fees. Ron said state does not give out grants to neighborhoods where average house price is above $500k. Steve C. added there are loan opportunities, but that just loads us with more debt. Brian said that the loan payment for the lift station for transfer to Donala is $135k a year. Donala also charges $155k a year usage. Those items, and Semocor expenses are the main expenses. Tyler asked about benchmarking against other districts, Steve C said this has been done mostly with Donala. Steve added that there are fixed costs that cannot be changed. Ron added that the infrastructure from the district is from 1964, and if we don’t keep up the old infrastructure, it will not function.

Approval of 2023 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges

 Brian said that water rates will stay the same. Fees will increase $13 per month, or 9 percent, for both water and sewage. This will be an increase from $25.00 to $27.25 for water, and an increase from $123.00 to $134.07. **Ron moves that we accept this 9% increase in fees effective Jan. 1, 2023. Approved unanimously.**

Public hearing on the 2023 budget:

**Steven opens up public hearing at 7:06 p.m.** and asks for initial public comment. He then asks Brian to open. Brian points out that water rates will stay the same. Fees will increase $13 per month, or 9 percent, for both water and sewage. This will be an increase from $25.00 to $27.25 for water, and an increase from $123.00 to $134.07.

The public hearing was closed at this point.

Motion to accept the Resolution to adopt the AWSD 2023 Budget:

 **Ron submits at 7:43 p.m. a resolution to accept budget for 2023. Mike seconded itApproved unanimously.**

Motion to accept the Resolution to Appropriate 2023 Sums of Money of AWSD:

**Ron submits at 7:46 p.m. a resolution to appropriate 2023 sums, plus $1,175 added to operating expenses. Loring seconds it. Approved unanimously.**

Motion to accept the 2023 Resolution to Set Mill Levies:

**Ron submits at 7:50 p.m. a resolution to set mill levy of 2.937. Approved unanimously.**

**Elevated pipe on Rod Cole’s property** – he would like AWSD to remedy it. This is the property on Spring Valley where shallow wells exist. There appears to be abandoned well pipe, used for checking level of well, and there is a metal plate that appears to be welded to an old well. Well pipe sticks out of ground about two feet, and has never been used to measure well depth because it was drilled improperly. Brian said there was a proper way to abandon a well, it cost several thousand dollars to “abandon,” because it must use a procedure where concrete is pumped into hole. There should be further investigations. Ron said Division of Water Resources will tell you what is out there. Discussion will continue at next board meeting, and this item will be moved to Old Business.

And any other issues pertaining to District operations

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:01 p.m.**

Atch: Will include Operations Report from Ron, full Excel spreadsheet on budget prepared by Brian, and signed resolutions filed with county.