

Southwood Park Water District

Minutes for July 27, 2021

7:04 – Meeting called to order by Eric Leatham, interim board co-chair.

- Board members present – KC Rogers, Jon Howell, Susan Weston, and Eric Leatham. Kelli Byrd on vacation. Will decide on roles and duties next month.
- Swore in Jon and Eric to new terms. Can do Kelli next month.
- Checks – signed.
- Reports reviewed. Ziplly amount increased – needs to be checked on. Kelli to follow up with past due account #1822. Jon will ask Dan to create an account for our interest income.
- Minutes of June 23, 2001 – Sue motioned to approve; KC seconded. Passed 4-0.

Old Business:

- On Point transition. Looks like all bills have been moved. Close in August. Eric will confirm with Dan.
- Hiland invoice – Charges billed to customer for Southwood line damage, concrete will be billed once done.

New Business.

- Budget Resolution 2021-1 was sent to the state.
- Fire hydrant – Received email from Hiland that one on upper 61st is broken. KC motioned to replace; Sue seconded. Passed 4-0.
- Putman Water – Doesn't do what we want them to do but they recommended AKS, Olson and Pace.
- AKS Engineering – John Christiansen (16-year employee) attended the meeting to share his resume and discussed what his company does. Answered questions. Appears to satisfy the needs that we have. Bills time & materials. Projects can have a maximum. Will check with Kelli to see if the others have been invited to speak and then we can discuss hiring someone to assist us with the system assessment and prioritization.
- Need to get final budget on web site. The 2020 SDAO upgrade proposal was deemed to be confidential at the time since parts of it were unclear and could be misleading to the public. A guest at the meeting had a few pages of it and it appears to be circulating so it was decided to post it to the web site.
- Rate increase – letter was sent at end of June. Opened up for public comment.

Public Comment:

- 25 guests in attendance.
 - Breaks caused by clients are billed to them. Accidents are paid by district.
 - Priorities – lining tank, painting, pump, hydrants. Then maybe main lines and pressure regulators.
 - Went over budget process.
 - Replacing homes galvanized pipes with PEX (plastic) can increase water pressure.
 - Rate increase – Old assessment was \$2.4MM, now about \$3.8MM. Shows that rates should be doubled, should merge with another district and obtain loan.
 - Priorities and timing (above).
 - Do we take bitcoin? Referred her to Hiland.
 - Current rate increase about equals the one done over the last 5 years, much closer to other local water providers now, future increases could be larger, board did not take prior suggestions to phase in increase over several years, increase should take effect with the October meter reading so we don't incur the cost of multiple readings, capital plan isn't on web site, KC is not listed on web site, need priority list and should defer recent rate increase.
 - Likes rate increase structure.
 - AKS is professional and can help board obtain 3 bids to get tank done. They would be a consultant for us.
 - Normal for small districts to have professional help. Encourages us to obtain low interest loans. Rivergrove just increased rates 10%.

- Thanks for volunteering. What is cost of water in 2-3 years? Would a loan increase rates? Small neighborhood, know each other, nice to let all talk.
- What happens if there is an emergency?
- Effects of having more than 300 connections. Sue to provide.

Next meeting is August 25th.

Adjourned at 8:17. Jon moved to adjourn; Eric seconded. Passed 4-0.

Minutes by Eric Leatham.