

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Shawver called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Vincent Shawver, President
Neil Martin, Vice President
Dallas Ayde, Director
Sherri Thackham, Director
Marilyn Dickenson, Director

Jeff Sperline, Sperline Raekes Law
Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager
Lila Freshment, Recorder

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Shawver moved these agenda items to the March 4th Board meeting. From Old Business, the Owens Pit Interlocal Agreement, and from New Business, the Fee Schedule, Mark Limbaugh meeting review, and Joint Board meeting review. President Shawver added the KHA Easement Relinquishment and a Review of the NWIO Conference to New Business and moved the Executive Session to take place before Training. Director Martin motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of February 4, 2022

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of February 4, 2022. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DNR Update

Mr. Strifert provided the list of DNR approved appraisers and recommends going with one of the appraisers from the Spokane area. The Board directed Mr. Strifert to research and make the decision to hire the most qualified DNR appraiser.

LID #38

Mr. Strifert provide background on the new construction going in and the issue with water pressure in LID 38. Mr. Strifert proposed adding the portion of the new development located on the south side of 27th Avenue to LID 38 West. He suggested having the contractor add an additional pump station on the on the south side of 27th which will alleviate pressure issues in the LID. He discussed implementing a per lot charge for new lots resulting from subdivision of parcels which would be applied to the LID's reserves for future maintenance. The only charge to the LID for the upgrade would be for engineering services. Mr. Strifert still needs to investigate to see if our current piping will support it. The second option is to remove the portion of the new development located on the north side of 27th from LID 38th and have the developer add a new LID to serve the entire subdivision. Mr. Strifert will contact JUB to get Mr. Weatherly's assessment of the proposal.

New Rate Schedule

Mr. Strifert presented the updated draft of the new rate schedule for calculating assessments. The Board reviewed and discussed the new schedule. Director Martin motioned to accept the new rate schedule with the addition of a 6.00 to 6.99 and 7.00 to 7.99 acreage category. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Director's Shawver and Martin voted to approve the motion. Director's Thackham, Ayde and Dickenson opposed the motion. Motion failed. The Board scheduled a Special Meeting for Friday, March 11th at 9:00 a.m. to conduct a workshop on the development of new assessment rate schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Kennewick Housing Authority Easement Relinquishment

Mr. Strifert provided an overview of the letter received from Paul Knutzen requesting the Board relinquish easements on a property being developed by the Kennewick Housing Authority at 128 East 13th Avenue (See Attachment). There are six recorded easements for the District. The request is to relinquish three easements that have no pipe located in them. Director Ayde motioned to allow the Kennewick Housing Authority to vacate the three unused easements and the unused portion of the fourth easement. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert asked the Board to delay the start of water until March 28th this year to allow time to complete additional canal maintenance. This will allow him time to set the second Rubicon gate frame and complete additional shotcrete lining with the new shotcrete machine. Director Ayde motioned to delay starting water for one week for canal maintenance purposes. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Northwest Irrigation Operators Conference Report

Mr. Strifert reported on the Northwest Irrigation Operators Conference he attended in Boise Idaho. He reported that KID's title transfer from the Bureau of Reclamation is complete. They now own their infrastructure. The Bureau still owns the water rights. Water Smart Grant announcements are starting to be released. There will be a grant available for up to \$200,000.00 for a drought resiliency and contingency plan. The chance of getting grants double if there is a water savings plan. Mr. Strifert will look into it further once released. Mr. Strifert stated he felt the conference was very beneficial.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 2:54 p.m. for 25 minutes, to discuss current litigation and an employee resignation. The meeting was extended at 3:19 p.m. for five minutes and moved back into open session at 3:24 p.m. Director Martin raised a motion to elevate Mara Monk to full-time at the same wage rate as the previous employee. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TRAINING

Training was postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

President Shawver reminded everyone to follow Board Policy and ask to be excused before leaving the meeting. Director Dickenson stated that Ms. Freshment has the electronic link for submitting comments on House Bill 5342 covering Irrigation District Elections. The Hearing is scheduled for February 21st.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin, Vice President

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde, Director

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager