

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Shawver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present at the meeting were:

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

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

Guests: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Martin motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of August 5, 2022

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of August 5, 2022. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Update

Mr. Strifert reported the District received a letter from DNR confirming they are charging the District triple damages for material removed from the clay pit.

2022/2023 Budget

Mr. Strifert presented the revised 2022/23 budget which includes the 3% increase approved at the last meeting. Mr. Strifert requested Board approval to borrow funds from the Surplus Fund to purchase an SUV and two ditch rider trucks, included in next year's budget, before the new budget cycle begins. The funds will be replaced in the next fiscal year. Toyota has two new Tacoma trucks for \$38,000 each. The concern is since there is such high demand and shortage of vehicles, if we don't purchase now we could be waiting a couple of years and pay a much higher price. Director Thackham motioned to allow Mr. Strifert to purchase two ditch rider trucks and an SUV out of surplus. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Strifert called the Boards attention to the Tree Removal line item in the current budget. Although the financial statement shows no funds being spent in that category, the crew has removed trees as part of general canal maintenance. All work was done by the District in-house because contractors were not available to take down trees before water season.

Union Contract

Mr. Strifert reported that he is still waiting on the final contract from the Union. The contract has been approved and will be effective January 2023. He is hoping to receive the final contract before the next board meeting.

Policy Review

The Board reviewed Policy 4.2 – Protection of District Canal Rights-of-Way and Easements. Director Thackham motioned to approve Policy 4.2 Protection of District Canal Rights-of-Way and Easements with the changes made to the policy. Director Ayde seconded. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Policy 4.3 – Protection of Pipeline Rights-of-Way and Easements. Director Ayde motioned to approve Policy 4.3 Protection of Pipeline Rights-of-Way and Easements. Director Thackham seconded. Director Dickenson abstained. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Policy 4.4 – Utilities Crossing District Property Design and Indemnification. Director Ayde motioned to approve Policy 4.4 Utilities Crossing District Property Design and Indemnification. Director Thackham seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert stated the LID 52 pump station is back up and is working well. The District completed a full canal weed treatment yesterday. The Emrgy contract has been completed. We have received forms for us to fill out documenting our water flow numbers. This will help them decide where to install the turbines. Mr. Strifert expects to have the forms back to them before the end of the water season. Benton Conservation has begun harvesting weeds in the Yakima River.

Engineering Contract

Mr. Strifert reviewed the Engineering Service Evaluation for the firms responding to the District's annual request for qualifications. The District received responses from JUB Engineers, Allwest Testing and GeoProfessional Innovation. Director Ayde motioned to renew the contract with JUB Engineers. Director Martin seconded. Motion carried.

CPA Contract

The District received one response to the annual request for qualifications for CPA. The response was from Hanford & Associates, the District's current CPA firm. Director Ayde motioned to renew the contract with Hanford & Associates. Director Dickenson seconded. Motion carried.

Board Room Chairs

The Board discussed the purchase of new chairs for the board room. The discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

Joint Board Meeting Review

Directors Shawver and Martin presented a review of the Joint Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 10:24 a.m., for 30 minutes, with two extensions for 10 and 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation. The meeting was moved to open session at 11:24 a.m.

Director Thackham motioned to authorize our attorney to send a demand letter to Mr. & Mrs. Klages for the principle of the judgment owed to the District, to pay no later than November 1, 2022. Director Martin seconded. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Director Dickenson reported that the LID #52 pump is working well. Director Ayde reported that the Loft Apartments on Lyle and Kent Street is overwatering. The property is saturated, and water is running into the street. Mr. Strifert stated that he will contact the City of Kennewick Code Enforcement on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin, Vice President

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde, Director

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager