



**COOKE CITY, PARK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**6:00 pm**

**Location:** Cooke City Fire Station Meeting Room

**Board Members in Attendance:** Deb Purvis, Kay Whittle, Troy Wilson, Rick Sommers  
Lucas Jack, Operator  
Marilyn Hartley, Clerk

**Members absent:** Vacant Seat

**Public Attendance:** Victor Sandonato, Bill Whittle, & Rick Stryker, PEC Engineer

Chair, Deb Purvis, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

The minutes from the August meeting were reviewed with no additions or corrections noted. Kay made a motion to accept the August minutes and was seconded by Troy. Motion passed unanimously.

The Cash report as of 8/31/17 was reviewed and showed a total cash balance of \$112,686.78 of which all but \$5983.14 is held in mandatory reserve accounts. There is also \$3579.73 in tax revenue being held by the Park County Treasurer. Marilyn reminded that there will be approximately \$31,000 billed out in October for 2017 taxes.

The August Profit & Loss report was reviewed. It was noted that the District continues to experience losses each month.

The A/R Report from August 31<sup>th</sup> was reviewed with no significant issues.

Following review of September invoices presented, Troy made a motion to approve all of them and was seconded by Rick. Everyone was in agreement, so Board members signed bill payments for September as follows:

ACH American Bank Card Services – \$466.34 – Supplies, water sample shipping fe  
Chk #2824 Bridger Analytical Lab – \$28.00 – August Sample testing  
Chk #2825 CenturyLink – \$52.83 – August Phone  
Chk #2826 Cooke City Exxon – \$280.00 – Equipment rental from Feb plowing  
Chk #2827 Flathead Electric - \$829.82 – August Electric  
Chk #2828 Hartland LLC (Marilyn) - \$700.00 – September Accounting Services  
Chk #2829 Lucas Jack - \$415.58 – September Salary (less deductions)  
Chk #2830 Montana Rural Water System - \$150.00 – Annual Membership fee  
Chk #2831 Performance Engineering - \$840.00 – August Engineering & Consulting fees  
Chk #2832 Verizon Wireless - \$13.23 – August Cell Phone

Marilyn presented the remaining bill for Canyon Electric in the amount of \$3700.06 and asked what the Board wanted to do with it. The Board doesn't want to pay for their mistake. The adjustment would be approximately \$3200 for the time that Rick Stryker spent in researching and troubleshooting a fix for Canyon's error. Rick Stryker indicated that he would facilitate whatever the District chooses to do. Troy made a motion

to have Emily Jones, legal advisor, compose a letter to include with the reduced payment explaining the lesser amount. Kay seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Engineer's Update – Rick Stryker gave an extensive update on current operations at the well house. Pump 1 finally seems to be operating properly now. A quote has been acquired from Dykman Electric for appropriate equipment to drive the other 2 pumps.

He then proceeded to discuss the PER for a potential sewer system for the whole community and the acquired grants for that purpose. Rick's job will be to develop feasible solutions to resolve the ongoing issues in Cooke City, work with agencies to review and recommend the best option, and get community input. He stated that the Park County Health Dept had been issuing permits on systems that were not within their jurisdiction. Discussion at the DEQ is pointing toward allowing use of the McLaren tailing / cleanup site, but the soils will need to be studied. However, there would most likely be limitations on using that site.

Rick then initiated discussion on how to get residents to 'buy into' the project.

Legal Activity – Emily has requested a contract in which the District indicates how they want to pay her . . . on an hourly basis, or on contingency. There was general discussion of some of the issues that may play into the District's favor. Lucas was directed to provide pictures of his work so far to Emily for potential use in the lawsuit and to copy same to Rick Stryker. Troy stated that he believed that paying on contingency would give more incentive for Emily to move the case forward, but would like more information before deciding. The issue was tabled for the time being.

Board Vacancy - Deb reported that there is no new information or interest being expressed.

Customer Billing Change – Marilyn reported that she had created a spreadsheet with the information requested in order to calculate a new base rate. Rick will review them and communicate with Marilyn to fine-tune the numbers.

### **Operator Update:**

Meter Replacement Update – 1 more meter is needed for next door to complete the replacement project. Marilyn reminded that there are still someresort tax funds left to cover the cost. Lucas and Deb will continue working on it.

Well house issues – Lucas reported that the vault valves needs to be replaced. There are 3 options: 1) buy kits from GC Systems at a cost of \$850 each, 2) buy parts for \$200 and assemble himself, or 3) buy assembled valves at a cost of \$511 each. However, if he does it himself, he will probably need a fancy cutter for the heavier pipe. Poly or stainless valves would be out of sync with the original specs.

Lucas also reported that the new auto-dialer had to shut off, but it can be re-programmed. The thought is that it should be covered under warranty. Rick will give Lucas the phone number for RayCo in California to look into it.

The condition of the well house property was raised by Lucas. He'd like to clean up around it because of potential fire hazard. Troy suggested that the fire company could assist , but it will require skilled chainsaw operators.

Customer issues – Lucas reported that Bill Blackford has no meter pit, but had water. However, he claims that

he isn't billed by the District.

Jason Hahn would like his meter pit fixed correctly before the snow flies. I needs redone and Lucas has no idea of the cost. He estimates about 3-5 hours plus equipment rental for an total of around \$1000 to complete it.

Website – The website is missing May 2017 minutes. Marilyn will provide them.

Other Items – 1) Lucas has water school next month.

2) John Hahn will be asked to put stakes at each meter for the winter.

3) County Sanitarian has asked for meter readings for the Super 8 because he suspects a malfunction.

**Clerk Update:**

Marilyn is has submitted the current invoices from Zenner for the new meters to Park County for reimbursement from resort tax funds and should receive the check next week.

She continues to work on RD quarterly reports and prep for the state Annual Financial Report.

**New Business:**

System Leaks – Lin Rogers has developed a leak after the big spike in the vault. The Rogers are exempt from billing because they issued an easement for District equipment, so Lucas isn't sure how to handle the repair. He also suggested that letters regarding leaks need to be sent to any customer who appears to have one . . . reminding them of their financial responsibility in repairing them.

Discussion as to the next meeting indicated a lack of quorum for October and there is usually no meeting scheduled for November. Marilyn will email Board members in mid-November to determine a meeting date for early December as usual.

With no further business to attend to, Rick made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Troy. Deb then adjourned the meeting at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Hartley  
District Clerk

**BOARD APPROVAL: (SIGNATURES ON FILE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Purvis, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Whittle, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Sommers, Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Wilson, Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Vacancy*, Board Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_