

**MINUTES OF THE
MOAPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

PRESENT:

Directors:
Randy Tobler
Jon Blackwell (Phone)
Ryan Wheeler
Kelby Robison
Lindsey Dalley (Phone)

Employees:
Kiley Bradshaw
Josh Leavitt
Jonathan Brown
Garrett Rose
Mica Leatham
Nick Shakespear
Dan Bevan
Jeannie Poynor
Susan Rose

Joe Davis, General Manager
Lon Dalley, Assistant General Manager

Byron Mills, Attorney

ORDER OF BUSINESS: At 4:04 p.m., Chairman Randy Tobler called to order the regular meeting of the Moapa Valley Water District Board of Directors. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

1) Public Comment

None

2) Approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2022 Board Meeting (For Possible Action)

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Kelby Robison, the Board voted 3-0 in favor to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2022 Board Meeting.

3) Consideration to approve the purchase of waterworks supplies to the lowest responsible bidder in the best interest of the District (For Possible Action)

The District received funding from the Clark County Board of Commissions thru the American Rescue Plan Act. This funding was granted in support of replacing the under sized water mains in downtown Overton.

Staff solicited sealed bids for the material to construct this project. On Feb 4, staff received two bids for materials. The results are as follows:

Ferguson Waterworks, Henderson, NV	\$72,942.56
------------------------------------	-------------

Mountain Land Supply, St. George	\$77,175.74
----------------------------------	-------------

Joe explained that normally we put everything together for a bid but this time we broke it into two different bids because we've been buying some specialty fittings that not all suppliers can get. We hoped to get more bids, but we still only got two bids. With the waterworks, there's a long lead time to get these items. We decided to go ahead and order the parts. It could take between 4 weeks to 12 weeks to get the parts. It's also 12 weeks on pipe. There's an individual that stocked up on materials that's sitting in their yard. If he gets the bid, he can start shipping materials.

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Kelby Robison, the board voted 3/3 to accept the bid and award a purchase of waterworks materials from Ferguson Waterworks, Henderson, NV in the amount of \$72,942.56.

4) Consideration to approve the purchase of water main transmission pipe to the lowest responsible bidder in the best interest of the District (For Possible Action)

The district should also receive funding from the Clark County Board of Commissions thru the American Rescue Plan Act. This funding was granted in support of replacing the under sized water mains in downtown Overton.

Joe said that 4,000 ft of pipe is very expensive and very difficult to get. Prices are at an all time high. We will be purchasing 12", 8" and 6".

We received two bids. The results are as follows:

Ferguson Waterworks, Henderson, NV	\$181,834.00
Mountain Land Supply, St. George	\$195,236.70

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Kelby Robison, the board voted 3/3 to accept the bid and award a purchase of PVC transmission pipe to construct from Ferguson Waterworks, Henderson, NV in the amount of \$181,834.00.

5) Budget Discussion (For Discussion Only)

Joe had a presentation that was on the screen so everyone could see what's going on. He had the Proprietary Fund and the Capital Improvement Budget for fiscal years 23-28. One of the things that is in the budget is the Hydrant Meter Replacement. The hydrant meters will have backflow devices on them. We haven't ever used them before because they were very expensive but the price has gone down. We have 31 hydrant meters. The \$15,000 will purchase 5 hydrant meters. These meters will help us stop any cross contamination. The cost would be an extra \$25 a month.

Other items on the CIP are Water Main Replacement for FY23 \$420,000, Meter Replacement Program for \$125,000, Valve Replacement for \$110,000, Scada Upgrades, PRV Upgrades for 40,000. Narrows/Warm Springs Water Storage Site Acquisition \$0, Logandale Tank Recoat \$505,000, Main Street Upgrade \$1,500,000 for a grand total of \$2,745,000 for Total Capital Improvements.

For Fixed Asset Purchases we have *Safety/Small Equipment Replacement for \$27,000, *Office Equipment Replacement \$10,000, *Information Technology \$5,000, Vehicle Replacement for \$120,000, Equipment Replacement for \$28,000, Server Replacement for \$0 and Property Purchase \$0 for a total of \$190,000, *Water Resource Development for \$100,000, Arsenic Media for \$0 for a grand total of \$3,035,000.

Lindsey Dalley called into the meeting at 4:43 PM
Jon Blackwell called into the meeting at 5:00PM

6) Change the pay scale of the Engineering Technician to the Lead Serviceman pay scale (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Lon said that Mason is very valuable to the District. The reason why is he has been in this position since 2017. He has brought the District to a new level as far as GIS Utilities go. He has gone out and done most of his training on his own. In past Board meetings, Staff has informed the Directors that the Engineering Tech position needs help to keep up with the demands of the position. In preparing for the future, Lon would like to create the Lead Engineering Tech position and move Mason Stratton into that position. The Engineering Tech Position will exist but will remain vacant at this time.

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Kelby Robison the board voted 4/4 to create the Lead Engineering Tech Position and move Mason Stratton into the Lead Engineering Tech Position with pay grade 100 (same as Lead Serviceman and Office Manager).

7) Possible Pay Scale Increases for MVWD Positions (For Possible Action)

There were a few employees from the field that attended the meeting.

Jeannie had created spread sheets for all of the employees which had the step they are on, their hourly wage, and any requirements they may have.

Jeannie also had a Pay Scale Comparison spreadsheet, a Proposed Compensation with Longevity/Performance Bonus Pay, an Office Proposal, the Pay Back Policy, and an 8 Year Pay Raise Spreadsheet.

Nick Shakespear had some information for the Directors.

He explained how they can get their steps.

Kelby Robison thinks it's an adjustment that needs to be done especially when you look at what other utilities are paying. It's something we need to do to keep employees. It's hard to find good people and you don't want to lose them. It's a cost of doing business. He doesn't think the cost is ridiculous when you compare us to other utilities. He's not concerned about it. It's a cost of doing business.

What Lindsey wants to see is how we're going to pay for the raises? He gets worried when staff comes to the tables with raises. How are we going to cover it? What's the long-term effect?

Joe said we've always struggled with keeping employees. They move to bigger utilities to make more money. Thru the years we've had a robust training plan. The problem is no one wants to work anymore. We had 8 applicants and luckily, we found some good ones. The prices are going up every day. The question is how comfortable are the directors with this?

Joe said we have great employees, and this is the best crew we've ever had.

Lindsey gets uncomfortable with this because he doesn't want them to tug at our heart strings. How do we pay for the raises? He comes from a public sector and sometimes you have to bite the bullet and raise the fees. Lindsey just wants us to be able to afford the cost of the raises. He gets worried when staff comes to the table with raises. Is this going to set a precedent? Staff needs to know that the golden goose can be killed. He would like to see where the raises are going to come from. We need to constantly look for ways to pay for the raises and are they going to cause hardships for whoever the next manager might be in 5 years or 10 years. He can already see one concern. We're talking about longevity which he thought we already had that discussion. That could drag us into a financial abyss. These things might not matter today but could make a difference in the future.

Jon said that it's really hard to get employees that want to work. The employees where he works make around \$40/hr and they can't get any workers.

Ryan wants the employees to know that they are appreciated.

Ryan said that we have a lot of unknowns. Waterworth is not our bible. Waterworth is a planning tool. It's garbage in and garbage out a little bit on many things.

Chairman Tobler appreciates all that Kelby put into this.

One of the things that he has learned thru the years is that the guys do a lot of things that he didn't know about. He's glad that he got to know more about what they do.

Randy knows that one of the things we've talking about is the church water. When he came on we were at 3 million and now we're at 4 million.

Kiley said that when our guys are out on leaks, the office employees fill in answering the phones because the guys out in the field have bad service and can't always use their cell phones.

Lon said that all the office staff and every employee out in the field talks well about the office staff. The Directors come in for a couple of hours a month. Lon would hope that you would consider every position here.

Ryan made a motion that we pause on this. He thinks this has been a good discussion.

There was a lot of discussion on this item.

On motion of Kelby Robison and 2nd by Jon Blackwell the Board voted 4/1 to accept the proposed field pay scale with the Pay Back Policy.

On motion of Kelby Robison and 2nd by Jon Blackwell, the Board voted 5/5 to delayed the office this item until next month pending more information from staff.

8) Clarifying Board Members ability to put items on the agenda (For Possible Action)

There was some discussion on this item, so the Directors asked Byron to work on this.

9) Public Comment

None

10) Managers' Reports and Directors Preference

Office Manager-Jeannie had the financial dashboard, the budget report and the revenues put in their packets. Jeannie said that everything looks good. 50% of the year has been expended. Budget is at 58% so that is good.

Jeannie wasn't here last month so she wasn't able to answer a question that Randy had about the processing fees so she answered it tonight. She said that Payclicks charged us 70¢ per transaction and it didn't matter what the amount was plus a charge for every type of card we took.

Our new billing system is very user friendly and everyone seems to really like it. Customers can go in and print their own bill. With that being said Xpressbillpay charges us 39¢ per transaction which is quite a bit lower than Payclixs. An e-check was 49¢ per transaction. We will be saving money with xpressbillpay. Our website is up and running and it looks good.

Assistant General Manager

1) Arrow Canyon Well Levels- The well level is consistent.

2) Arrow Canyon #2 pumped 8,442,012 gallons and 43,838,000 gallons for a total of 52,280,024.

Mining 12" PRV

The vault floor and the walls have been poured in place and we are awaiting the shipment of the hatches which will also be poured in place. Once that is complete, we will assembly the plumbing and accessories.

Terribles Herbst

Just an update on this project. As far as the water infrastructure adjustments go, they are on a strict timeframe due to cutting into the main transmission lines and the need of this to be accomplished while the demand is minimal. They have to reroute a portion of both mains under the new proposed flood culvert that they are being required to install. They have had issues with acquiring materials for the project but are working hard at getting them so they can complete it in time.

Moapa 1 Mil Tank

The seal around the 20" going into the tank has leaked a few times recently. It can be tightened, but staff feels it eventually needs to be replaced. Crews have attempted to isolate the tank this last time the seal leaked, but the valve that is upstream of the tank would not operate. Crews also dug up around the valve to see if swapping out the gear box is an option, the bolts and the valve needs replacing asap. Staff is going to replace the valve and pour a concrete vault around the valve and seal that enters the tank for future access.

Equipment/Vehicle Purchases

Staff has purchased and picked up the flatbed trailer and the meter reader truck as discussed at the last Board meeting

General Manager-1) Main Street- Joe talked about what was going on main street. He had pictures of what it will look like. There is still a lot that needs to be done on this. There was quite a bit of discussion on this. **2) New Website** – Joe talked about some of the stuff that is on the new website. It seems to be user friendly. It will have a rolling screen with pictures of the valley. If you click on About us, that is where you would find where we were created and there is a section with the history of the valley. Joe thanked the wife's that helped us get pictures of the husbands. Some of the men were unresponsive. There are some links on the website for residents and visitors. We will also have a picture of the "M" on the mesa. There will be online applications and other information on the website. We're almost to the 20th century. Jeannie explained how Expressbillpay works. It shows a year of bills, and they can print out they're bill themselves among other things. **3) MVIC** – They haven't raised they're rates for 16 years. It's been \$40 since then. They are talking about raising the preferred shares to \$70 and going from \$10 to \$20 common shares and having a five- year escalator. There was quite a bit of residence on this by shareholders. Most of the shareholders wanted to get a loan. Joe said that currently we are paying \$8800 for our shares. They are going to go up \$7377. **4) Judicial Hearings** – The hearing starts on February 14th. The Peterson Spring flows a small amount of water thru it, so they are going to be talking about that and what's going on with it. They will be talking about a few other things also.

Directors Preference

- Review Monthly Expenditures
- Randy Tobler disclosed that he has an interest in a small business that is on the monthly expenditure list
- Litigation
- Other Related Water Rights Issues

On motion of Kelby Robison and 2nd by Ryan Wheeler the Board voted 5/5 to call a closed-door session at 6:37 pm

On motion of Jon Blackwell and 2nd by Ryan Wheeler the Board voted 5/5 to call an open-door session at 7 pm.

11) Personnel

None

Approval of the March 10, 2022 Board Meeting

12) The general consensus was to have the March meeting on March 10, 2022

13) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm