

Pinos Altos Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Association

Regular Meeting

Wednesday July 20, 2022

Pinos Altos Fire Station

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Tom Gedgaudas

Board members in attendance were: Tom Gedgaudas, President; Allan Phillips, Vice President; Becky Dinwiddie, Treasurer; Gary Geisler, Secretary and Gabriel Preusch, Member at Large.

April Matthews, Bookkeeper and Linda Davila, Meter Reader were in attendance. Susan Vandenberg and John Dagers were also in attendance.

Public Input sign up was closed.

A quorum was proven.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes from the May 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Non-Mandated Business: Public Input

Susan Vandenberg wanted to know why on-line bill paying wasn't available for the members to pay their monthly water bills. Tom informed her that the software we are using for billing and record keeping doesn't have the capability to allow on-line bill paying plus the system doesn't have adequate security features to protect the information. To upgrade the system to provide the security and features to allow on-line bill paying is extremely expensive and an expense not affordable at this time. It was suggested to Susan to research with her bank to see if they offer any bill paying services.

John Dagers had questions concerning the admin fee on the monthly bills. Why it was so high, what is the money spent on and why isn't it prorated depending on the amount of water used? It was explained that the admin fee covers the monthly per member fee charged to us by the City of Silver City. The rest of the monthly admin fee is used for our two employee's salary, and help offset the cost of providing water to its member. He was also informed that our admin fee is the lowest in the county and ours had been higher in the past.

New Business:

Clarification of Procedures & Fee for a Member-requested Disconnection.

It was determined that if a member requests to disconnect their meter they will have to pay the reconnection fee in the operations policy.

Effect of PRC/NM 811's Adoption of the "Midnight Rule"

NM 811's new rule requires marking of our water lines for any utility work must happen in less than three days, depending on when the request was called in. Allan is the only person who knows the lines well enough to mark them. If he is out of town, it would be impossible for us meet the time frame requirement of the state to mark the lines, and we could face fines. We need a backup person to mark the lines in Allan's absence and Gabe volunteered to be trained in this position and will be available if Alan isn't.

Annual Membership Meeting Details.

The annual membership meeting's date will be the second Wednesday of September instead of the normal third Wednesday due to Tom being out of town and unable to attend the meeting. It was decided to bring some desserts and sodas instead of the normal pot luck.

Potential Disposition of Broken Fire Hydrant.

A member asked if he could have the fire hydrant that is next to the shed at the fire house. It was decided that the hydrant is association property and could be used in the future. Allan is going to put it inside the shed.

Discussion of Increase of Mileage Reimbursement Rate.

The current PAMDWCA rate is \$.32 per mile and it hasn't been adjusted in years. The federal government reimbursement is \$.62 per mile. The board voted unanimously to tie our reimbursement rate to the federal government rate going forward.

Unfinished Business from Prior Meeting:

Discussion on Draft of Letter for Amnesty Plan for Multiple Homes on One Meter

Tom presented his draft of the Multiple Homes on one meter Amnesty Letter. After a long discussion Tom had all the changes suggested for the letter and will bring the final copy to the next meeting for board approval. One major change to the draft was the board decided to add a \$25 admin fee for each additional house on an existing meter.

Discussion on Water Losses, including Draft of Letter for High Water Volume Users

Gary presented his draft of the High-Water Consumption letter. A couple of minor changes were suggested and the board approved the letter with those changes. Going forward April will continue to call any member with abnormal water usages. If that member's water usage continues at a high level, this letter will be sent to hopefully correct the issue. If the usage levels persist, the board will deal with it at that time.

President's Report:

Chlorine numbers from our monthly water sample showed a jump in May, but that probably was due to the city doing something to address an issue on their end. Tom then discussed the HAA5 readings which were due in June. The email to Manny, our CWO, was incorrectly sent so he never got it. We are in violation for not having that test completed. It is an administrative violation that is on our records until we get it completed or the next year's testing. The board decided to put the approval of

the cost to have the HAA5 test done before next year's due date on the September's meeting agenda. The TTHM test is due to be done in August.

Bookkeeper's Report:

No disconnects this month. Fourteen (14) late payment notices were sent out. April sent out May and June's financials to all board members. She included the water loss for each of those months and both were under 10% which is great. New water connection fee from the city is \$4600, \$2300 per connection, same price as last year.

Treasurer's Report:

Quarterly payroll reports were filed, sent in and copies sent to April. Becky did a six-month budget comparison. We are on target for most categories and the bottom line is actually looking real good due to the decrease in maintenance compared to budget and the lower water losses each month.

Secretary's Report:

Gary sent out the annual letter with the number of new connections to the city on July 1. We had two new connections in the past year. We have 139 connections with 136 active meters.

Vice President's Report:

Allan let us know about the leak on Placer Street, which was a major one. Allan applauded the members who called in to report the leak. Hydrants were flushed in June and will be flushed again in September. There is a small leak in the vault, a leaking valve. Parts are being ordered and hopefully will be fixed shortly.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting and regular board meeting. September 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Fire House.

Meeting was adjourned 8:56 pm

**Minutes prepared by Gary Geisler on July 24, 2022. E Mailed to board on July 24, 2022.
Draft minutes were posted to website for public viewing on July 27, 2022.**