

Pinos Altos Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Association

Regular Meeting

Wednesday March 15, 2023

Pinos Altos Fire Station

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 was in attendance. John Daggers was also in attendance.

Public Input sign up was closed.

A quorum was proven.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes from the January 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Non-Mandated Business: Public Input

No Public Input requested.

New Business:

Purchase of New Office Computer and Monitors:

April informed the board that the office computer she uses for all of the administrative work is on its last leg. \$5,000 was budgeted for a new computer but April found a new Dell computer with a three year warranty plus an additional monitor for around \$1700 before taxes. Since it is a Windows 11 operating system, transferring all of the office programs and information she has on the old computer will be a time consuming and technical ordeal. The board authorized payment to April for up to \$500 in compensation for the extra work setting up the new computer. The board also unanimously approved the purchase of the new computer and monitor.

Drafting and Approval of Member Letter on Release of Account information

With the judge's ruling in the ongoing lawsuit that water usage and account information IS NOT private information, the board was required to provide Mark Johnson with the information he originally requested in the summer of 2019. Tom presented a draft letter to all association members explaining the judge's ruling and detailing what information was released to Mr. Johnson. With just a couple of changes the board unanimously approved the letter and April will mail out this week.

Mailing of Revised Membership Form to Update Member Database

After a discussion on the wording of the current membership form and what updated information was needed from the members, the board decided to table the discussion until the next meeting when they can make changes to the membership form before mailing to members.

Treasurer Report on Accumulation of Excess Fund and Their Distribution

Becky reported that there were no excess funds for distribution.

Installation of Security Tape on Fire Hydrants

Tom presented a hydrant lock for the top of the hydrants that a padlock can be used to secure the hydrants. At around \$100 each this was decided by the board as a better approach to prevent water from being taken from our fire hydrants. The board approved Allan to purchase (6) six King QuickLock Hydrant locks and to purchase at least 12 (twelve) keyed alike padlocks.

Purchase of Meters for Future Installation

Allan currently doesn't have any new meters in stock to use for emergency situations or for new installations. With three upcoming new meter installations and a fourth installation in a couple of months the board approved Allan purchasing 10 (ten) new meters.

“Grandfather “ Exemptions under Amnesty Program-When Do They End?

When the board put in the amnesty program for current members who have more than one residence serviced by one meter, the amnesty program would expire when the membership was transferred after selling the property. The board discussed the exception to the rules in the Articles of Incorporation dated 2017 and decided to rule on those on a per case basis.

Discussion/Approval of Plumbers to Work on our System – Past & Present

Tom spoke with a member of the NM Rural Water association concerning who can work on public water systems. He also spoke with the NM ED about the GF9 license required to work on the water lines. Tom was told that our Certified Water Operator can approve and/or oversee water line repair work done by any licensed plumber without the GF9 license. Installation of new water lines, pumps, etc does need a GF9 license. As J&S plumbing is the only GF9 licensed plumber in our area they have been the one to do the repairs in the past but have been very slow getting those repairs done. The board discussed using a different plumber to get repairs done, but agreed that J&S was the best plumber in the area and we should continue using them.

Assistance for Vice President on System Operations and Maintenance

It was decided the Gabe would shadow Allan this summer and learn as much as possible concerning the operations and maintenance of our water system. When Allan's term of service to the board is up in September Gabe would assume Allan's responsibilities of maintaining the system.

Potential Adoption of Different Rate/Fee for Business Accounts

The board decided that they wouldn't adopt different rates or fees for business accounts.

President's Report:

Tom presented the Free Chlorine levels for the past three months and they were within the acceptable range and much lower than the maximum. He told us that the General Liability Insurance Policy was renewed with a \$384 increase. Tom has been informed about a Grant County Water Commission being formed in January. The board decided not to join or attend meeting at this time. Tom asked about a 2010 contract with the Buckhorn to have an unmetered line for the sprinkler system. April was going to look for a copy of the contract.

Bookkeeper's Report:

April discussed a lost check to Silver City for payment of water which was reflected in the larger than normal water cost line on P&L. There was one new request for new membership which will require a new meter which was approved. April discussed the time and effort Becky and she spent getting the new payroll software set up and working. She also discussed the new Quick Books online. Financials took a lot longer than normal due to the changes, but it appears everything is set now. Gary asked why the admin fee isn't broken out on the monthly P&L and April let him know that it can't show up but she can get it on another separate report.

Treasurer's Report:

Becky filed the federal tax returns and there was a fee to file of \$41 for this year. Becky filed the annual report for non profits with the Secretary of State. The new payroll program should produce the quarterly reports for the upcoming quarter. Becky lastly informed the board that she wasn't going to volunteer to serve after her term is up in September. She will be greatly missed.

Secretary's Report:

Gary let the board know that he would be sending out the annual letter to the Silver City Financial Director concerning the number of active connections. He also let the board know that he will have the Members Accountability Report for the NMED completed and ready to sign at the next meeting. He also informed that board that we are waiting for the final judgement for the lawsuit. While that judge has given his findings on the lawsuit, we must wait for the final judgement which will determine our costs for the trial before the whole thing is finally over. It is up to the judge and Mr. Johnson as to when this final judgement will be produced.

Vice President's Report:

Allan talked about the two leaks and waiting for J&S to repair. He will be flushing the hydrants this month and putting the locks on.

Next Board Meeting will be May 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the PA Fire Station

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm

**Minutes prepared by Gary Geisler on March 19, 2023. E Mailed to board on March 19, 2023.
Draft minutes were posted to website for public viewing on March 22, 2023.**