

SEELEY LAKE – MISSOULA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
August 31, 2023

Attendance:

Charlie Hahn	President	PRESENT
Todd Johnson	Vice President	PRESENT
Kris Martin	Director	PRESENT
Chris Lorentz	Director	PRESENT*
Freda Rathbun	Director	ABSENT
Vincent Chappell	General Manager	PRESENT
Felicity Derry	Office Manager	PRESENT
Tammy Lewis	Operator	PRESENT
Barbara Knopp	VFSL	PRESENT
Elden Barbieri	VFSL	PRESENT

*** Arrived at 5:43pm**

OPENING:

Martin moved to open the meeting at 5:33pm, which was then passed. The meeting was held at the Water District Plant, 281 Rice Ridge Road, Seeley Lake, MT.

Martin moved to move the New Business item pertaining to the Veterans Memorial up in the agenda. Johnson seconded the motion, which was then passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Veterans & Families of Seeley Lake

Chappell noted that Barb Knopp & Elden Barbieri, from the Veterans & Families of Seeley Lake, were here to talk to the Board. Elden Barbieri thanked the Board and introduced the President, Barb Knopp. Barb Knopp thanked the Board for the new water service and wanted to let them know it was very, very much appreciated. It would allow them to water the flowers and grass, and to keep everything looking good. Chappell added that it would be one more account paying for water.

Barbara Knopp and Elden Barbieri left the meeting 5:38pm.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

June 2023

Johnson noted that it had been a wet month, so there was not much water usage. Water Sales income was normal, just a little bit above budget. The Testing expense was elevated, due to the purchase of lab equipment, which probably should be applied to a different account. The Office Supplies

08/31/2023

Regular Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

expense was high, due to the annual mail permit invoice. Operations for the month showed a slight profit. Once Debt Retirement was included there was a profit of almost \$9,000.

The DNRC loan payable account dropped as the bond payments were made. Chappell and Johnson had reviewed the statements and everything looked good.

Lorentz joined the meeting.

July 2023

Johnson noted that the Water Sales income had risen in July. There had been income from one tap this month. A quarterly Liability Insurance payment had been made. There had been some construction expense. Chappell added that was from the new Veteran's line and the repair/rebuild of a line for a different account. Operating income in July was almost \$14,000 and with Debt Retirement included, the total was approximately \$22,500. Chappell noted that the chlorine station rewired/rebuild and the installation of the generator at the Black Bear boost station were both part of this year's capital projects, which had lowered the Capital Projects account. Board had no questions

Johnson moved to accept the June & July 2023 Financial Reports as presented. Martin seconded the motion, which was then passed.

MINUTES:

June 14, 2023

Martin moved to approve the June 14, 2023 minutes of the Regular Board Meeting. Lorentz seconded the motion, which was then passed.

DELINQUENCY REPORT:

August 2023

Chappell reviewed the Delinquency Report for the Board.

Johnson moved to accept the August 2023 Delinquency Report. Lorentz seconded the motion, which was then passed.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

July & August 2023

Chappell informed the Board that work had begun on dewatering the south pond to allow for the removal of the sludge. The sludge would be removed by the skid steer and then dried out. Next year it would be land applied and then that area would be reseeded. The service line for account#562 was rebuilt and the meter pit was moved to the edge of the property. The Veterans Memorial line was dug at the same time. The lower chlorine station was rebuilt. One of the bolts on the pump had rotted off and so a replacement pump was ordered. There had been a small issue with plant, causing the

08/31/2023

Regular Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

natural water to be filtered with no help, resulting in higher coloration of the water. The polymer had been ordered at the end of June, but did not arrive until the beginning of August. This left a week without polymer. The water entering the plant was right at the state standard for turbidity and then after treatment the water leaves the plant much clearer. Everything is back to normal now. While reading the meters, a leak at the flush station was discovered. Chappell removed it, took it apart, finding that the diaphragm had deteriorated, allowing it to leak. A new diaphragm was ordered and the flush station was now operational again. A few different contractors had installed some meter pits. A property on School Lane had been split and a new water line was installed on the lower lot. General maintenance and clean up outside was performed. Chappell worked on the fence around the plant. There was discussion on spraying weeds around the plant. Work continued with the tower and the main replacement projects.

Johnson moved to accept the July & August 2023 Operations Report. Martin seconded the motion, which was then passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

USFS Service Line - Update

Chappell noted that he had received an email from Quinn Carver. One of their engineers had questioned the agreement and how much it would cost to replace the mainline. Quinn's understanding seemed to be that the USFS would pay for the parts to replace the mainline and the District would pay for the excavation. At a previous Board meeting the Board had that discussion, but that arrangement had not been approved.

Chappell noted that the District could do nothing and let the USFS pay for the parts and repairs, which was not a good option. Noting that Quinn Carver had refused to pay the invoices for the last two repairs.

The second option would be to move the meter pit to the start of the mainline, out by the pumphouse, which was where their responsibility began. There was discussion regarding the paperwork showing that the USFS had paid for the pipe to be installed, indicating that it was their service. Chappell reviewed the location of that pipe, where the meter pit would be and the cost. How to continue to service the two USFS lease cabins was discussed. Moving the meter would allow the District to meter any leaks in the future and bill accordingly.

Another option would be to replace the line, but Chappell did not feel that it was the District's responsibility to do so. Quinn Carver was trying to make a deal where the USFS just paid for the parts and the District paid for the rest. The parts would cost around \$100,000. The excavation would cost around \$100,000, which would have to go through public comment, hearings, and the whole process. There would be an additional cost for engineering, DEQ review and then procuring a contractor. Chappell felt that the District's documentation showed that the pipe was paid for and belonged to the USFS. It would not be right for the District's customers to pay to replace a customer's water line, even if the USFS paid a portion of the cost. This project would devastate the Capital Projects account. Also, once the pipe was replaced the USFS wanted the District to take responsibility for the pipe. There was discussion on the possibility of paying for this with grant funding.

08/31/2023

Regular Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

Johnson suggested that the District have an attorney review the District's documents and give their opinion. Then write a letter to the USFS outlining the District's plan to resolve the issue. The location of the meter pit was discussed and how to proceed. The Board agreed to seek a legal opinion.

Meter Project – Phase 2 Tower Project - Update

Chappell noted that the engineering had been completed and everything was in place. The next step was to sign a yearly lease agreement to place the equipment on the tower. The monthly cost would be \$400. Discussion followed on the cost and if there were any alternatives. The Kamstrup propagation study was discussed.

Martin made a motion to sign the lease. Lorentz seconded the motion, which was then passed, unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance

Chappell noted that he had been researching health insurance options for the District. Lewis reviewed the options that she had researched for her and her husband. Chappell reviewed the District's health saving plan for Lewis and Derry. Lewis added that it currently covered less than half of their monthly health insurance premium, but now would be less than a quarter. Chappell outlined how a District insurance plan would effect Derry. Ultimately the goal was to have insurance in place for all employees, both present and in the future. The Board discussed possible legalities. Chappell added that Missoula County had refused the District's request to join their group, but he was getting quotes from other plans. Lewis had quotes from some plans also. Chappell would continue to work on a plan for all the District employees. However, in the short term, Lewis needed coverage, and Chappell requested that the Board approve paying for a plan for Lewis and her husband, in place of Lewis' medical saving plan. Lewis requested the Board's approval for a policy of similar cost to Chappell's insurance policy for the next four months until open enrollment began. Lewis reviewed the policies.

There was discussion as to why the District could not join the County's health insurance, even though the District was a County entity. The Board discussed paying Lewis' health insurance policy, as well as for all employees.

Johnson moved to offer the employees insurance for the next four months in the price range of Vince's insurance. Lorentz seconded the motion, which was then passed.

Pine Drive Main Extension – Update

Chappell noted that the engineering to loop the main through the non-existent road had been completed and was being reviewed by DEQ. Derry had completed the application for grant funding. Chappell was working with the County attorney on the site title opinion. Once the paperwork was finalized the project could move forward.

08/31/2023

Regular Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

NEW BUSINESS:

Veterans & Families of Seeley Lake

This item was moved up to the beginning of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next Board meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

Martin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm. Lorentz seconded the motion, which was then passed.

Attest

Charlie Hahn, Director

-And-

| SEAL |

Vince Chappell, General Manager