

**SEELEY LAKE – MISSOULA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
**September 26, 2024**

**Attendance:**

Charlie Hahn	President	<b>PRESENT</b>
Todd Johnson	Vice President	<b>ABSENT</b>
Kris Martin	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Chris Lorentz	Director	<b>ABSENT</b>
Freda Rathbun	Director	<b>PRESENT</b>
Vincent Chappell	General Manager	<b>PRESENT</b>
Felicity Derry	Office Manager	<b>PRESENT</b>
Tammy Lewis	Operator	<b>PRESENT</b>

**OPENING:**

Rathbun moved to open the meeting at 5:32pm. The meeting was held at The Water Plant.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

June 27, 2024

Martin moved to accept the June 27, 2024 minutes of the Regular Board Meeting as presented. Rathbun seconded the motion, which was then passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

June 2024

Chappell had met with Johnson to review the financial reports. The Water Sales income was good at \$31,200. The first tap of the year was completed. Total Operating Income was approximately \$33,800. There were some year-end closeout expenses for accounting and the Chemical Expense was high, as polymer was purchased. The Repair & Maintenance expense was high due to generator maintenance, while a capital credit from MEC lowered the utilities expense. Overall Operating Expenses were approximately \$45,000.

Construction Services reflected the tap and some other digs, with income totaling approximately \$3,100. Approximately \$52,000 had been received from the Missoula County grant for the tower project.

The bond payments were made and this dropped the balance of the SRF loan to under \$1 million.

09/26/2024

Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

The credit card and bank statements all looked good. The Board had no questions.

### July 2024

Chappell noted that the Water Sales income for July was up to approximately \$45,000. Total Operating income was \$46,300. The Office Supplies expense was a little high due to two months of bills and the purchase of 19 rolls of stamps prior to the rate increase, partially for the upcoming public hearing mailing. For July the Operating expenses were approximately \$30,000. For July the net Operating Income totaled approximately \$17,400.

The DNRC loan payable transfer had not been made due to some of the expenses this month. All the bank and credit card statements were good. There were no questions from the Board.

### August 2024

Chappell noted that in August the Water Sales income dropped to approximately \$38,000. With a total Operating income of approximately \$40,000, which included another tap. There was nothing extraordinary in the expenses. Construction income totaled \$50. Net Operating income for August was approximately \$5,500.

Once again, the transfer was not made to the DNRC loan payable account. There were no issues with credit card and bank statements. Johnson did recommend to approve financials.

Rathbun moved to accept the June, July & August 2024 financial reports. Martin seconded the motion, which was then passed.

## **DELINQUENCY REPORT:**

Chappell reviewed the delinquency report.

Rathbun moved to approve the September delinquency report. Martin seconded the motion, which was then passed.

## **OPERATIONS REPORT:**

### July, August & September 2024

Chappell informed the Board that most of their time had been spent leak detecting. And along the way fixed some curb boxes and other issues. Some small leaks were found, as well as an illegal hook up of the installation of a yard hydrant. A meter pit was installed to correct the issue. A few other meter pits were installed, about half had been paid for by the owners. Routine maintenance was performed. The tanks were inspected and cleaned. The only issue from the windstorm was that the chlorine station generator had failed. This is the second time that the head came apart, so it will have to be replaced.

Chappell ran into a deer when coming to work in the white truck the Sunday morning after the storm. It is being fixed.

09/26/2024

Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

There had been a couple of new service line requests. Another leak had been found and hopefully that would be repaired next week.

Chappell went to the National Rural Water conference. Lewis flushed the fire hydrants while he was gone. There was only one complaint and that home needed a pressure reducing valve.

The Fire Department's insurance had paid the fire hydrant repair invoice.

The water loss report shows 12% at 950,000 gallons. The loss has come down. Hopefully the leak that was about to get fixed would lower it by 100,00 gallons or more.

Martin moved to accept the July, August & September 2024 Operations and Loss Report. Rathbun seconded the motion, which was then passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### 2024 Rate Increase/Mill Closure – Public Hearing

Chappell noted that the District needed to move forward with the process for the rate increase to make up for the \$50,000-\$60,000 loss from the mill closing. Chappell had put together budgets with an increase of \$10, \$12 or \$15. Chappell reviewed each of the budgets and how they each would affect the District's bottom line, as well as the average water bill. Chappell recommended the \$12 increase. There was discussion regarding the article that had been placed in the Pathfinder previously and which rate increase to approve. Chappell reviewed the timeline for the public hearing and moving the October board meeting to after the public hearing. The Board reviewed possible dates. The Board discussed the rate increase further.

Rathbun moved to accept the \$12 rate increase. Martin seconded the motion, which was then passed.

### SLSD Fire Department Fire Hydrant

Chappell noted that the invoice had been paid in full.

### USFS Meter/Leak

Chappell noted that USFS had another leak in a yard hydrant for a camper at 25 to 40 gallons a minute. The new 6" meter had been received, now the Board needed to decide whether to put it in a new manhole by the pumphouse at the head of their line, which would cost approximately \$10,000. Chappell will put together an updated estimate for the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Generator – Lower Chlorine Station

Chappell noted that the generator needed to be replaced. It was the second time the head had failed and needs a new engine. There were sufficient funds in capital projects to cover the approximately \$11,500 cost.

09/26/2024

Monthly Meeting

Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District

Martin moved to buy the new generator. Rathbun seconded the motion, which was then passed.

2008 Work Truck

Chappell noted that the truck was in the shop. The repair will cost approximately \$7,000, of which the District will pay the \$1,000 deductible. There was no mechanical damage. The insurance company had the repair at just below the 70% threshold for totaling the truck, but at this point the best option was to repair it.

Derry added that the bank had confirmed that the bonds were scheduled to be paid off in 2029 and not 2033.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

The next Board meeting was scheduled for October 31, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Rathbun moved to adjourn. Martin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Hahn, Director

-And-

| SEAL |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vince Chappell, General Manager