

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTH DAVIS WATER DISTRICT HELD NOV. 13, 2024 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED AT 407 WEST 3100 SOUTH, BOUNTIFUL, UTAH

Trustees Present:

Ronald Mortensen	Chairman
Kathy Thurston	Trustee
Elaine Oaks	Trustee

Also present:

Jake Ferguson	Manager
Tracie James	District Clerk
Greg Smith	Resident
Curt Kofford	Resident

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Mortensen at 4:32 p.m., after which he welcomed all those present.

Public Comment Period:

No public comment was made.

Board Member Report:

Trustee Oaks reported that the three Board members attended a meeting with the Davis County Health Department, along other water district representatives to address the issue of fluoridation in the water. Trustee Thurston reported that legal ramifications were discussed, and the Health Department stated that they cannot approve cessation of fluoridation because it was voted for by the people. Trustee Oaks reported that one of the Davis County Commissioners said that the issue could possibly be put on next year's ballot if some requirements are met. Trustee Mortensen reported that they were also told that public funds cannot be used to advocate for a ballot issue. The Health Department stated that they will be performing an analysis on fluoridation.

Trustee Mortensen reported that he met with the Chief Privacy Officer for the Governor's Office for the State of Utah. Trustee Mortensen also stated that he met with the State Privacy Officer who works for the State Auditor's office. He said that they are willing to come to the District office to provide a privacy health check.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Trustee Thurston moved that the meeting minutes from October 9, 2024 be approved as written. Trustee Oaks seconded the motion. The motion carried with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

Expenditures Update:

The expense report for October was reviewed. After some questions and a discussion on various items, Trustee Oaks moved that the expenses for October be ratified and approved. Trustee Thurston seconded the motion. The motion carried with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

Consider Adopting the 2024 Tentative Budget as Presented by the General Manager:

Mr. Ferguson presented the 2025 Tentative Budget with rate increases for both culinary and irrigation water to cover the cost of all future Weber Water increases for the next four years along with a second budget option with lower rate increases that will cover the costs for the next two years. The budgets were reviewed and a discussion was held (see attached 2025 Tentative Budget). Mr. Ferguson explained that Weber Basin will be increasing their water rates on average 16% each year for the next four years. Mr. Ferguson explained that this will cost the District an extra \$136,000 over the next four years. After discussion of the two budget options during which time Trustee Mortensen emphasized that increases should be kept to the minimum amount possible, Mr. Ferguson proposed that the District raise the culinary base rate by \$4/month, and increase each overage block rate by \$.10 cents. It was also proposed that the District increase the irrigation connection fee by \$6 per year and increase the yearly irrigation per acre rate by \$25 per acre per year. Mr. Ferguson stated that this increase would equal a \$12 per year increase for the average household with a ¼ of an acre. These increases are based on the projected Weber Basin increases for the next two years, not the full four years.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the Social Security Administration is providing a 2.5% cost of living increase; therefore, it was proposed that the District provide the same cost of living increase for employees, along with a .5% merit increase.

After further discussion and review of the tentative budget, it was motioned by Trustee Oaks that the 2025 tentative budget be adopted. Trustee Thurston seconded the motion. The motion carried with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye". The Board also acknowledged the District would be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in order to consider approving the 2025 final budget.

Review Trustee and Staff Compliance with Annual Training/Certification requirements:

Trustee Mortensen asked if the water operators are current and up to date on their continuing education units for their water certifications. Mr. Ferguson replied that water operators, including himself, are current on their certifications. Trustee Mortensen asked each Trustee if they are up to date on their yearly open and public meetings act training. Trustees Mortensen and Thurston replied that they had taken the training and passed the course and had provided Ms. James with a Certificate of Completion. Trustee Oaks replied that she is almost done with her online training, and will be finished by the end of November. Ms. James reported that she had also completed her records retention training for the year.

Consider Approving Staff Incentive of \$500 per Full-Time Employee for 2024:

Trustee Mortensen reported that in the past the District had provided a Summer and Christmas party for District staff. The District has not done this for several years now. He stated that District Staff had been extra busy this year with Bountiful Fiber coming through the District to install fiber internet lines. Due to these installs, District staff had repaired many water line breaks in a timely manner, performed countless blue stakes, and managed to perform their normal tasks in a professional manner. Trustee Mortensen also stated that the GM had worked hard to receive grant money for capital

improvement projects. He therefore proposed that each full-time employee receive a one-time staff incentive of \$500 for 2024. Trustee Thurston motioned that the District provide a \$500 employee incentive to each full-time employee. Trustee Oaks seconded the motion. The motion carried with Trustees Mortensen, Thurston and Oaks voting "aye".

Consider Advising Culinary Water Customers of the United States National Toxicology Program Study and of the United States District Court Decision on Fluoride Levels in Drinking Water:

It was proposed that the District notify residents of the risks associated with water fluoridation. The District's attorney, Rachel Anderson, provided her opinion on the matter and strongly advised against it until further research is done and a decision made by the EPA and County Health Department. The Board motioned to move on to the next agenda item.

Manager's Report:

Construction and Maintenance Projects:

Mr. Ferguson reported that the Davis County Health Department had conducted the sanitary survey for the District that is routinely conducted every three years. The District has two significant deficiencies that needs to be corrected within 120 days. Mr. Ferguson stated that one deficiency was that there is not enough distance between the well casing and concrete pad at Val Vista. Mr. Ferguson is going to ask the Division of Drinking Water for an exemption on this deficiency due to the slope of the ground at this site. Mr. Ferguson explained that there is not a spot around the well that water can accumulate and contaminate the well given the slope of the land. The second deficiency is at the 3A culinary tank overflow. It is required that there be an air-gap on the overflow drain. District personnel have already started on correcting this deficiency.

Mr. Ferguson reported that District personnel will be cleaning irrigation reservoir #4. Mr. Ferguson also stated that personnel have finished the ceiling repair at the Val Verda well house, replaced several master valves, and repaired 3 main line breaks. He stated that personnel are also currently opening irrigation drain valves and marking blue stakes for the installation of Bountiful Fiber that is coming through the District.

Mr. Ferguson reported that the snow pack is at 89% of average.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



District Clerk