

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the
CATERPILLAR TRAIL PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT of WOODFORD
COUNTY ILLINOIS on September 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM, via GoTo and at
404 TEN MILE CREEK ROAD, EAST PEORIA, IL 61611-9240

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sutton called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, noting a Quorum present.

ROLL CALL / ATTENDEES

Physically present – Bob Sutton, John Bellisario, Jason Howard, Patti Pitcher, Christine Slagel, Zach Taylor, Kay Webber, Josh Zulu
via Teleconference – Greg Long, Tiffany Stanley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our newest member, John Bellisario, was officially appointed by the Woodford County Board.

Chairman Sutton attended the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting where Germantown Hills School District #69 Superintendent Dan Mair spoke about the proposed \$6.2M Germantown Hills Athletic Complex slated for the property across from the school, on the north side of Rt. 116 just west of the State Police Headquarters. [A full-color aerial map was distributed.] The Germantown Hills Athletics Group purchased this property with the help of MTCO and, presumably, the Village of Germantown Hills several years ago. The school district wants to use the athletic fields particularly if a pedestrian overpass over Rt. 116 is built, which is not, however, in the proposal on the November ballot. The Village – expected to maintain and operate the complex if built - is looking for grant money for this feature. Prior to the November election, Mr. Mair plans to host two public informational meetings.

Background: The school district will have paid off the Consolidation Bond of the elementary and middle schools within the next two years and proposes to issue a new bond for the athletic facility. An ancillary issue is the School Education Fund needs to be increased due to the current economy after being constant for several years. Both the bond issue and increased levy for the Education Fund can be accommodated without a tax rate increase because the Consolidation Bond is larger than the athletic facility bond issue. Chairman Sutton noted Germantown Hills has a top-quality school system with one of the lowest cost-per-pupil ratios in the state.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Josh suggested revising the rates listed to include the fees, making them effective rates respectively. For example, the 4.5 cents/kWh rate is effectively 6.78 cents/kWh including fees.

Josh Zulu moved to approve the August 8, 2022, Minutes as revised; seconded by Kay Webber.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT(S)

A \$27.52 credit was given to a customer on S. Lakeview Drive due to a shower head streaming issue which resulted in a leak.

DISTRICT BILLING REPORT

Patti reported a total of 2,032 bills with a read date of August 25, 2022, were sent totaling 11,167,129 gallons. Water billed was \$138,006.17. Loan service billed was \$10,116.65 and penalties billed were \$1,974.20, for a grand total billing of \$150,097.02.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TRANSACTION LIST BY VENDORS / BILLS PAID

Tiffany noted the generator repair listed (\$3,075.33) has since been capitalized. Also, the recent Ameren bill (\$11,472.37) was \$5,000 - \$6,000 more than normal; however, this is offset by the 11 million gallons recently billed. Total checks written for expenditures totaled \$94,547.00. No discussion.

John Bellisario moved to approve the bills paid in August; seconded by Zach Taylor.

Motion passed unanimously.

BALANCE SHEET / PROFIT & LOSS / CASH FLOW

The Balance Sheet shows an increased C/R ratio of 1.56, slightly above last month's ratio.

Overall, the Profit and Loss flow the past several months continues to be good. Current Total Net Income is \$40,971.49.

Tiffany noted the \$1,955.70 deposit was from the voltage regulator insurance claim.

Chairman Sutton stated CTPWD didn't have an insurance claim for three years except for the roof and tower lightning strike claims. After recently switching insurance companies, we filed a claim for the voltage regulator almost immediately (\$1,955.70 deposit as noted). Two months later, we have a potential \$3,075.33 transfer switch claim; however, due to our \$2,500 deductible, we're opting not to submit a claim for the \$500 difference. Board members agreed.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

Tiffany explained the items in red reflect the directives given during the August meeting – 4% salary increases, anticipated surge in chemical expenses, etc. The \$135,000 chemical line item is based on Greg’s input to be as fiscally responsible as possible. Likewise, the well upgrade line item is a “worst case scenario” number, providing a cushion for the solar array project.

The \$151,000 currently budgeted for utilities will decrease over time (to \$50,000) when the solar array system is operational. Also, the largest loan matures in 2028 which will also help rebuild cash reserves.

After the Board reviewed the “Wells 5 & 6 Options / Cost” and “Solar Array Status” items later on tonight’s Agenda, John Bellisario moved to approve the Financial Reports as presented, including the 2023 Budget; seconded by Kay Webber.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

USAGE REPORT

Greg Long reported 13,144,000 gallons were pumped in August. The Bacterial test was good and the average fluoride level was .686 (target 0.6-0.8). The Hardness was 5.4 grains per gallon.

PLANT / SYSTEM UPDATES

The Plant is running smoothly.

WELLS 5 & 6 OPTIONS / COST

Greg reported the budgetary numbers from Layne, the original contractor, for upgrading Well 5 is estimated to be around \$53,000 (approximately \$100,000 less than budgeted). This would include a new service control valve and a 100hp pump. (Only 88hp is needed to produce the maximum pump rate of 750 gal./minute.) A televised survey would also be included to inspect the cleanliness of the well and the screen 20 feet below.

The current well was dug almost 30 years ago (1994). For an additional \$12,000, 100 feet of new pipe could be installed; however, for an additional \$31,500, all column piping could be replaced, bringing the cost closer to \$84,500.

Board members discussed the piping options and additional costs involved for cleaning or replacing the screen if needed. Greg explained an optional air-bursting method to break up screen crustaceans could be considered depending on the integrity of the screen. He will inquire about possible screen-related costs, noting it may be difficult since these are budgetary numbers, not an actual quote. For the record, he noted the electrical system is sufficient, not currently in need of repair or replacement for this upgrade. Overall, it was agreed all the column piping should be replaced if CTPWD pursues upgrading Well 5.

Greg received Farnsworth’s numbers late today for drilling Well 7. The estimate came in between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Chairman Sutton summarized CTPWD's options: (a) Run Well 5 at a lower flow rate for longer; (b) upgrade Well 5; (c) Drill Well 7 or (d) Run Wells 5 and 6 together for a shorter timeframe. After lengthy discussions with Greg, it was determined options (a) and (d) aren't ideal operationally or logistically and option (c) is pricey, leaving option (b) as the most economical.

Greg will work with Farnsworth to compile a bid package as quickly as possible, ideally letting by year's end (2022) with a targeted start date of March or April 2023. In addition to Layne, Greg has several well-drilling companies to solicit for quotes. (Only a second quote is required before proceeding.)

SOLAR ARRAY

STATUS

A "Development Process" handout was distributed, outlining the three Phases involved in this project: *Phase 1: Design - Phase 2: Engineering - Phase 3: Construction*. Josh reported CEDG paid Ameren for the interconnection fee (Step 3 of Phase 2), confirming we can now move forward.

Brief discussion was had regarding the CEDG system being current with today's technology. Josh confirmed any upgrades would be at the cost and responsibility of CEDG as the owner of the system, not CPTWD.

Zach Taylor moved to approve upgrading Well 5, including all-new piping and a screen remediation estimate, within CTPWD's current budget and soliciting at least two quotes; seconded by Jason Howard.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Electrical Usage/Cost

As previously mentioned, our recent Ameren bill was \$11,472.37 – normally \$5,000. After talking to yet another provider, MC2, and discovering they're all within the 11+ cents/kWh range, CTPWD is staying with Ameren who currently offers the lowest cost.

PFAS

Chairman Sutton had stated during last month's meeting CTPWD executed the Rural Water Retainer Agreement with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC; however, he discovered it had not been executed. He wants to discuss with Jonathan Heiple what he recommends - waiting until a problem arises or for others to join the cause first. He'll update the Board accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Zach inquired about the water line to Valley View. Chairman Sutton explained there's been no change and since CTPWD won't receive any funding to assist, Valley View is on their own to secure a loan and/or federal funds. Greg was recently told Valley View's application is currently being reviewed by IEPA. He also updated the Board that he's received calls from an adjacent neighbor of Valley View that there are an additional five or six neighbors who desperately want to connect to CTPWD's water system; however, this matter is between Valley View and the adjacent homeowners.

Both John Bellisario and Christine Slagel will be absent for next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Zach Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm; seconded by Josh Zulu.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 10, 2022, at 7:00pm. Please call to be excused if you're unable to attend.

P. Pitcher
Board Secretary