

MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the  
CATERPILLAR TRAIL PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT of WOODFORD  
COUNTY ILLINOIS on August 14, 2023 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 was present.

**ROLL CALL / ATTENDEES**

Physically present – Bob Sutton, John Bellisario, Jason Howard, Greg Long, Patti Pitcher, Tiffany Stanley, Kay Webber

via Teleconference – Angie Keil

Excused – Christine Slagel, Zach Taylor, Josh Zulu

Guests – Kevin Hannel (Farnsworth), Attorney Jonathan Heiple, Steve Smith (CEDG)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

John Bellisario moved to approve the July 10, 2023, Minutes; seconded by Jason Howard.

Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**LEAK ADJUSTMENT(S)**

Chairman Sutton approved a \$44.23 credit for 250 E. Parkside Drive due to an older cast iron drop pipe that failed.

**DISTRICT BILLING REPORT**

Patti reported a total of 2,035 bills with a read date of July 25, 2023, were sent totaling 10,181,872 gallons. Water billed was \$132,018.99. Loan service billed was \$10,143.01 and penalties billed were \$2,959.55, for a grand total billing of \$145,121.55 for the month of July.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **TRANSACTION LIST BY VENDORS / BILLS PAID**

No objections regarding the July expenses totaling \$139,075.71.

Jason Howard moved to approve the bills paid in July; seconded by Kay Webber.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **BALANCE SHEET / PROFIT & LOSS / CASH FLOW**

The C/R for July was 1.33.

Net Income for July was \$20,778.23. Cash flow balance at the end of July was \$637,458.23.

### **4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER FYE 2023 BUDGET vs. ACTUAL PROFIT & LOSS**

Fourth Quarter FYE 2023 indicated Operational Salaries line item over budget by \$3,510.72 and combined System and Equipment Maintenance over by \$10,690.39 as a result of significant improvements and maintenance work recently. Also noteworthy is the significant over-budget increase in Metered Sales of \$75,545.68.

Net income for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FYE 2023 was \$133,578.30, a 221.84% increase over budget.

### **FYE 2023 BUDGET vs. ACTUAL PROFIT & LOSS**

Due to increased sales, legal/accounting fees pertaining to Well No. 5, Operations salaries and employee insurance as well as a decrease in Administration salaries and chemical costs, the FYE 2023 net income was \$298,861.71, an increase of 171.09% over budget.

Tiffany stated she's working on the FYE 2024 Budget which she'll present at the September meeting.

Jason Howard moved to approve the financial reports as presented; seconded by John Belisario.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

### **USAGE REPORT**

Greg reported 14,055,000 gallons were pumped in July. The Bacterial test was good and the average fluoride level was .741 (target 0.6-0.8). Hardness was 5.6 grains per gallon during July.

### **PLANT / SYSTEM UPDATES**

Staff repaired the "puddle" on Bayside which was not a leak as well as the Townhall Road service line in July.

During the August 11<sup>th</sup> storm, lightning struck CTPWD's tall tower. Chairman Sutton has initiated an insurance claim. A Farnsworth Group I/T technician is working on site with an electrician from Koener Electric to assess damages. To date, four PLC cards were damaged, requiring replacement and were ordered immediately. However, this also means the plant is currently in manual operation until repairs and rudimentary workarounds can be made, requiring Operations staff to be on site until 10 or 11pm nightly, but there have been no reports of service interruptions.

While 110v-powered equipment seems intact, some 24v control components have been damaged. Several office light fixtures were also damaged and were replaced with LED lights.

When Greg alerted the Fire Department in the event they need to access a hydrant, he accepted their offer of using their drone to help assess the top of the tower. No visible damage was found, but the aviation light isn't functioning and the cathodic protection cabinet contains failed components.

The radio telemetry for Wells 4 and 6 is also beyond repair. The radios are outdated. An attempt is being made to locate matching replacement parts, but if that's unsuccessful, an upgrade may be necessary instead.

CTPWD staff and Farnsworth Group stated all storm damage expenses – labor and material – are being marked as such so it can be documented separately for insurance claim purposes.

## **WELL NO. 5 UPGRADE**

The permit was received July 20<sup>th</sup> and Well No. 5 went into service on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. After a couple of minor adjustments, Well No. 5 is working flawlessly as CTPWD's primary well. Well No. 6 is now the emergency back-up.

## **SOLAR ARRAY**

Status – Steve Smith reported the permit from Germantown Hills is in hand; however, still waiting on Ameren to do their due diligence. Meter equipment needs to be ordered (expected by mid-October). There cannot be any forward movement regarding construction until Ameren authorizes it. Steve gave a mid-November 2023 target date for CTPWD's solar array to be in operation. Ameren currently has a backlog of 220-235 solar projects. Our equipment, at least, is in a USA warehouse.

New billing will take effect the day the system starts, but likely won't offset Ameren until May 2024. Steve can explain the Ameren and CEDG/finance company bills when received. He'll also send Chairman Sutton graphed rates (using a three-year average) showing the anticipated savings to share with Board members.

Chairman Sutton suggested the Neighbors' Meeting be held on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Steve agreed, adding Ameren should have dates determined by then. Chairman Sutton would like to include as many Board members as possible; Attorney Heiple said if it is a CEDG-hosted presentation and attending Board members do not discuss CTPWD business or vote on any issue, then it won't violate the Open Meetings Act. No objections.

Brief discussion was had regarding mowing the property prior to construction. Steve suggested spraying the grass now to eliminate the need to mow. Alternatives to grass were also mentioned. Crushed white rock is costly and would need to be weeded. Steve mentioned there has been success with farmers allowing their sheep to graze in a solar panel field (Spring, Summer, Fall only) for a nominal fee (\$1.00 per head). Because the panels tilt East/West daily, the sheep aren't able to climb the panels.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Valley View Project Status – This project is out for bid with an August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The IEPA letter has been received and the money allocated at 1.3% tentatively. Project was approved for \$492,000 with a loan forgiveness of \$246,000. The Corrosion study was completed and submitted to IEPA; waiting for their review and approval.

Insurance Renewal – Mine Subsidence / Flood Coverage – Chairman Sutton reported the insurance company has confirmed they removed these policy riders last year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Jason Howard moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:33pm; seconded by John Bellisario.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00pm. Please call to be excused if you're unable to attend.

*P. Pitcher  
Board Secretary*