

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the**  
**CATERPILLAR TRAIL PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT of WOODFORD**  
**COUNTY ILLINOIS on September 11, 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, Jason Howard, Patti Pitcher, Christine Slagel, Tiffany Stanley, Zach Taylor, Josh Zulu  
via Teleconference – Angie Keil, Greg Long  
Excused – John Bellisario, Kay Webber

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Corrections to the August Minutes: Page 1 – Greg Long listed twice; he was physically present, not via teleconference; Page 2 – ‘Tiffany stated she’s working on the FYE 2024 Budget...,’ not (only) Capital Budget; Page 3 – Lightning strike was August 11<sup>th</sup>, not August 7<sup>th</sup>; and Page 4 – Erosion Control study should be Corrosion study.

Jason Howard moved to approve the August 14, 2023, Minutes with the revisions as noted; seconded by Zach Taylor.

Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**LEAK ADJUSTMENT(S)**

Chairman Sutton approved a two-month credit of \$330.89 for 1222 N. Maple Lane. Resident averages 3,100 gal./month, but meter reads indicated 18,200 gal. and 36,600 gal. in June and July respectively. A leak was found between CTPWD’s shut-off valve and the residence on homeowner’s private property.

**DISTRICT BILLING REPORT**

Patti reported a total of 2,035 bills with a read date of August 24, 2023, were sent totaling 10,730,735 gallons. Water billed was \$137,510.03. Loan service billed was \$10,143.01 and penalties billed were \$2,083.89, for a grand total billing of \$149,736.93 for the month of August.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

No objections regarding the August expenses totaling \$157,308.68, which included \$20,723.36 to G.A. Rich & Sons, Inc., for three repairs during August.

Christine Slagel moved to approve the bills paid in August; seconded by Josh Zulu.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

The C/R was 1.36 for the month of August.

Tiffany noted ADP pulled payroll taxes on August 31<sup>st</sup> for the September 1<sup>st</sup> payroll.

Net Income for August was (-)\$9,881.29. Cash flow balance at the end of August was \$681,783.67.

Christine Slagel moved to approve the financial reports as presented; seconded by Zach Taylor.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **CAPITAL BUDGET**

Tiffany explained the preliminary FY24 Budget line by line, indicating which items were calculated based on SALY (same as last year), actual usage or a 3% increase. No objections.

She and Greg need to discuss capital assets before finalizing the FY24 Budget, but it's expected to be presented for approval at the October meeting.

## **DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

### **USAGE REPORT**

Greg reported 12,290,000 gallons were pumped in August. He noted there was one day – August 11<sup>th</sup> – during which water usage was not registered due to the lightning strike damage. The Bacterial test was good and the average fluoride level was .705 (target 0.6-0.8). Hardness was 4.1 grains per gallon, which Greg attributes to the recent flow increase.

### **PLANT / SYSTEM UPDATES**

The plant is no longer in manual mode but is still a work in progress. As staff continues to inspect each system component, additional replacement parts are needed – some with 10-week delivery estimates.

Koener Electric confirmed the aviation light took a direct hit. The entire assembly needs replaced and is on order.

### **LIGHTNING STRIKE UPDATE**

To date, CTPWD has spent \$16,000 on lightning strike-related repairs. CTPWD has a \$2,500 deductible with replacement insurance.

Greg is in regular contact with the Insurance Adjuster who is aware of the various delayed shipments of replacement parts, our progress and/or setbacks. For example, a replacement flow meter was changed out today only to discover it isn't functioning properly. Staff is working through a distributor representative to determine the cause.

To protect equipment going forward, Greg recommends a more robust PLC cabinet system, including lightning protection. Mounting a lightning rod onto the existing tower is problematic, requiring engineering work to resolve.

## **SOLAR ARRAY**

### **STATUS**

Josh Zulu recently sent an email to Steve Smith (CEDG) asking for yet another update, noting his frustration in having to constantly ask for information from CEDG. Furthermore, Josh reported that despite being told at last month's meeting our materials have been received and are in a U.S. warehouse awaiting Ameren's switch installation and authorization to proceed, he's now being told CEDG is in the process of "procuring parts" for our project. Discussion was had regarding the inconsistencies in information provided by CEDG as well as the project delays.

Several Board members urged Chairman Sutton to involve Attorney Heiple and pursue discussions with Representative Spain as well as the U.S. Department of Energy, if needed. CTPWD has been extremely patient, but as a public water service provider to residential consumers, businesses and area Fire Departments, members feel CTPWD must be diligent in keeping this Solar Array project on track.

Chairman Sutton noted our current rate, through Homefield Energy, is 6.7 cents/kWh. This is a temporary rate set to expire in November 2023.

The neighbors' meeting – CEDG's project presentation – is currently scheduled to be held Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Kouri's with letters (a copy of which Chairman Sutton distributed for review) set to be mailed tomorrow; however, based on Josh's update, Chairman Sutton asked the Board if the meeting should be postponed until closer to construction. While members had no objections or revisions regarding the letter, they unanimously agreed to postpone until October. Chairman Sutton stated he will hold the letters and re-schedule the meeting as requested.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Valley View Project Status**

Bid results are scheduled to be opened tomorrow, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Germantown Hills Sports Complex Status**

Greg reported he has yet to receive any project updates or revised plans, despite the excavation work that has begun; however, no construction can commence until a permit is issued. CPTWD's review, inspection and approval of the site plans, materials and pipe installation will be required.

It is CTPWD's expert opinion the existing service line – which was installed in the late 1970's or early 1980's – needs to be removed from under the currently-proposed soccer field and relocated from Townhall Road to the State Police Headquarters [at Rt. 116/Lourdes Road]. The distance is roughly the same, meaning the cost of reinstalling the existing pipe deeper or relocating it would be similar. CTPWD will have a 20-ft. wide easement across the Sports Complex and any repairs would be our responsibility but would require the adjacent soccer field to be disrupted if the line is not relocated. Any repair work would be impossible to schedule or even predict but would take precedence over scheduled soccer contests. After further discussion, Board members requested Greg meet with Mr. Mair (Superintendent of

Germantown Hills School District 69) to discuss the project status. This meeting is to also include Chairman Sutton and Zach Taylor; Greg will attempt to schedule for next week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Josh Zulu moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40pm; seconded by Zach Taylor.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, October 9, 2023, at 7:00pm. Please call to be excused if you're unable to attend.

*P. Pitcher*  
*Board Secretary*