

MINUTES
La Pine Water District
Board of Commissioners Meeting
December 9, 2003

Those present were LWD Board members BarbeAnn Nelson-Dodson, James Newton, Dennis Carter, Gretta Gerdau and Brian Earls. Also present: Rhoda Holmes, Jim Elliott, Ed Hildebrand, Loren Berry, Andy Newton, Kitty Shields, Dick Nored – HGE, and Donna Blatnik – Operations Manager.

A quorum was established and President BarbeAnn Nelson-Dodson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes of previous meetings: Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2003 Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Guests:

Rhoda Holmes expressed her concerns with her and other customers' water meters being set too high. She's concerned they may freeze. She explained that Dave Crider put in many hours thawing her meter out last month. Her meter froze at -6°. She wanted to know why the meters weren't set deeper in the meter boxes. Dick explained that all the meters are set pretty close to 12 inches below the surface. BarbeAnn said the Board was unaware of the impact of using meter setters. Andy Newton will tip Rhoda's meter in an attempt to lower it a few more inches.

Jim Elliott attended on behalf of customers in the Aspen Alley Mall. He provided the Commissioners with a list of concerns he would like addressed. Mr. Elliott's main concern was how would the District make sure the landowner won't over bill his tenants. BarbeAnn explained the District would provide a list to the landowner with the breakdown of each tenant's share of the water bill. She also explained that tenants might contact the District to find out what their share of the water bill will be. Mr. Elliott asked if tenants could be billed individually. BarbeAnn stated she hopes the District can bill each tenant by summer 2004. Andy explained the problem with billing the tenant instead of the landowner is that if a tenant is late, the District has no recourse in shutting of the water because this would shut off everyone in the building, not just the delinquent tenant.

Loren Berry, owner of The Car Wash, is concerned with the amount of his monthly bill. He was under the impression after attending a previous meeting he would be charged for only 2 to 3 EDUs, now he's being charged for 5. BarbeAnn explained there were no guidelines for the District to follow when billing car washes for water. The closest we could find was the City of Bend. They charged by meter size. Donna found out that for a 1" or 2" meter, customers were charged for 5 EDUs. Mr. Berry is unhappy having to pay \$136.70 per month.

Old Business:

Construction Update: Dick stated that customers who have asked if their meter could be moved need to understand it can be moved, but only if the customer is willing to pay for it.

Dick reported that all meters should be installed by the end of this year. He also brought the Board up to speed on the issue with sidewalks for the office/shop building. Deschutes County needs either a bond or a refundable deposit of \$3,000.00 from the District in order to grant the application. Brian made a motion to cut a check to Deschutes County for \$3,000.00 to get the project moving. Seconded by Dennis. **Motion carried.**

Wickiup Junction expansion – Dick explained that since we lost approximately \$45,000.00 in projected interest on the La Pine project, he has revised the Wickiup plans. The revision includes \$80,000.00 from Deschutes County to go through the New Neighborhood instead of directly up Hwy 97. Brian made a motion to accept the revised plan for the Wickiup Expansion project. Seconded by Dennis. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

Ken Durrell: BarbeAnn read an e-mail from Ken Durrell announcing his retirement at the end of this year. Rural Development will contact the District when a new contact has been assigned.

Lowering Meters: This item was discussed previously under “Guests”.

SDCs for New Owners of Hog Heaven: When Hog Heaven left, the La Pine Special Sewer District reduced the EDUs at the owner’s request. The new owner’s will be required to pay the increase in EDUs. The District will not require this of the new owner, since this is considered a change in service and the District hasn’t provided water service yet.

Agreement with Deschutes County for Unfettered Water Use: Dennis spoke with Dee Martin of the Deschutes County Road Department. Dee expressed an interest in making a contract with the District for unfettered water use for construction. Dee agreed that \$100.00 per month was a fair price. The County water trucks will need to go through the same inspection process as all water trucks to ensure proper backflow devices. Brian made a motion to prepare an Intergovernmental Agreement with Deschutes County for unfettered water use at the price of \$100.00 per month. Seconded by James. **Motion carried.** Donna will prepare the agreement and have it ready for review at the next meeting.

Donation of SDC to Reinhart Construction for Home in Huntington Meadows: Reinhart Construction contacted Donna and asked if the District would be willing to donate, or waive, the SDC for the first home sold. The profit from the sale of this home would be donated to various children’s organizations in the La Pine area. The Board felt we are not in a legal or financial position to waive the SDC at this time.

Sale of Water to Customers Outside the District: Donna was contacted by someone out of the District wanting to purchase water for domestic use. The Board decided not to do this at this time.

La Pine Elementary and Middle Schools – Delayed Connection: Donna presented all Board members with a letter she prepared to send to Paul Eggleston of Bend-La Pine Schools outlining District policy on connection. The Board agreed to send the letter.

Payment of Bills: James made a motion to pay all bills as presented to the Board. Seconded by Brian. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence List: The correspondence list was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Blatnik
Operations Manager
La Pine Water District