

**MEETING OF THE PINE BROOK WATER DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

Board Members present: R. Waters, J. Colson, and M. Beauprez

Board Members Absent: M. Hupka and B. Loveman

Also: R. deHaas and A. Churnside

Visitors: S. Wahlert, K. Smith, T. Wolowitz, A. Blumen, J. Eyster, H & J Wiedeman

Meeting started at 4:30 pm

Visitor Comments

There was concern among the visitors about the budget, board meeting minutes, and conducting an independent review of the Water District.

It was asked if board meeting minutes could be sent electronically to the residents. The discussion revolved around the fact that the latest minutes on the website are from 2012. Bob deHaas ("Bob") pointed out that it was discontinued due to lack of people reading them and prior to this meeting there had been no complaints. Bob stated that he would look into having the minutes, once they had been approved, posted to the website again along with other common documents that may be of interest.

There was a question if public notices could be posted on the Yahoo message board. It was pointed out that the District posts public notices at our drop box locations and that typically notices are put into the Pine Brook Press. It was also noted that the only legal requirement for the budget notice is to put it in the newspaper. There was concern that the Yahoo forum does not include everyone in the District. Major notices will be posted to the District's website.

It was asked if there were any opportunities to collaborate with neighboring water districts to lower costs. Bob advised the following:

City of Boulder is a non-starter due to the Blue Line restrictions in their charter documents. Spring Valley has similar costs and is well-based and much smaller than the District – no opportunity there. Most of the District's costs are fixed, there isn't an easy answer short of selling more water or raising rates.

It was questioned if outsourcing could lower personnel costs. Bob and the Board felt that the District might initially save some money but the loss of knowledge and experience would leave the District lacking in the event of an event outside of normal operations. It was also noted that while there may be

some initial savings that since these companies are “for profit” companies that it was likely to be short lived savings. It was also noted by the Board that for the District to properly provide 24/7 coverage and accomplish all the tasks needed to operate the District it now takes 3 employees.

Bob discussed the current sludge disposal dilemma and the proposed drying bed solution and how this could lead to a savings over how the District currently has to dispose of the sludge.

There was discussion by visitors including J. Eyster, Kevin Smith, and S. Wahlert about water rates, raising the base rate, or having a vote of the community to add a general mill levy rate to fund operations. Kevin Smith compared the District’s water rates to the City of Boulder, Erie, etc. Bob noted that the District simply did not have the large customer base that those type of entities have to spread their costs over. Bob advised lower rates MAY encourage more use and increase overall revenue but if not, the difference would have to be made up in an end-of-year assessment. There was discussion by J. Eyster and Bob about raising the base rate to share the fixed costs of the District amongst all customers. The considerations are: adding \$10.00 to the base rate or adding \$2.00 per 1000 gallons of use Bob also noted that more options could be run by the next Board Meeting.

Bob went through a discussion of the proposed 2018 budget including expenditures.

There was a question raised by Kevin Smith about conducting an independent assessment of the District. Bob asked where savings would come from to justify this expense (mention of initial cost estimates from \$10,000 to \$60,000 for such a study). The Board discussed the financials and budget and decided to further discuss the financials and budget at the next meeting. It was also noted that the budget for 2018 would need to be adopted on December 14th (the next Board Meeting) to comply with budget law and be able to file the mill levy certification to the Boulder County Commissioners, again as required by law. >

Sludge

The District is still waiting on test results to determine the best way forward on sludge disposal.

FEMA

Bob said that the District is still waiting to hear from them on the alternative projects.

Four Mile Fire Department

Bob said things are still proceeding. There was a request to purchase raw water from our diversion site for re-vegetating the areas along the creek. The usual rate for raw water in-district (after pumping) is \$20/1000 gallons. They are looking for 1 acre foot, possibly up to 2 acre feet Bob noted that this helps protect

our watershed. R. Waters moved to sell them water at \$5/1000. J. Colson seconded and the motion passed.

Cash Mine

No major updates, the mine was served with new violations from the state regarding the collapse of Sunshine Canyon Drive.

Repair and Maintenance

1 water main break in front of 320 S. Cedar Brook Rd.

Reservoir

Currently pumping water over from 4-Mile and the reservoir is filling.

Water Testing

Bac-T tests all came back negative (good), and our Disinfection Byproduct numbers are down (well below MCL).

Bills

R. Waters motioned to approve the bills as presented. M. Beauprez seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes

R. Waters motioned to approve the minutes from the October 24th board meeting as presented. J. Colson seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.