

Indian Creek-Westridge Community Services District Board Meeting
August 10, 2021
Christian Science Church, West Line Street and Grandview Drive, Bishop, CA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Chairperson Luis Elias. Also present were Directors Casey Dean and Dave Mappus; District Manager Terry Tye; District Operator Don Buser; Assistant Operator Kim Derr; Secretary Stephanie Sheltz.

Introduction of Joe Almeida: Mr. Tye introduced Joe Almeida, who was hired by the district to assist with maintenance of the water system, as well as the project to digitize district records.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously (moved Mappus, seconded Elias).

Operations and Maintenance Report: The following are highlights of Mr. Buser's report. Dug and repaired leak. Reinstalled sprinkler head. Met with Kendall Weisenberg and Terry Tye to study hydrant replacement locations and isolation plans. Prepared multiple isolation valves at Well 1 lot. Responded to service calls on May 21 and June 21. Met with Kendall Weisenberg and Terry Tye to plan upcoming work. Received large shipment of lab bottles. Berger Electric did work on Well 3. Attended, along with Mr. Tye and Mr. Derr, California Rural Water Association class about sampling techniques. Mr. Tye reported that it was a very busy quarter.

Finance Report: Mr. Tye stated that the district's bank balance is approximately \$100,000 higher than at this time last year. The balance in the bank stands at \$775,439 including an O & M total of \$324,387 and Capital Funds of \$451,052.

Expenses included 3 hydrants at 3039 W. Birch, Well 1, and Christian Science church at \$9,000 each. New main line from dead end on Laurel to link to main on Grandview, to be done in future, estimated at \$40,000. Hydrants scheduled to be completed by August 25, 2021. Total for hydrants and loop estimated to be between \$75,000 and \$85,000.

Other work will be done piecemeal as funds come in. Mr. Tye recommended keeping a balance of approximately \$700,000. Mr. Elias explored the possibility of spending some of it. Mr. Tye asked the board for input on this. He explained the importance of maintaining a comfortable balance in case of a costly emergency, especially now that funds from the USDA grant might not materialize.

Mr. Tye reported that three customers owe a total of \$800 for water use.

Update on Data Storage/Transfer Project: Mr. Tye reported on the project to scan documents to a laptop for centralized storage. He, Dean Lewis and Stephanie Sheltz worked together to start the process. Mr. Lewis will meet with Mr. Tye and Ms. Sheltz two more times to finish the training. Joe Almeida will help with the scanning after he trains with Mr. Buser and Mr. Derr.

USDA Grant Update: Mr. Tye expressed disappointment with the current situation. The grant contact person, Antonio Ybarra, said USDA requested a letter from the district explaining why

the district is unable to install meters in each residence. This had been discussed with Mr. Ybarra long ago. Mr. Tye complied with the request for the letter. A copy of it is attached to today's agenda. Mr. Ybarra then asked Mr. Tye to rewrite it. Mr. Tye declined. There has been no response from USDA so far. Mr. Mappus asked what will happen with the funds set aside for the grant if the grant is not approved. Mr. Tye said the grant account would be closed and funds would be transferred back to the budget. Mr. Tye acknowledged that during the application process the district was required to submit a comprehensive engineering report, which is very useful.

OVGA Update: The OVGA (Owens Valley Groundwater Authority) update was provided by Mr. Elias. Terry interjected that this year the district did not have to pay \$23,000. Mr. Elias reported that most of the OVGA work is development of a plan, which is being done by the consultant. A draft is scheduled to be ready in the fall. Public input will later be solicited. Mr. Tye requested a copy of the plan so it can be uploaded to the district website. The OVGA currently has five members: Inyo County, Mono County, City of Bishop, Indian Creek Westridge Community Services District, and Big Pine. The possibility of changing OVGA boundaries has been raised.

Additional Item: Mr. Mappus remarked that in the future we need criteria for water use. Some residents are watering their lawns two and three times per day. There was consensus to add this topic to a future district agenda. Mr. Mappus noted that Mammoth Lakes has a good water use plan. Mr. Tye mentioned that in 2015 our district approved a drought ordinance. He will write a letter to send with the monthly billing, reminding customers that there is a severe drought, they should not run water down driveways, not to water between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and that the drought ordinance lists consequences. If the drought persists after next winter, the district will start to address the issue in April or May of 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Stephanie Sheltz.