

Indian Creek-Westridge Community Services District Board Meeting
May 14, 2024
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. Present were Directors Jeff Anderson, Casey Dean, Dave Mappus, Ted Williams; District Manager Terry Tye; District Operator Don Buser; Assistant Operator Kim Derr; District resident Sarah Petersen.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously (moved Dean, seconded Williams).

Operations and Maintenance Report: The following are some of the activities Mr. Buser reported. Responded to two service calls. Met with state water officials for a scheduled sanitation survey. Dealt with Frontier Communications about an ongoing problem. Sent bacteria samples to lab. Did major weeding and trash hauling. Conducted valve exercises. Responded to flashing amber light at Well 5.

Finance Report--Quarterly, Annual Budget, Delinquents: Mr. Tye presented the report. The balance in the bank stands at \$728,960, including an O & M total of \$376,113 and Capital Funds of \$352,847.

Mr. Tye stated that so far it appears the District is not ready to be taken over and wants to preserve its autonomy. The main challenges facing the District are finances, staff replacement, and metering requirements.

Throughout Mr. Tye's presentation of the annual budget, he encouraged questions and comments. Three variations of the annual budget were in the agenda packet. The cost of insurance for the District doubled this year. Hourly salary ranges were discussed. Mr. Derr said that \$23-\$29 per hour is common. Mr. Tye reported that Mr. Tanksley, who manages several local districts, pays his staff \$35 per hour. Mr. Tye spoke with insurance agent Diane Corsaro about health insurance costs. He included samples of these costs in the agenda packet. The older a staff member is, the higher the insurance costs. Kendall Engineering estimated that it will cost \$4,000 to install a meter. The District would need 290 meter installations. Mr. Tye asked if a rate increase will have to be implemented. If so, when? Mr. Dean said that a rate increase is needed. Mr. Anderson feels that if the District allows the City of Bishop to take over, they City will most likely increase rates. There was a discussion about wages and benefits. Mr. Derr said that he does not need health insurance. Ms. Petersen asked if there has been an effort to find replacement staff. Mr. Tye replied that he has been doing this informally for the past five years.

Garret Clair, a candidate for a staff position, did not work out. Mr. Clair, however, submitted a proposal for Clair Concrete to maintain and manage the District's water system at a cost of \$200,000 per year. The proposal was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Tanksley charges between \$50,000 and \$60,000 per year. He checks the equipment once a week. Mr. Mappus said that about seven years ago the local annual salary with benefits was \$80,000. He thinks the District can probably find someone who is retired and looking for part-time work. Mr. Dean named someone who might be interested.

Board members discussed the possibility of contracting out the work and asked Mr. Tye to look into it.

Another possibility for staff replacement is Kendall Weisenberg, who is considering moving away but might be interested in staying to work for ICWCSD.

In response to Mr. Derr's question, Mr. Tye explained that projects costing over \$45,000 have to go out to bid.

Mr. Elias stated that the District should start the process for a rate increase of 25%, then continue to increase every one or two years. Mr. Tye explained that the process is extensive, so he strongly recommended doing rate increases every five years.

At the last meeting Mr. Anderson suggested starting the meter installation project, moving along as the budget allows. This would show the State that the District is doing its best if the project is not completely done by the deadline. There was agreement about Mr. Tye's suggestion to install 20 meters a year, which would leave funds for unforeseen work. Kendall Engineering can start the work next month. Mr. Buser pointed out that the biggest part of the project is digging and hooking up the meters. Mr. Tye mentioned that after the District starts to install meters the State could rescind the requirement, which would result in unnecessary use of funds. However, he is doubtful that will happen because the State has been talking about requiring meters for many years.

The first of the three annual budget variations was approved unanimously (moved Williams, seconded Dean).

Board members agreed on the importance of discussing rate increases and salaries at the next meeting.

OVGA (Owens Valley Ground Water Authority) Update: Mr. Elias reported that the OVGA asked if ICWCSD is interested in well registration. Mr. Tye will research what this would entail. The next OVGA meeting is scheduled for early June. They want to establish a database of water pumping in the Owens Valley.

Electronic Annual Report and Consumer Confidence Report: Mr. Tye submitted both reports, which were accepted by the State.

The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report was approved unanimously (moved Anderson, seconded Dean).

Jeff Anderson Resignation from ICWCSD Board of Directors: Mr. Anderson's letter of resignation, included in the agenda packet, stated that he will leave the Board position effective May 14, 2024. Sarah Petersen agreed to take his place until November, when she will stand for election to a four-year term. Mr. Tye posted the interim position in four conspicuous places. Mr. Anderson urged Ms. Petersen's appointment because she is very knowledgeable about the issues that face the Board. Mr. Tye agreed, adding that Ms. Petersen has been attending meetings and shown an interest in the topics discussed.

Ms. Petersen stated that she moved to the Owens Valley in July, 2018 to work in the County of Inyo small water systems department. As of July, 2021 she has been working in the Registered Environmental Health Specialist program, is involved in well permitting, and monitors algal

blooms. Ms. Petersen pointed out that she works with members of the community when they have questions or problems. Mr. Dean stated that he worked with her and learned a lot as a result.

Sarah Petersen was unanimously appointed to Mr. Anderson's vacated position on the Board (moved Anderson, seconded Williams).

Mr. Buser said that when he moved to the ICWCSD neighborhood there were many young people, then the neighborhood was composed of older people, and now an increasing number of younger people are moving in. Mr. Mappus is pleased to see younger people, such as Mr. Dean and Ms. Petersen, joining the ICWCSD Board.

Mr. Tye presented a card from the Board to Mr. Anderson and thanked him for his many years of service.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Stephanie Sheltz