

## WRWSD Board of Trustees Monday Meeting – 1/30/2023

President P. Levermore called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Roll Call:** Present: Armstrong, Buskey, LaPlante, P. Levermore, S. Levermore, Moore, Wales, Mgr. Cahall, Supt. Pike

**Minutes:** A motion was made by LaPlante and seconded by Buskey to approve the 1/14/23 Monthly Meeting minutes as distributed. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report** (P. Levermore):

- President P. Levermore distributed a calendar draft of the 2023 and the beginning of 2024 meetings.
- There has been some questioning about the decision to keep producing our own water versus permanently going to Brown County Rural Water (BCRW). While this information has been previously covered (see minutes 11/28/2022), since BCRW has announced their new rates in December, we feel it is helpful to restate and update the data which has led the board to their decision.

Per BCRW Dec 10, 2022 letter, their average monthly residential usage is 3,700 gallons.

BCRW - first 2,000 gallons is \$26.50

BCRW - up to each additional 1,000 gallons \$7.65

BCRW - average monthly bill (3,700 gallons) is \$41.80

WRWSD - first 3,000 gallons is \$26.50

WRWSD - up to each additional 1,000 gallons \$9.00

WRWSD monthly bill for 3,700 gallons is \$35.50

So at BCRW average usage, the monthly expense for BCRW is more than \$6 above, or 17% more, than the comparable WRWSD expense. Note: Neither of these include any sanitary/sewer costs.

To re-emphasize information also previously covered, the water plant could, if need be, significantly increase (at least double) the amount of water it produces by just increasing hours of operation in which we pump from the reservoir. The existing plant is capable of handling this. To increase capacity on the sewer side is significantly more involved and would therefore require a significant investment, but this point is a non-factor when it comes to looking at BCRW vs WRWSD water.

### **Treasurer's Report** (S. Levermore):

- We have a few items that were finished in 2022 but needed to be budgeted for in 2023. One is the effluent monitor and the second is the Brown County water invoice that was expected in December but did not arrive until after the first of the year. The budget was amended.
- Mgr. Cahall said the State Auditor changed the way they look at things. The budget used to be adjusted quarterly but the Auditors want the adjustments made monthly before any checks can be written so the Board can expect more motions this year to keep everything up to date.
- We have one new home permit this year and a few homes already under construction.
- Several motions were made. *Please see Motions & Resolutions below.*

### **Manager and Plant Superintendent Report** (Paul Cahall & Supt. Pike):

- The lagoon valve is closed. We will open it for a few weeks in April. Mgr. Cahall told the Board that they will need to adjust the sewer expenses in a few months to cover expenses required by the EPA such as, more frequent testing, a more detailed test of metals and the addition of outside lab testing once a week.
- The plant gate is not finished yet. The company will be out this week to resume work on it. Once that is complete, we will begin installing the cameras.
- The new UTV arrived. It is a heavy-duty diesel Kubota. We sold the old one to the WPOA.

- Filters – We are waiting to hear about the old carbon we sent out several years ago. It was to be refired and stored for us. The company cannot seem locate it. Mgr. Cahall said they will have to replace what was lost.
- CT consultants – The EPA wants a detailed floor plan of the water plant. CT Consultants is working on a proposal.
- Fire Hydrants – We have signed a contract for someone to test 30% (60) of our fire hydrants and repair any that are broken. We will then decide if we want to contract more or have our team work on the others. Supt. Pike said that a new hydrant is roughly \$4,000 compared to \$1,000 to rebuild one. Trustee Moore reminded Mgr. Cahall and Supt. Pike to get the word out to residents in the area where testing will be performed.
- Trustee Buskey asked about the ordering of new equipment and if it has been installed. Everything is newly installed and is working good.
- Trustee Buskey asked about a meter at the water plant not working. Supt. Pike said the meter can be read manually and that he believes a wire is not connected properly to allow it to be read electronically. He will look into it.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President P. Levermore said that we've been intentionally limiting our reserve contributions and asked how we intend to replace those funds especially since there may be a required sewer plant expansion in the coming years. Treasurer S. Levermore said that there will be budget corrections made in the next few years. Trustee Buskey stated that the WRWSD has a good credit rating and is eligible for low interest grants and loans. The RACP can help with seeking grants. There are a lot of good options moving forward when the sewer expansion is needed.

**Motions and Resolutions:**

- Motion #2023-02 was made by LaPlante and seconded by Moore to certify the following beginning balances for 2023. Total Checking/Savings \$2,271,685.95. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion #2023-03 was made by Buskey and seconded by Wales to certify the following receipts for revenue. \$1,311,029.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion #2023-04 was made by Moore and seconded by Armstrong to adopt the following appropriations for estimated expenditures as of January 1 2023. Total expense \$1,493,665.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion #2023-05 was made by Laplante and seconded by Buskey to move \$25,000.00 from water reserves to water operating. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**Board Member Concerns:**

- Trustee Moore asked about the painting of the water tower. Mgr. Cahall said we will have to hire another company to complete the job.
- Trustee Wales suggested scheduling a water plant tour for the community so members can tour the plant and look at all the updates. Trustee Buskey agreed and said there was a tour many years ago and it was well received by the community. Mgr. Cahall and Supt. Pike believe a tour can be accommodated late spring or early summer. They will keep the Board updated so they will have time to advertise the event.
- Treasurer S. Levermore suggested we start researching electronic water bills. This would be an ongoing project to compare and discuss the pros and cons.

**Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made by LaPlante and seconded by Moore. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary