

Mayer Water Improvement District

Minutes of Special Meeting

July 7, 2017

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm
- II. Roll Call: Frank Soto, Kathy King, Jacque Burress, Josh Mish Present, Ron Good by phone
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Discussion/Review/Action Items:
 - a. Emergency Operation Plans/Goodwin Fire

Frank Soto reported it was a challenge for him to get into town to check on things. Frank talked with law enforcement about improving the process for us ahead of time, and was told not much could be done except to have employees of the water district driving in the marked water district vehicle with tools and such on it. Law enforcement won't issue a card to get access during an emergency. Frank stated we were very fortunate, damage was mainly to the G & S booster electrical pole, AZ Utility helped us, APS helped; they dug the hole, Ron Good helped Frank with new wire to booster pole. Turns out the wiring needed to be upgraded. Terrell wells were saved. APS had to replace their equipment, they turned the power on without a meter. Thank you letter should go out to APS. Frank discussed communication with the board, it is something we should organize so we can keep everyone updated. Kathy and Frank organized a water station at the Recreation Center, looked into getting a water truck set up so people had access to water. Power was out in certain parts of Mayer, but most had water by the time they came back. Poland Junction was the last area to have the power turned back on. He said that he kept all the water tanks full. Fifteen to twenty customers between G & S Booster and Poland didn't have water for awhile due to their damage to the electric meters. Joe Mish stated he was very fortunate but the electricity was out at his house for five days and he lost everything in his freezer. Joe reported that John Sander's house burned down and the fire came 200 yards from his house. He said all of Mayer could have been lost, that every time slurry was dumped it cost \$67,000, so the fire will go down as one of the most expensive in Arizona. His wife has been ill and will be returning to their house on July 8. Joe stated he thought many Mayer residents helped out, and everyone did an outstanding job. He thanked Kathy King for helping with the Oak Hills Booster and contacting people in Mayer about their houses. Joe thanked Frank, that Frank pulled it all together and did an outstanding job. Jacque stated she evacuated to Cordes and kept in contact with Kathy. She felt it was important to stay out of the way and let the people working the fire do their job. Frank stated that he and Kathy came in to the office to find the APS meter number for the burned pole so we could report to APS which pole we needed to replace and he found out that all the electric meters are listed on a separate APS bill. Kathy said that APS was very helpful and patient while she was checking on the power to the Goodwin booster. She said it was a challenge that evacuated people were returning to their homes before APS turned the electric on, so many didn't know that they didn't have water. She said that she delivered water to a family with livestock. Kathy discussed looking into possible options in the future for access points for water in case of emergency. She said she had

been communicating with Tom Thurman during the fire, and that Tom added the Recreation Center to Twitter news so water users could get water at the Recreation Center, even if the hose bib was not work properly, it was available.

Frank stated we all learned something from the experience and we need to follow up on a few things. Joe Mish told the Board we need to move the equipment from the back of the water district yard to the front because it floods back there. There was going to be a meeting in Spring Valley coming up about the flooding potential. Frank stated he will be contacting ADEQ about the possible water contamination when flooding occurs.

Ron Good thanked everyone who helped in the emergency, it was good to see our community come together.

b. Manager's Position:

Frank stated he accepted the temporary, non-paid Manager's position to try to help, he found it to be stressful, he didn't realize the condition the system was in, he has had problems with maintenance, the meters, possible criminal actions, and he can't afford to keep volunteering. He wants to know what the Board would like to do, he said it is going to take a lot of work, if there is someone else he will step aside, but he can't do it for free anymore.

Jacque stated that everything costs money, nothing is really free. Kathy said Frank has already saved the district a lot of money. Jacque said Frank has given the Board a lot of information about equipment and various other issues. Kathy said Frank has done what we were looking for, to give us an evaluation of the system. Frank and Jacque discussed issues with the status of the office, meter readings, and checks that were not deposited. Frank stated there are lot of meters that are not on the meter list. Joe Mish stated that Frank has been a very valuable asset to the Water District, he has seen what Frank is doing and would like to put Frank on the payroll and be the Manager at his own discretion to work on the problems with the meters and other issues. Joe said he does not want to see Frank resign. Joe appreciates that Frank is truthful about the water district issues, that with previous employees he has asked them questions and received lies, in some cases Joe already knew the answer. Kathy said we are ready to go forward, Joe stated that thanks to Frank we have stopped the bleeding of money from the district, it was so bad he didn't think for awhile we would be able to pull the district together.

Ron asks what are you actually saying Frank? What do you want? Frank says he is willing to stay on as Manager, if we pay him, if we pay him he can no longer be on the Board, so he will have to resign from the Board, stating, obviously I am going to need some physical help and I am going to make some enemies, I have seen some things that aren't right and I it is going to hurt some people. Some things may have to be handled in court. We have one upcoming small claims court, for \$3500.00 there may be more. I am willing to stay on or train someone if that is what you want to do. I have seen some things with the water management company with leaks, we called them to check on them, so we have to pay, the leak was on the customer side. Ron asks Frank about Joe Thompson. Frank says Joe is still out with his injury and doesn't think we can count on him. Frank feels that with that type of injury he doesn't think Joe will be able to

continue to work at the district, as he could reinjure himself. Frank says Bill Preston is helping him now, that Bill only wants part-time.

Kathy asks Frank about certification. She asks Frank if he becomes Manager will he renew his certification. Frank says no. Kathy asks how are we going to deal with that? Frank says right now we are a Grade 2, Brian Cunningham is grade 2, we are required to have him check the wells once a month, and he already does our water sampling. Kathy asks Frank if our certification requirement will be compromised and Frank says no. Frank says that Levelcon is installed. Kathy asks Frank about the salary. Ron asks what Frank had in mind. Frank tells Ron that he appreciated Ron's help with a leak, and that we need to get some young people working. Frank said that some people have approached him about working, but they want the money that the previous employees were getting, Frank continued to say the district can't afford to pay those wages. Ron said his back was sore the next day from digging. Ron asked Frank if he wants to do this for a short time, that isn't Frank retired, Frank tells Ron only for awhile. Frank discusses the management company option, that the extra costs for services may be a problem. Kathy says that when she considers all aspects of the water district status that we may not be ready to commit to a management company. Kathy says she would like to see Frank stabilize the system more so when we do look at bids that we know what we have, otherwise we could get taken advantaged of later by a management company. She says we need to protect ourselves, that we have already been borderline insolvency. Kathy says there was only about \$100,000 in the warrant account and it was decided to spend \$30,000 on a vehicle by a previous Board. Kathy stated she liked the idea, that Frank knew what was here before and what is now, this would give us the opportunity to be thorough in what we need to do.

Jacque stated that we needed the truth about everything. Kathy stated she contacted the attorney about Frank continuing on the Board and working, but was unable to discuss it further with the attorney. Jackie asked Frank if he wanted to be on the Board or in field. Frank says he wants to be in field. Joe concurs. No motion is made.

c. Frank Soto's Resignation

Joe Mish moves to accept Frank Soto's Board position resignation, Jacque seconds, Ron asks resignation from what? It was clarified Frank's resignation from the Board. All voted in favor.

d. Appoint Manager Position

Joe Mish moves to appoint Frank Soto to temporary Manager position, Ron Good seconds, all in favor.

e. Employment – laborer position

Joe Mish moves to give Frank the authority to hire a part time laborer. Ron seconds. Discussion: Joe feels that Frank should make decision on the laborer. Ron asks Frank if it will be temporary. Frank says yes. Ron says he would like to consider Joseph coming back to work. Frank says he is worried about that. Kathy says she thinks that Joseph should get first opportunity for work since he has time in the district. Ron asks Frank if the part time person can help out so Frank doesn't have to do it all. Frank says he can train, that we need to get a handle on the meters and other system work. Ron says he wants the part time person to help with Frank's needs. All in favor.

f. Future Agenda Items

Post open board position, wages for Frank and laborer, policy for delinquent/collection accounts, meter replacements.

g. Adjournment

Joe Mish moves to adjourn meeting, (6:59 pm) Ron Good seconds, All in favor.