

MAYER DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

12994 CENTRAL AVENUE

MAYER, ARIZONA 86333

Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2011

Regular Session/Public Hearing

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Mish, Board Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Joe Mish, Kevin Jones, Pat Champion, Gordon Nelson and Rita Macdonald were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2011. Gordon seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

BOARD REPORTS:

Pat explained that she had gotten a copy of Forest Lakes Water Company's policy manual. She said it was a good format and that the District could use it as a reference to update its policy manual. She said she has been working with Shiela Schmidt on the preliminaries for the easement for the Pump Tech well. Shiela is also working with ADWR to get the Districts funds released for projects such as the arsenic removal and the well.

Joe said that the District put an article in the Big Bug, explaining the condition of the infrastructure. They put a picture of the pipe that is being replaced. He said so far the Fairmist project is within the cost estimation and that if the District had hired a contractor instead of doing the work in house the cost would have been 1/3 more. He said all the money being spent is on local guys.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

MANAGER'S REPORT: Casey said he and Owen repaired 2 leaks. The rest of the time is being spent on the Fairmist project. So far 3600 feet of pipe has been installed. He said 4 out of 5 hydrants have been replaced. All of the streets are getting valves so that each street can be isolated. He said they found one gas line that had been leaking for a while and contacted the gas company. Pat made a motion to accept the Manager's report. Gordon seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Pat made a motion to accept the financial report. Kevin seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: NEW FEE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Joe proposed a cost of \$25 per hour and \$1.00 per sheet for the work to provide public information. He said the Chairman would have 30 days to approve the request. Kevin made a motion to accept the \$25 an hour and \$1.00 per copy. Rita seconded the motion. Gordon stated that \$25 seems a little high to him. Joe said this needs to be run like a business and not have frivolous requests. Gordon said he still felt that the District should supply information to anyone who comes into the office and asks for it. Pat abstained. Rita and Kevin voted to accept the motion. Gordon voted no. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: RATE RESTRUCTURE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Paul Coe, 12855 E. Border Street, said he has lived here since before this was a water district. He understands the system is antiquated. He said he has no issues with the staff. He has questions on conservation. He also has questions on spending money on real estate and re-exploring water sources. He asked if there was justification on where the extra money is going to be used. Kevin responded that he has seen a lot of things done over the years but if people don't slow down on their water usage now there will be a lot less water in the future. Pat responded that since Casey started in 2005 he has been sounding the wells and she gave some statistics. She said there were some customers using 20, 30, 40, 50 even 60 thousand gallons of water a month. Paul agreed that 60,000 gallons is excessive but that rates should not be punitive. Gordon agreed that it would be a good idea to put out more literature on conservation. Pat explained that the District is in the process of getting the website up and running and it would include some conservation ideas.

Kathy King, Jacobs Rd., asked who the targets are of raising the rates. She asked about the water loss and what is the company doing to repair or find the water leaks. She said the community has been trying to watch for leaks. Kevin responded that the District could always ration people to 3,000 gallons a month if that was the answer she was looking for. Joe asked Kathy how much water she uses and she said 30,000 gallons a month at times.

Gary Frey, 12755 Hill Street, said by his estimation the people that use more water are paying less. He said the low end users are subsidizing the high end users. He said at the current rate customers using 4000 gallons per month with a monthly bill of \$33 would average out to .83 cents per gallon, whereas customers using 40,000 gallons per month with a monthly bill of \$141 would average out to .35 cents per gallon. He pointed out that a gallon of water in the store averages \$1.25.

Kyle Reid, 13157 Main Street, pointed out that as meters get older the low flow doesn't always register.

Owen Champion stated that this was not a rich community and with the new rates a person could have a catastrophic event and would not be able to pay. He suggested some type of forgiveness program be put in place. Joe said that was a good idea but it should be up to the Board to decide and not be put on the employees.

Steve O'Bresly stated that any new revenue could be used for the arsenic treatment plant.

Gina Barnum, 13132 Main Street, thanked the employees for their work. She said they do work on the week-ends and do not take pay. She also thanked the Board for their time and work.

Alison Atwater thanked the Board for moving the meeting to 6:30 p.m. She said she has seen the crew digging and appreciated the work. She stated that she still had a problem with not changing the commercial rates. She feels it should be all around.

Joanne Coe said that this is the peoples' business and people have a stake in it. She does not have a real feel of working together. She is having an issue with conservation—is this about conservation or is it money. She also wanted to know why the District is buying property when there is no money.

Gordon replied that this property came with the storage area and the District could now store items while paying excellent prices.

Diane Marchack stated she was a new member of the community. She thanked the Board for moving forward and for using local labor. She said policy and procedure causes antagonism and she commended them for moving forward. She said rate increases are always going to be an issue and people need to see it as not a punishment. As an observer she feels the topic should be discussed more where people could find a common ground.

Maria Arthur, 13084 Main Street, asked what the average family uses. She was told the average usage is 5,300 gallons. She wondered what the rate increase would be. She asked who used the amount of water. She asked if people have started conserving since the last meeting.

Kyle Reid said that whatever water is being used should be paid for. This is not a punishment but customers should pay for what they use.

Joe answered a question on the breakdown of the new rate. He said up to 7000 gallons would not be affected. The next tier up to 12,000 would be a dollar more a gallon. After that the price per thousand went up.

Pat said as a Board they were concentrating on getting things done. She said the website will help to be more communicative and help educate people.

Joe said in the future they would look at the commercial rates.

Kevin made a motion to accept the rate increase as written. Pat seconded the motion. There was discussion to review the rate increase in six months. Kevin withdrew his original motion and amended his motion to accept the rate increase as written and in six months reflect upon it. Pat seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor.

Kevin made a motion to start the new rate schedule on November 15, 2011. Gordon seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Pat made a motion to adjourn. Gordon seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.