

MAYER DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

12994 CENTRAL AVENUE

MAYER, ARIZONA 86333

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Session

September 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Mish, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 August 11, 2011. Pat seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Joe stated that the public hearing was going to be postponed until next month but at this time, even though the Board could not respond he would appreciate hearing from the public now.

Alison Atwater, 12260 Agua Fria, stated that she was not necessarily opposed to a rate restructure. She did have some concerns. She suggested that the time for the public hearing be at 7:00 p.m. which would be a more convenient time for more of the public to attend. She also feels that as far as conservation efforts, changing the rates would not be enough. She said the public needed to be educated. She suggested using the Big Bug news more to inform people. She said she does not think it is fair to not raise the commercial rates. She is concerned about the detailed analysis on how the District came up with the rates. She said rates should be compared with other districts.

Joanne Coe, 12855 E. Border Street, said she had information on conservation from Pine–Strawberry. They put up a board at the entrances to town letting the public know the status of the water level. She said that might help keep the public informed on the water situation.

Bob Kaufman, 10070 4th Street, said he totally supports the rate restructure. He said that people should pay more when they use more. He said he uses gray water to water his yard.

Gary Frey, 12755 Hill Street, said he had been going over the figures and even with the Districts new rate we still would not be making enough to cover what it costs to produce. He gave a detailed analysis on the cost per gallon, at some points it was only costing the consumer a ½ a cent per gallon. He pointed out to the Board that gas and food have increased in prices and to buy a gallon of water from the store it will cost you at least \$1.25. He said that with the current rate the District would never be able to cover costs of infrastructure improvements.

Julie Voss, Ocotillo, asked who came up with the rate schedule.

BOARD REPORTS:

Joe showed the public a piece of pipe that had been taken out of the ground at the Fairmist project. He said at every meeting he makes the comments about conservation. He said that doing the Fairmist project , changing the water lines, putting in hydrants is a step in the right direction of stopping the leaks. He also said people need to be responsible for watching their own water leaks. He touched on again going on the rounds with Casey and seeing a meter turning and nobody home. He said instead of people knocking down the District for raising the rates that people should get more involved and understand the cost of running the district. Joe thanked the public that was present for coming to the meeting.

Gordon said that he welcomed the public to come in to the office and bring their concerns. Joe also added that the District had one well that did not belong to the District. He said that at any time the owners, who have donated this well to the District, could give a 90 day notice to get the equipment off their property and vacate the well.

Pat explained to the public that had not been here in the past that the District had hired a lawyer to help with the grant to the USDA and also to secure our CAP funds for certain projects Those projects could include getting the Pump Tech well on line and also a new tank and the arsenic treatment for the two wells that are off line. Pat brought up the fact that both the USDA and WIFA had pointed out that if we tried to get a loan that our rates were not enough to cover the debt retirement. Pat said, that yes, this rate restructure was about conservation but it was a two–fold situation. If the

District ever wanted to get financing on a loan the district would have to raise the rates.

Kevin said that the water table has been declining steadily since 1993. He said we need to start conserving now. By the time we get to the year 2020 we will have 45% less of the water we have now. He pointed out again, as the District has been saying, Mayer does not have an aquifer, this area is fractured rock. He pointed out that right now the watershed is not contaminated like in some other places. He said that we all need to keep an eye on our well sites and that if he does find someone tampering with the wells he will prosecute them.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Manger's report: Casey said that he and Owen had fixed the pipeline in the quarry and covered it up. They replaced the pipeline on Jefferson which had 8 holes on one piece of the pipeline. They had 200' of pipe added to Chimney # 1. They also have started the project on Fairmist thru 5th St. Casey said that they had also hired a project manager, John Skelton, to oversee the project. So far, there has been 540' of pipe laid and 2 fire plugs put in. He said as of today the District was at \$23,717.00. Gordon asked Casey to explain to the public what the first stage of this project was about. Casey said that this section of town was one of the oldest and had no valves, so that every time a problem occurred the entire system would have to be shut down. Casey said there was also the problem of contamination every time they had to shut things down. He also explained that this pipe was very old and needed to be replaced. Gordon made a motion to accept the Manager's report. Rita seconded. The Board voted all in favor.

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

Joe said that the next item regarding the rate restructure would be postponed until next meeting. The public hearing would be set for 6:30 p.m. There was more public input on the different ways to do the rate increase.

ADJOURNMENT:

Pat made a motion to adjourn. Gordon seconded the motion. The Board voted, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.