

**FOSTERBURG WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2017**

The regular meeting of the District Board was called to order by Chairman at 7:30 p.m. at the District office. Additions to the agenda were additional O & M bills for approval:

Balsters & Hinrichs	\$ 1,635.00
Chemco	\$ 292.15
Macoupin Co Recorder	\$ 57.00
Midwest Municipal	\$ 639.19
The Telegraph	\$ 78.63
US Bank Card	\$ 10.99

Roll was called with the following board members present: Fredrick Aljets, Steve Strohbeck, Robert Kercher, Kristine Jarden, Todd Clark and Becky Unnerstall. Also present were Mark Voumard and Kim Owens. Fred Bort was absent.

Chairman Strohbeck welcomes everyone and is pleased to see this many district residents in attendance tonight.

A MOTION WAS MADE AT 7:31 P.M. BY KRISTINE JARDEN AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS THAT THE BOARD HAVE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON EMPLOYMENT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

A MOTION WAS MADE AT 7:48 P.M. BY TODD CLARK AND SECONDED BY BECKY UNNERSTALL THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION BE ADJOURNED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KERCHER AND SECONDED BY KRISTINE JARDEN TO HIRE ATTORNEY JACKSTADT AS SPEICAL COUNSEL TO ADDRESS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S PAC REVIEW OF THE OMA VIOLATION. MOTION PASSED WITH UNNERSTALL ABSTAINING AND BORT ABSENT.

DELGATIONS:

John Kraft addressed the board and stated if the board would admit what they did there wouldn’t have to be a special attorney hired and waste funds to address the OMA violation complaint. He announced there is a law called “Dillon’s Rule” which states no work can be done by a trustee of a district and paid for by the district. He further states that under the district’s statute Fosterburg Water District can not participate in the start up of a non-profit plant to sell water. He also stated funeral flowers and food can’t be purchased with public funds and suggested a collection be taken up instead. He does not believe that “corporate authority” applies to the purchase of such items. He understands there is a new “Travel Act” that addresses the board’s trip to Chesterfield.

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Ernie Adelman asked if the district has an annual audit and if there was something illegal wouldn't that be found? Mark announced the audit is published on the district's website.

Mark Unnerstall states he believed the audit just verifies the checks and balances not how the funds are spent.

Sarah Ruppert announced the board does not collect a pay for their time. She appreciates all the work the board members do for free and Mr. Aljets has done nothing illegal. She does not understand what all the scrutiny is about.

Joy Paul stated that she supports this board and asked those who do please stand. The majority did.

Nancy Strohbeck reports that Mr. Aljets help to organize this district 49 years ago for free. He is due at least \$1,200.00 per year and has never collected it.

Jill Acord believes this has essentially saved the district money by not paying the stipend.

Kathy Wassink asked the board to consider taking the stipend for their hard work. She is on the township board and has to claim the stipend on her taxes.

Brad Huette thanked Mr. Aljets for his part in starting the district for him and his family. He stated he has employees and has a Christmas party for them every year to show his appreciation to them. He thinks this whole inquest is wrong.

The minutes of the October 18, 2017 regular meeting, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board, were reviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KRISTINE JARDEN AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS THAT THE OCTOBER MINUTES BE APPROVED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

The Treasurer's Report, copy of which had been forwarded to the Board, was reviewed and questions answered. Income reported for October was \$229,075.64, bank interest \$1,633.21, expenses \$156,261.40, and depreciation \$36,756.24 resulting in a net profit of \$37,871.21. Transfers among accounts for the month were also reported.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KERCHER AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

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O & M bills, previously sent to the Board, were presented along with additional bills for discussion and payment approval and questions were answered. Trustee Unnerstall asked to see the bill to Attorney Balsters. There were several communications with the attorney from Madison County Board Representatives unsolicited by this board. She stated it is the board’s responsibility that public funds are not spent on unacceptable things. The board must set precedent for the future boards to follow and do as our forefathers would expect.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS AND SECONDED BY ROBERT KERCHER THAT THE O & M BILLS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT AND CHECKS BE ISSUED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

OLD BUSINESS

WORK REPORT:

Manager reported on work done for the month: Installed the chlorine feed at Cook Booster Station due to low levels on the North end of distribution, repaired malfunctioning bulkload at Prairietown, checked for possible leaks, illegal usage and pressure complaints. Tires were replaced on the meter reading truck, dump truck had safety inspection, stickers were installed on the new truck and the O&M crew attended training at Southwest Central Water Plant Operators Association.

Bulk Load Report:

Culp Lane	\$ 63.25	21,300 gal	84.19 gal/cn
Prairietown	\$115.25	39,200 gal	85.03 gal/cn

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Manager reported Seiler Road hasn’t moved forward although we were informed our work needed to be completed in a year. Trustee Unnerstall asked about the current easements. Those will not work because the roads and being widened and hill are being cut out. The Annual Budget will be ready for review next month.

REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Our attorney’s interpretation of the Public Water Act provides limitations and he feels it is best to only buy water from the plant once it is built.

MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY UNNERSTALL AND SECONDED BY TODD CLARK TO WITHDRAW FROM THE REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KERCHER AND SECONDED BY KRISTINE JARDEN TO RESEND THE \$50,000.00 SEED MONEY FOR THE REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS AND SECONDED BY BECKY UNNERSTALL TO REMOVE OUR REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT BOARD. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT.

GENERATOR: Sealed bids were solicited and received for a generator to run the annex and office during extended power outages. Wegman Electric Co. \$35,000.00; Bickle Electric Contracting Co. \$27,266.00 and Richards Electric Motor Co. \$33,910.00. Discussion on the type of generator that would be required.

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS AND SECONDED BY TODD CLARK TO TABLE THE BIDS TO NEXT MONTH IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE BIDS IN DETAIL. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH BORT ABSENT AND KERCHER ABSTAINING.

NEW BUSINESS

INSURANCE:

Property, liability and work comp insurance went up 0.7% from last year. Trustee Unnerstall asked about bidding it and how long the district has had the current insurance provider. In order to bid the insurance we would have to notify our current provider at least 45 days prior to expiration of the policy if we choose to cancel. Next year the district could bid it.

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR ALJETS AND SECONDED BY ROBERT KERCHER TO RENEW THE CURRENT INSURANCE POLICIES. MOTION PASSED WITH BORT ABSENT AND UNNERSTALL OPPOSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KERCHER THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.