

# *Ponderosa Community Services District*

RESPONSIBLY PROVIDING PURE MOUNTAIN WATER AND EFFECTIVE SNOW REMOVAL

## **Public Hearing Minutes**

**Saturday April 14, 2018**

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Ponderosa Community Services District building  
56827 ASPEN DR  
Springville, California 93265

Present:

Directors: D. Doty, W. Benton, M. Moroney (quorum)

Absent Directors: C. Marchaunt, P. Cohen

Staff: District Treasurer – J. Landers, Board Secretary - J. Robertson

Attorney: Matt Pierce

Members of the Public: (in alphabetical order – 5 total)

Arnold, Barbara

Dolmovic, William

Rueger, Patty

Shortz, Marvin D.

Sin, David

The hearing was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Following the flag salute, the president welcomed the public, declared the hearing open with a quorum of directors, and introduced the present board members to the public.

Mr. Doty gave an opening statement explaining the reason for calling the hearing, and reviewing the reasons the Board was seeking to increase annual water service fees.

- to offset the District's increasing costs of providing safe and reliable water service, and
- to fund the District's capital improvement account, and
- to meet the costs of repairing/replacing 50+ year old water main lines in Aspen Dr. and Tamarack Dr.
- to meet the cost of replacing aging water tanks at the Holby well site.

We have a small system with 146 water connections. The system was first established in 1964-1966.

The pipes and equipment, which were not top of the line then, have begun to wear out. Labor costs have increased, along with the basic costs of living, for example cost of supplies and electricity.

The board has discussed, debated, argued with each other for and against an increase, reviewed expenses, and looked for alternatives during the last 4 to 6 months before finally reaching the proposed water rate increase.

### **Public Comment Period:**

P. Rueger – stated she did not really know what her own annual water use might be and what is typical? Are there property owners that regularly use more than 75,000 gallons?

Ans. – It is difficult to say what typical water use is because it varies so much from one property to another. Yes, there have been customers charged each year for going over the base 75,000 gallons. Obviously the Lodge is charged more each year because of the business, board members are not

exempt and have been charged when they exceed the base amount, cabins that are rented regularly as vacation homes may get charged, others have exceeded because of a leak inside the cabin. Some years may only have 2 properties charged, one year there were 8 charged – it just depends on usage.

B. Arnold – stated that as she often attends regular board meetings she knows a little more of the day to day problems the district faces. She is not happy about the increase, but understands the necessity for it.

She added that as we acquire funds in the reserve, she hoped to see bigger projects in order to be more cost effective.

D. Doty – stated that we do need to have funds on hand in order to do bigger projects and that PCSD has difficulty qualifying for funding resources like grants. Tom Griesbach, the general manager is constantly looking for grant opportunities for us.

P. Rueger – asked if there was a priority list of repairs/improvements.

Ans. The board did just revise a long range plan at the regular meeting on Thursday April 12, 2018. She was given a copy. It does not list specific items, but does provide a general outline. Mr. Doty told her the first priority, at this time, is replacing a tank at Holby well site. It is a steel, bolted tank and has leaked for years. As soon as one leak is patched, another starts somewhere else. Kirk Klemcke is looking into the possibility of putting a bladder into the tank that would be a reduced cost compared to replacing the tank and should last long enough for funds to be saved in order to purchase a new tank in a few years.

D. Sin – asked at the end of the five-year period listed on the proposed rate schedule, what would happen to the water rates?

Ans – when the rates reach \$1174.00/year in 2022-2023, they would remain at that rate until a future board requested an adjustment. Any proposed increase would require another public hearing at that time.

Mr. Doty asked if there were any further comments or questions.

As there were no more requests to speak, the attorney asked if there were any further protests to submit. There were no written protests submitted during the meeting.

As there were only 2 (two) written protests received through the mail. The attorney advised there was no need to recess the hearing in order to count votes.

In addition to the 2 (two) written protest votes, the board received 1 (one) written letter in support of an increase but requesting it to be less than proposed. 2 (two) email communications were also sent to the board, both supporting the board but expressing a desire for a smaller increase. [*1 (one) verbal protest was provided after the hearing had adjourned.*]

There are 146 water service connections. 73 votes against the increase are necessary in order to prevent the board from implementing the proposed annual water service fees.

Based on the report of protest results it was moved by D. Doty to accept Resolution 2018-151-W accepting the water rate increases as proposed in Attachment 1. The motion was seconded by M. Moroney and passed by the following roll call vote.

D. Doty- aye, M. Moroney – aye, W. Benton – aye, absent: C. Marchant, P. Cohen.

Hearing adjourned: 1:30 pm.