

MEETING MINUTES

ALLENSPARK WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

Community Room of Allenspark Fire Station

June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM

****Regular public meeting to present rate increase****

Mission: To serve our customers with clean, safe, reliable water, in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner.

Board Members in attendance: President Ron Holan, Vice President Rick Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer Susan Lewkow, Mike Bushue, and Robbie Vinson

Board Members Not in attendance: NONE

Department Personnel: Superintendent Barry Mauerman, Operators Adam Hans and Trey Barresi, and Executive Secretary Jen Cook

Meeting Attendees: Jen Bell, Nathalie Cass, Susan Stewart, Court Walters, Mary Hunter, Tammy Ackerman, Jasmine Holan, Chip Mills, Tom Kammer, Juanita Martin, and Jason Chestnut

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Rate Increase Input from the Public – The attendees expressed their objectives and concerns regarding a rate increase, including:

- Support for the rate increase, but a consumption-based system would be fairer
- Equitable billing, accurate meter readings, and automated billing structure
- The tap concept is antiquated
- Operation income/loss should come from the operating base, but capital expenses should come from special assessments
- The proposed rate increase is not enough to cover this year's budget loss

Everyone who attended was given the opportunity to speak, and the Board Members tried to address each comment, and explain the Board's position and reasoning for the rate increase. At the end of the rate increase discussion, the attendees were encouraged to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

A MOTION to approve the May Minutes was made by Rick. Mike seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A MOTION to approve the corrected April Financials was made by Susan. Rick seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A MOTION to approve the May Financials was made by Rick. Susan seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

1) Operations Update

a. Leak Status

- i. Church Dig – We suspected the leak was coming from an abandoned tap at the church, but no problems were found when it was dug out.
- ii. Leak Detection Company – The leak is taking half of our entire production capacity, and if we don't find it, it could potentially, eventually jeopardize the system. We brought in a leak detection company, who did a survey of the whole system, with a particular focus on the main valves.
- iii. Extra Leak on 6/1 – While the leak detection company was here, something suddenly happened to cause water to be used at twice the normal rate
- iv. System Curb Stop Survey – The leak is probably in one of the services lines, or curb stop, so Barry and Adam checked ~80-110 of the properties on the system. They found some small leaks and one large one.
- v. Summers' Status – The valve in town was pulling the most water, with a lot of noise coming from the Summers' cabin in particular. We shut off the water to that cabin for a week, but there was no change to the water profile at the plant.
- vi. Suspect Big Leak Location and Path Forward – The leak detection company kept directing back to the Main Street cabin area. Barry already contacted an excavating company to dig that area up.

b. Tank Inspection/Cleaning – MidCo Diving inspected and cleaned the tank. Overall, it looks pretty good, and we got video of the whole tank, along with a complete report that includes pictures of potentially concerning spots.

c. Painting (Jason?) – Jason Chestnut attended the meeting as a potential hire to paint the buildings, along with similar jobs that Barry won't have time to get to.

2) Sanitary Survey Responses (Letter Response Sent 3/1/24)

a. Backflow Assembly: Installed/Partially Functional – When the new plant was put in, we were approved to use an existing filter as a prefilter. Now we're being told that, when backwashing, there is a very remote possibility of cross-contamination, so the inspector is requiring a backflow valve to be installed. We did the installation as requested, but there isn't enough water pressure to open the valve.

b. Discharge Permit – The woman we need to speak to is on vacation until July.

- 3) **Meter Reading System - Go Forward?** – Barry reported that he’s contacted the sales rep three times, without a return call, and thinks we should cancel the contract. The Board agreed. They will explore options for a different meter company.

- 4) **Rate Decision** – The input from the attendees was very valuable, and the Board expressed their appreciation that so many people attended to give feedback. We will continue gathering information, and plan to do a more detailed rate study but, for the situation as it is, the Board agreed that we need to raise the rate.
 - a. A MOTION to accept the rate change increase to \$56 as of July 1 was made by Rick. Susan seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

- 5) **Infrastructure Grant Discussion** – Ron wants a sub-committee to start looking at grant options. Susan agreed to help with the research and financials, while Ron will handle the application narrative.

OTHER BUSINESS

Maintenance & Testing Schedule

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick. Susan seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Cook