

MINUTES  
MOAPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HELD  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014

**PRESENT:** Kenneth Staton  
Randy Tobler  
Jonathan Blackwell

Scott Carson  
Lindsey Dalley

Joe Davis  
Lon Dalley

Susan Rose  
Bryan Mortensen

Vernon Robison, MV Progress

Lance Robertson, MV Performing Arts Council  
Dennis Whitmore, MV Jr. Football Team

Billy Mildice  
Ryan Wheeler

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** At 4:03 p.m., Chairman Ken Staton called to order the regular meeting of the Moapa Valley Water District Board of Directors. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

**1. Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)**

Billy Mildice was at the meeting to speak with the Directors about our "Standby Meter" policy. He is trying to cancel the garbage pickup at a property where he used to have a trailer but it's no longer there. He shut off the power and that was fine but when he asked to have the water shut off he was told that he would still have to pay \$29.79 a month to keep the meter there and he thinks that's too much. Billy has already spoken with Joe about it.

Joe explained that in 2006 we had a rate increase so we could pay for the arsenic treatment facilities. At that time the Board approved a rate increase for all the meters. There were 102 meters that were actually off and locked at that time so the Board gave them a reduced rate of \$9.38. Through some special circumstances the rest of the valley is basically subsidizing those meters. There was a memo at that time that said that for \$10/month the meter reader could check the meter and read it. In reality it does cost \$10 for the meter reader to read the meter but if we want to cover our debt payments and utilities if we never sell another drop of water, the base rate needs to be \$29.79. Our base rate of \$29.79 applies to every meter out there whether they're on or off except those that were grandfathered in. When Billy spoke with Joe he indicated that he would like to have his meter on the Standby Rate. Joe can't support that. Policy doesn't allow that to happen and Joe wouldn't recommend doing it. We have bills that have to be paid and that's what the base rate covers.

Billy said that in 10 years we have lost approximately \$2,000 per meter. That's quite a bit of money. Billy thinks that if after five years someone hasn't developed their property and he puts it up for sale, they have no intention of building a home for their family. They're going to capitalize on everything they can get. He thinks the Board should eliminate the grandfathered clause in the policy and raise everyone up to the standard rate. He also thinks we should put a five year limit on it and see how it works out.

Joe says that it comes to about \$25,000/year.

Lindsey Dalley said that he doesn't understand what Billy is asking. Chairman Staton didn't understand either.

Billy said that back in 1989 he paid \$750 for his meter. He had an old trailer on this property that he got rid of. He doesn't want to pay the garbage for nothing. It's still going to cost him \$29.79/month for the water meter. He doesn't think that it's right that everyone else is subsidizing those people that are on the Standby Rate.

Scott asked Billy if he was saying that the 102 meters that are on the standby rate should be raised up to the regular base rate. Billy said that's what he's asking for.

Randy Tobler said that originally when Billy spoke with him he wanted his rate dropped to the Standby Rate.

Billy said that if he can't have his rate lowered to \$10 then everyone needs to be raised to \$29.79.

Chairman Staton told Billy that the Board couldn't do anything at the meeting but it could be put on next month's agenda if the Board wanted to talk about it next month.

Randy said that the Board would look at it at getting rid of the "Standby Rate" at next month's meeting.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting held June 5, 2014 (For Possible Action)**

On motion of Randy Tobler and seconded by Scott Carson, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held June 5, 2014.

**3. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee 2014 Show - Donation - Lori Houston (For Possible Action)**

No one was present at the meeting to request a donation.

**4. Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council – Donation – Lance Robertson (For Possible Action)**

Lance Robertson was present at the meeting to request a donation for the Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council. He explained that they hired a grant writer and they still have not been able to get any grants so they are looking for any help they can get.

On motion of Lindsey Dalley and seconded by Randy Tobler, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to donate \$100 to the Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council.

**5. Moapa Valley Jr. Football – Donation – Dennis Whitmore (For Possible Action)**

Dennis Whitmore was at the meeting to request a donation for the Moapa Valley Jr. Football Team. He explained that 79 boys have signed up. The boys are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each boy has to pay \$149 which includes a jersey and protection equipment. It doesn't cover footballs or other equipment so that's what donations will be used for.

On motion of Randy Tobler and seconded by Lindsey Dalley, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to donate \$100 to the Moapa Valley Jr. Football team.

**6. Discussion and possible approval to reverse late charges on account #5594, #4763, #66, #1172, & #3297 (For Possible Action)**

Lindsey Dalley spoke with one of his constituents about Valley Heights and they had a lot of issues with the previous management company. He doesn't think we should cut them any slack.

Randy Tobler explained that we have already cut them slack by changing the way we calculate the late fees. He also doesn't feel that we should cut them any slack.

Joe Davis said that the late fees apply to everyone and to cut slack to a private company who's trying to make a profit is something that he can't support. He doesn't think it's even something we should be looking at.

Chairman Staton agreed.

On motion of Lindsey Dalley and seconded by Scott Carson, the Board voted 5-0 to not remove the late fees for acct #'s 5594, 4763, 66, 1172, and 3297.

**7. Approval to purchase a variable frequency drive from C.H. Spence & Company for \$18,500 (For Possible Action)**

Joe reminded the Directors that at the last Board meeting we had talked about how we have been dumping money into the vfd at Arrow Canyon well #2. It didn't fix the problem so we decided that we just needed to order a new drive. The company that we had been dealing with on the repair work had

indicated that they would give us a discounted price. We went out for bid and received two bids. It was amazing that both companies gave us the exact same price. We contacted the first vendor and asked them why they hadn't given us a discounted price since we had dumped so much money into the repairs. They basically said it is what it is so Staff has lost trust in them. We have already spent \$10,000 trying to repair the problem and they wouldn't give us any concessions on the money we had already spent. Because of that, Staff recommends going with C.H. Spencer. The drive has already been ordered. Before Joe signed the quote Bryan Mortensen made sure that it is the one that we need.

On motion of Jon Blackwell and seconded by Lindsey Dalley, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to approve the purchase of a variable speed drive from C.H. Spencer and Company for \$18,500.

## 8. **Manager's Reports**

**Office Manager** – Jeannie Poyner was on vacation so Joe updated the Directors on what has been going on in the office. **1) Bank of Nevada** – Everything is going well with Bank of Nevada. Dan at BON has been very good about staying in contact with us. **2) Automatic Pay with Credit Card** – 41 customers have signed up for this payment option. **3) Itech Las Vegas** – We ordered the server that was in the budget. It will replace our 2003 server which will not be supported by Microsoft next year. Itech will keep the server at their facility and slowly put everything on it that we need so that we won't use up all of our hours in one month. **4) Budget vs. Actual** – We are basically at 100% in the fiscal year. The auditors will be here on August 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Revenues are at 102.38% of what we budgeted last year. Expenditures are at 81.15% of what we budgeted last year. That's down from 88.02% last year.

**Water Distribution Superintendent – 1) Hwy 168 Project** – Lon Dalley explained that all the pipe has been installed, pressure tested and chlorinated. Some of the results have come back. We had to take two sets. One set is for the State. The first set came back fine and they were clean. We're just waiting for the results of the second set. After we get them back we can start moving the meters over to the new line. There's not a whole lot left to do on this project. **2) Catherine Lane Project** – This is the next project on the list. Lon is working on getting the plans to our engineer. We need his wet stamp on them so the County will approve them. This is a small main replacement project. **3) Cooper Lane Project**– Meadow Valley Construction put a 24" casing under the river. Our HDPE has been pulled through it. We have made the physical connection between the Cooper Street line and the new 12" HDPE. The valves are still off. We are going to leave the east side until Meadow Valley is all done. It comes off of Bruce Perkins property through the easements we have there. We still need to pressure test it and then bury it. **4) Miscellaneous** – Joe and Lon met with local Metro officers McCuen and Benson. They asked about our emergency response plan. They are putting one together to assist the utilities in the valley and their crucial facilities. Joe and Lon took them on a tour of the head houses & showed them where our tanks are located. They asked for some maps so we gave them some arial photos of our maps with the locations of our facilities. What they are looking at is if we had a catastrophic event and couldn't get power to our major facilities, do we have backup generators, what would happen if the generators were down, how many days would we be able to provide water if we had absolutely no power. They're assuming that in a worst case scenario it would take 72 hours for us to get any help. Joe figures the worst case scenario would be 2.7 days and the best would probably be a little over 4 days.

**Water Production Superintendent – 1) Bryan** said that the trend is continuing on production. We're a little over last year's total which is always a good thing.

We had a handful of leaks. His report is for June and July so it's not as bad as it looks.

Bryan said that everyone's interested in seeing what going to happen with NV Energy and them operating. They usually take it really fast which blows holes in the 8" pipe. Bryan and Lon are working on a fix for that.

We've been encouraging the guys to go out for their testing. They've been doing a good job at that.

We've almost got rid of all the wall unit air conditions on these buildings. They just don't keep up in our hot summers. We've had Rawson come out and they did a good job replacing some of the units.

We had six new meter installs the last couple of months. One was at the Moapa ball fields, the new Logandale chapel did an upgrade, one on Lewis, two in Valley Heights, & one on Ron Street.

384 meter registers were changed out. We're continuing our exchange program. Master Meter has been good about shipping those right out to us. We will continue with that project.

There weren't a lot of customer service requests for the last two months. There were a couple for pressure, a few for miscellaneous things, and some for leaks on the customer's side of the meter.

We been receiving Coyote Springs water at the Moapa tanks at 500 gpm but that's been backed down to the 450 gpm. That's going smooth.

**General Manager – 1) Water Resource Plan** – Joe explained that his portion of the Water Resource Plan is completed. There is one small section that Glorietta is doing then the plan will be done. It's a big document if anyone wants to read it. When it is totally finished, he will go through the highlights of it at the next Board meeting. **2) Vanguard Lateral Replacement Funds** – We received the settlement funds from Viega. It was deposited into our account on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Joe made some organizational changes both in the field and in the office so that we can track the expenditures. Joe will update the Directors every month on what's been spent and on what. One crew has been dedicated to work on this project. So far nine have been done in Valley Heights, two on the Reservation and two or three in other locations in the valley. Another organizational change that has been made is that Lon is mirroring everything that Joe does. He is still doing some of his old functions but is also familiarizing himself with the contracts, doing some of Bryan's reports and working on plans. Bryan Mortensen is taking care of the majority of the stuff out in the field. Kiley has been moved up to the Lead Serviceman position. Brian Greig is also a Lead Serviceman. They are each running a crew. All of the crews are cross training. There is no longer a production and distribution crew. Kiley is on a six month position. Bryan and Lon are cross training on each other's positions so eventually there won't be a Production Superintendent or a Distribution Superintendent, there will only be a Superintendent. We don't want to be where we were when Brad left. It seems to be working good and it's giving everyone a chance to learn some new things.

**3) Jones Spring Water** - It's still running. There haven't been any issues. **4) Vehicle Replacement** – We have in the budget the purchase of a meter reader truck. We are working on the minimum specifications for it right now. We are part of the State Purchasing program but we found when we purchased the Fusion that we got a better deal going out for bid with other dealerships. **5) Vanguard Pipe** – A customer contacted us regarding Vanguard pipe. We gave them the contact info for Vanguard and Vanguard actually came out and replaced all of their pipe including what was under the cement. They also replaced the cement that had to be ripped out.

**8. Director's Preference**

Lindsey explained that he sat down with Jeannie and Joe and they talked about the dual billing date. There is no way to do that without a dual meter reading.

**- Review Monthly Expenditures**

**Chairman Staton called a closed-door session at 5:20 pm. This was seconded by Jon Blackwell.**

- Litigation**
- Discussion on SNWA's proposed contract modifications**

**Scott Carson reconvened the open-door session at 6:15 pm. This was seconded by Jon Blackwell.**

**10. Personnel – Closed Door Session**

**11. Approval of the September 11, 2014 Board Meeting**

The general consensus was to hold the next Board meeting on September 11, 2014 at 4 pm.

**12. Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)**

Randy Tobler as a customer asked if Staff could clarify the MVIC lease application at next month's meeting.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.