

**CORBETT WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MARCH 2, 2021**

5:30 p.m.

Meeting Held Electronically through ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sara Grigsby, Fred Sanchez, Dan Graff, Bob Gaughan. Jeff Hargens arrived at 5:50 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: District Manager Tom Edwards, Assistant District Clerk Lynda Ronell and District Clerk Gail Griffith

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Malcolm Freund, Chris Augustine of SCS Engineers, David Jacob of Hydra Engineering, Cloudy Sears, Tim Shell of Wallis Engineering, Michael Arion, Mike Griffith

Treasurer Sara Grigsby called the Special Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Fred Sanchez made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 Special Board meeting Agenda. Dan Graff seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. *(4 yes votes: S Grigsby, B.Gaughan, F.Sanchez & D.Graff 0 no votes)*

WELL PROJECT UPDATE

The Board received information by email regarding the conditions at the well. Chris Augustine reported installing the pump was successful, but once we started pumping we did not get the yield we hoped for so pumping was stopped. The pump was pulled and we discovered the well had collapsed upon itself. A portion of the well that was producing water was filled in with loose sediment.

In order to test the well we will need to install a liner to keep the hole open. A new drilling approach will then be used. Schneider is prepared to go to 1,400 feet using this new drilling approach.

Fred Sanchez asked if using the liner will increase the gallons per minute flow of water. Chris said it would.

Sara Grigsby asked if there is another option. Chris responded there is no other option at this point to continue and be able to test the well. The cost for this change order is approximately \$81,000. That includes all material and labor to advance the liner to 1,400 feet.

Bob Gaughan asked where we are with the feasibility grant. The District Clerk responded that with the last payment to Schneider we completed our portion of the matching funds. When we receive information back from OWRD we will be able to submit the invoices for reimbursement.

Tom Edwards asked if Schneider will guarantee this will work. Chris Augustine responded this drilling system is something they have in the shop and are experienced using. Tom Edwards said it seems like there have been a few issues with this drill as a whole. He expressed concern that we are just "throwing water down the drain". Is there something else that is going to come up? Tom continued that he is trying to watch out for the interest of the project and the interest of the Corbett Water District. How confident is Schneider that they will maintain the borehole. Chris Augustine said he spoke with Schneider Water and they are very confident with this approach that they will be successful. There is no guarantee what will happen.

Tom Edwards asked what level of liability is Schneider Water Service willing to assume with the \$81,000 fix? If they do this fix and it doesn't work is it just Corbett Water District's responsibility. Tom continued that it is a lot to add on since we are past our matching funds, everything is on Corbett Water District. Chris Augustine said he has not approached Schneider Water Service specifically about taking on any liability. Jeff Hargens said we are asking them to do something beyond the contract. Chris said that is correct it was not in the technical specifications and was due to unanticipated conditions.

Tim Shell addressed the Board regarding the Water Projects grant timeline. Tim stated the deadline for submittal is April 25, 2021. He expressed his concern since at this point we cannot develop a grant application because we do not know what the project is. The grant application is a very detailed document. They want to fund projects that they know will be completed. The grant applications are scored on public benefit. The three areas are economic, environmental and social/cultural. It is a complicated process and Tim said he does not think we have time to meet the submission date. He noted that this year there is only \$3,000,000 available, typically there is \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 available. It is funded through lottery ticket sales and since sales were down less funds are available. Next year is unknown at this time.

Tim Shell suggested that rather than spend any money on a grant at this time it would be better to hold off for another cycle and look at other grants or funding including low interest loans.

Fred Sanchez asked if there have been any other change orders with additional costs and if something else goes wrong where does it put us. Chris Augustine responded there have been no formal change orders. It is time and material and they give us costs per foot.

Jeff Hargens stated in the original contract is there any money left over that they didn't perform that can be used to cover the change order costs. Chris said there are optional items that will not be completed. Discussion of grant fund reimbursement and only receive matching funds from OWRD based on each section of the grant. More discussions.

Jeff Hargens said we need to know where we are to date with the contract. Fred Sanchez agreed. Jeff Hargens said he would like to know if the costs are good to this point with the contract.

Dan Graff said we do need to look at the contract and where we are. He stated we need to continue since we have gone this far. Whatever happens we still need a second source of water.

Sara Grigsby asked what do we need answered now and how much time do we have.

Tom Edwards said we have missed the boat for the water projects grant. We do need to pursue this as our second source of water and he recommends we proceed with the proposal from Schneider Water Services.

Dan Graff asked if we wait until another meeting will Schneider leave to go to another job. Chris Augustine said Schneider does want the District to get what they want from the project.

Jeff Hargens made a motion that Tom Edwards be authorized to review Schneider contract with Chris Augustine and if there are no unexpected change orders make the final decision whether to move forward with the change order for Schneider Water Service going with a six inch casing at a cost of just over \$81,000. Fred Sanchez seconded, all were in favor, motion carried (5 yes votes: S Grigsby, B.Gaughan, F.Sanchez, J.Hargens & D.Graff 0 no votes)

(Chris Augustine, Tim Shell, David Jacob and Cloudy Sears left at this point in the meeting)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PACKAGE

The Board received an employee benefits package proposal from the District Manager in their February Board packets. Tom Edwards went over the proposal. Tom said he would like to start doing more projects in house. To do that we need to get and keep more qualified people and people who are eager to learn. There is going to be a massive shortage of water operators up to 30-40%. One of the weakest parts of working at Corbett Water is that it is not competitive with other entities just down the road. He stated that this proposal is typical benefits provided by other Districts.

Tom Edwards continued that in Fiscal Year 21-22 he is proposing four things related to personnel:

1. Pay scale adjustment
2. Insurance Benefits Increase and supplemental insurance
3. Formation of Utility III/Work Lead position
4. Bonus program

Discussion of the proposed plan.

Board went over the Benefits cost Comparison with the Manager.

(Bob Gaughan left the meeting at this time in the meeting)

Sara Grigsby made a motion of the four items proposed the District Manager should include pay scale adjustments, insurance benefit increase and supplemental insurance and formulation of a Utility Worker III position in his budget proposal and the Board will take up the Bonus program when pay raises are discussed in the future. Jeff Hargens seconded, all were in favor, motion carried *(4 yes votes: S Grigsby, F.Sanchez, J.Hargens & D.Graff 0 no votes)*

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Jeff Hargens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Sara Grigsby seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
(4 yes votes: S Grigsby, J.Hargens, D.Graff, F.Sanchez 0 no votes)