

MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2001

Corbett Water District Regular Monthly Water Board Meeting

Chairman Jeff Grover called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Board members, Sandra Redfern, Ed Kalberg and Henry Schwartz were present. Also present were Superintendent Randy Stark and District Clerk Kathie Cicerich.

Guests present: Rick Weaver, Barb Giddeon, Bob Colclessor, Barb Adams, Dave Mysinger, Troy Falconer, Jim Leckron, Sue Fry, Gordon Fulks and Jerry Jackson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandra Redfern moved to accept the March 13, 2001 minutes as read. Ed Kalberg seconded. Board members voting for the motion were Jeff Grover, Henry Schwartz, Sandra Redfern and Ed Kalberg.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Sue Fry stated she recently listened to tapes from the February 13, 2001 Board meeting relating to the audience comments from the January 9, 2001. She expressed concern about the safety of the Water District Employee's driving on the wrong side of the road and using the diesel truck to read meters. She mentioned a neighbor was almost hit by the diesel truck. She said that Randy Stark stated the diesel truck is never used for meter reading. Sue Fry reported that a sheriff report has been made regarding the December 2000 incident and a second police report will be made on an incident that occurred over a week ago. Mr. Grover stated the Board would look into this further

Barb Giddeon mentioned that Chairperson Jeff Grover made a motion at the March 13, 2001 Board meeting. According to Roberts Rules of Order, no motion is to be made by the Chairperson. Mr. Grover said that the Board was short one member at this meeting and normally he doesn't make a motion.

Barb Adams noted that Ted Rudiger was not at this meeting to seek a water bill reduction for his January 2001 bill. Barb heard that Mr. Rudigers place burned down. Usually the Board doesn't discuss a water bill reduction without the customer being present but it is up to the Board to decide whether to discuss it or

not per Mr. Grover. Usually when a place burns down the water is shut off, which has been done per Mr. Stark. Kathie Cicerich stated Mr. Rudiger called and said he had turned the water back on.

Henry Schwartz suggested a new water line be put in if Mr. Rudiger decided to rebuild. Last Board meeting Mr. Rudiger's water bill from January 2001 in the amount of \$350.30 was put on hold only until this current meeting. After much discussion Mr. Kalberg moved to adjust the January 2001 bill to \$25.30 on the condition that a hardship exists and no adjustments in the future will be made. Mr. Schwartz seconded. Sandra Redfern and Jeff Grover voted against the motion. Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Kalberg voted for the motion. Tied, motion failed. Mr. Rudiger owes the \$350.30 from his January 2001 water bill.

FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW

Kathie Cicerich briefed the Board on the March 2001 monthly financial report.

The regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 for the purpose of holding the second Budget Committee meeting for the 2001-2002 Budget for Corbett Water District.

SECOND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING FOR 2001-2002

The Budget Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:18 p.m. Budget Committee members; Rick Weaver, Jim Leckron, Dave Mysinger, Troy Falconer, Barb Adams, Jeff Grover, Henry Schwartz, Sandra Redfern and Ed Kalberg were present.

Sandra Redfern and Jim Leckron declared they had a potential "conflict of interest" because they each have relatives working for the water district.

Rick Weaver asked that each Board and Budget member make a statement on the proposed budget. Troy Falconer asked for some background on the current reservoirs and asked why a new and bigger reservoir is needed. Mr. Stark stated the district currently has five existing reservoirs and combined together hold approximately 850,000 gallons of water. Steve Mysinger asked why the five existing reservoirs were not enough. Currently there is no reservoir at the treatment plant and current water storage is not enough. Mr. Mysinger asked that the District make the public aware of any rate increases and why. Barb Adams would like the Board to focus on priorities. She thought a new reservoir is the top priority. She would like to see automation upgrades at the treatment plant. Barb

Adams mentioned the *Gorge Gazette* is going to be published every other month starting in June and they are more than happy to put information in about the Water District in every issue. Mr. Kalberg pointed out the need for deferred maintenance cost. Mr. Grover remarked the District needs the reserve funds but how does the District get the money. Mr. Schwartz recommended not raising rates to build a new reservoir but to get a low 5% interest rate loan from the State and Federal Government. A new Master Plan needs to be put together first before this can be done. Sandra Redfern's top priority is funding a new reservoir. Mr. Leckron's top priority is repairing pipes due to the large amount of water that is lost due to leaks. He is opposed to a 25% rate increase and he is not sure of the \$5.00 monthly reservoir rate surcharge. He might consider a 10% rate increase. He would rather the District borrow the money at a low interest rate. Mr. Weaver has talked to people in the community and they do not want their property tax increased, they would rather pay for it on a monthly basis. Folks in the community were not in favor of a large rate increase either. Mr. Weaver is concerned with the \$5.00 monthly surcharge and would like to seek funding through low interest loans. A reservoir and maintenance are his top priorities. He remarked the reserve funds are too aggressive as proposed in the budget.

There was considerable discussion amongst the Committee regarding the proposed \$5.00 monthly reservoir surcharge and a 96% rate increase. No decision was made on either of these.

Under Personal Services there were no decisions made, though it resulted in much discussion. The purposed budget includes a 3.3% cost of living increase, 5% merit increase and \$1,000 bonus per employee. Usually a merit increase is about 3% not 5% and bonuses can be less then \$1,000 or no bonus all at.

Under audience comments Barb Giddeon reminded the Committee that last year there was a budget figure put in and it was trimmed quite a bit to balance the budget. The purposed budget is a starting point and the Committee balances the budget by trimming some of it. Bob Colclessor suggested the Committee look at the rest of the proposed budget, come back and re-evaluate the bonuses.

Under Materials and Services, the Committee increased Utilities to \$12,000 based on utility rate increases. Mains were increased to \$22,085 to fund leak detection efforts. Eliminating radio read meters and an electronic hand-held meter register; meters were reduced to \$30,000. The Engineering & Survey category was

increased to \$55,566; this covers a more true cost for an updated Master Plan. These adjustments would result in cutting \$8,990 from the purposed \$224,744 leaving \$215,754 for Materials and Services.

Under Capital Outlay it was suggested the Improvements Reserve Fund be reduced from \$185,000 to \$100,000 and increase the System Improvement fund to \$85,000. This would cover any pipe and system improvements that can occur during the fiscal budget year.

Barb Adams made a motion to continue the Budget meeting on May 8, 2001. Rick Weaver seconded. Board members voting for the motion were Jeff Grover, Ed Kalberg, Sandra Redfern, Henry Schwartz, Jim Leckron, Troy Falconer and Rick Weaver. Barb Adams and Dave Mysinger voted against the motion. Motion passed.

Rick Weaver made a motion to begin the May 8, 2001 Budget meeting at 6:00 p.m. Barb Adams seconded the motion. Board members voting for the motion were Jeff Grover, Ed Kalberg, Sandra Redfern, Henry Schwartz, Jim Leckron, Troy Falconer, Rick Weaver, Barb Adams and Dave Mysinger. Passed unanimously.

Under audience comments, Barb Giddeon suggested the main focus on the budget this year should be on fixing the leaks and getting a reservoir in. The Board should study the options given by Steve Wilson and Gordon Fulks as to the prices for a reservoir and maybe the District has enough money to go ahead with it. Other than that the Board has done a good job.

The Budget Committee Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Mr. Grover reconvened the regular Board Meeting at 11:15 p.m.

OFFICE SAFETY

Mr. John Lammert completed the front office security barrier.

WATER LOSS

For the month of March there was a 20% virtual water loss due to air trapped in the line where the meter is located. Last month an elbow that is intended to slow the velocity of the water was turned so it pointed up. This solved the air incursion problem.

ELECTION RESULTS

Steve Wilson was elected for Commissioner, Position 2. Ken Blanc was elected for Commissioner, Position 4. These positions are for a four-year term. Jeff Grover canvassed the official abstract of votes cast and signed the form.

ACTUARIAL POOLING OF EMPLOYER LIABILITY

Currently Corbett Water District absorbs all liability as an individual. This includes retirement, benefits and employee disability. By joining the pool, it would increase the employer rate somewhat but decrease liability for the District if an employee became disabled. After much discussion Mr. Stark recommended Corbett Water District sign up for actuarial pooling of employer liability through the Public Employees Retirement System. Mr. Kalberg made motion for Corbett Water District to join the Actuarial Pooling. Sandra Redfern seconded the motion. Board members voting for the motion were Jeff Grover, Henry Schwartz, Ed Kalberg and Sandra Redfern. All Board members signed Resolution 2001-04a, election application for entry to the PERS local government pool.

Under audience comments Barb Giddeon asked if an individual has a problem with District Employees whom should they go to. Mr. Grover stated one should go to Mr. Stark during working hours. If an individual has a problem with the Superintendent the Board needs to be notified.

Sandra Redfern moved the meeting be adjourned at 11:40 p.m. Henry Schwartz seconded.