

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Doug Dodd. Board members present were Henry Schwartz, Edith Mastne and Jim Mastne. Also present were Alan Smart, Kathy Hubbard, Jan Leckron, Jeff Grover, Supt. Vance Hubbard and Dist. Clerk Carol Quinn.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as printed.

Mr. Smart gave the Board an update on the Site Assessment investigation. CES began testing on Site B--the area beyond the powerline. They have completed sampling at 1 and 2 foot depths in all but one of seven sites. They will begin next at the Barrow Pit. They plan to start tomorrow at 10 sites within the Barrow Pit with 1 and 2 foot depths. If tests show contamination at those levels then they must proceed to lower depths. The FS was not able to use the District's backhoe because of fire season regulations as it does not have a spark arrestor. Fire season regulations expire October 15, although if there is no rain, they may be extended. There has been no official work on the Bull Run Legislation and Safe Drinking Water Act. Since Congress is adjourned, it appears they did not pass at this time.

A letter from the District's attorney, Tom McPherson, was read concerning a slight change recommended in the MOU submitted for his review. It had to do with water quality/water quantity and the rules for the Sandy River Basin. Mr. Mastne moved that the Board adopt the MOU with the changes recommended by the attorney. Mrs. Mastne seconded. Passed. Mr. Smart will prepare a new MOU including this change of wording. The FS Regional Office is reviewing the MOU for their approval and should be finished by October 21.

There was discussion concerning the computer program bids and the computer hardware bids. The District was looking at two billing systems--one from Diversified Systems located in Portland and one from Dynasty Software from Laguna Hills, California. The Dynasty program was less expensive but did not include training--only a manual. Training was \$500.00 a day extra. The Diversified System included training and they will also write a custom program for meter and valve locations since we requested it and other Districts are interested in such a program. They will then sell it to others, but we receive it since it was our idea/suggestion. After discussion, it was decided that the training was probably extremely important. Also the Dynasty proposal was modified several times to adjust their costs to meet or beat the Diversified price. If they had not been aware of the Diversified bid, the cost would have been several hundred dollars more. Mrs. Quinn reported that she had talked with the utility billing clerks at both Fairview and Wood Village who have been using Diversified for several years and are very happy with the support they have received although they have had very few problems. Sun River uses the Dynasty system and they are pleased with it as well. Scott Stickel recommended that the District forego the maintenance contract on the hardware as there are very few problems, the machines are under warranty, and if problems do arrive the machines can be sent to a computer repair service locally. Since the price includes two systems, there would be a backup available if a machine had to be repaired. Mrs. Mastne moved that the District accept the Diversified Computer bid. Mr. Schwartz seconded. Passed.

A draft of the letter written to the DEQ by Mr. Dodd was resubmitted to the Board for review with minor changes as requested in last month's meeting. Mr. Mastne moved the letter be approved as resubmitted.

Mr. Schwartz seconded. Passed.

Discussion was held on the Debbie Muhoberac account. Ms. Muhoberac had refused to pay her bill because she believed her meter to be faulty. At last month's meeting the Board agreed to her demand that the meter be tested because she didn't believe she used as much water as it registered. The meter tested accurate--for every 100 gallons it showed 97.7 recorded actually giving the customer a couple of free gallons. After notification, Ms. Muhoberac was shut off for non-payment. The District Rules and Regulations require total past due be paid plus the monthly minimum before restoring water service. Mr. Mastne as Vice-chairman of the Board had ordered Supt. Hubbard to turn on the water and accept payment of \$68.00 for the over 30-days past due balance rather than the \$148.30 for the total past due. He stated he had talked with Ms. Muhoberac for 45 minutes. He then called Mr. Dodd who told him to accept that payment and have the water turned back on. Staff informed the Board that they had done exactly as instructed in a letter from Mr. Dodd per District Rules and Regulations and confirmed by telephone before the shut-off. Staff would have suggested that Ms Muhoberac seek adjustment at the next Board meeting if they had been given an opportunity. Staff informed the Board that the customer had moved, left no forwarding address, the only number they had was her husband's work telephone number, and the \$68.00 check had been returned twice NSF before a special trip was made to the bank to cash it. Mrs. Mastne gave the clerk a business card with the POB address of Ms Muhoberac's husband. Mr. Mastne said he was only trying to help and keep the District from being sued and that he told her to pay the bill. Since there have been a few other instances where bills have been adjusted for unexplained hi use and to be fair, Mr. Mastne moved that the Muhoberac bill be adjusted to the high average for the last three months. Mrs. Mastne seconded. During discussion, Mr. Hubbard explained that the high average for the last three months would be the same as what they were billed. Mr. Dodd stated that they couldn't be billed for their average summer use because they were not here last summer. Mr. Mastne then moved to ammend his motion and adjust the two months of high use to 1/2. Mrs. Mastne seconded. Passed. This was done even though Ms Muhoberac was not present to make the request and it was not submitted in writing as the rules and regulations require. Mr. Mastne stated that he thought the customer would pay the bill if it were adjusted and if not, perhaps a lien could be placed against the property requiring the landowner to pay.

Under audience comments Kathy Hubbard advised the Board that she was extremely disappointed with the handling of the Muhoberac case. They had rewarded a customer who had caused a lot of problems, extreme stress and extra work and expense because she didn't want to pay her water bill. The Board had not supported the staff nor consulted with them and Mr. Mastne's demand that her husband should have gone to the door to collect payment showed complete disregard for his safety. Not only was this unprofessional, but Mr. Mastne's actions were illegal. Mr. Dodd commented that he was sorry there was not better communication between Board and staff. Jan Leckron asked what the Board was going to do about the fact illegal action had been taken in that a Board member had intervened in disregarding Rules and Regulations without Board authorization and possibly causing loss of revenue to the District. Mr. Dodd commented that he assumed the letter from the lawyer addressed this issue. There was no further discussion of this by the Board. Mr. Grover stated that he

felt the Board was making a mistake by setting precedent that anyone who didn't think they used the water could come in for an adjustment. In fact he thought he might not use as much water next summer as his meter showed and he would expect an adjustment. Mrs. Mastne invited anyone who questioned their water useage to come to a Board meeting and perhaps they would receive an adjustment.

Mr. Dodd announced that he would submit a letter of resignation at the November meeting. It is too difficult to commute for meetings from Yakima.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

