

Rural Water District No. 1
Ellsworth County, Kansas a/k/a Post Rock Rural Water District
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2024

At 6:41 pm Chairman Bland called the meeting to order and called for roll call.

Directors present at roll call: Director Bland, Director Wehrman, Director Christy, Director Larson, Director Dolezal, and Director Teppe. Director Robbins and Director Griffith were absent.

Staff present: Jon Wright, Angela Naegele, and Roxanne Stevenson

Others present: Leslee Rivarola (consultant)

Chairman Bland requested public comment. There was none.

Chairman Bland called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Dolezal motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Teppe seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Bland called for the minutes from the December 19, 2023 regular board meeting. Director Christy motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Director Wehrman seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Bland called for the bills to be paid in the amount of \$149,311.10 and asked if there were any questions or discussion. Mr. Wright called to the Board's attention a couple of expenses related to heating at some of the booster stations. Discussion followed. Director Teppe motioned to approve the bills in the amount of \$149,311.10. Director Dolezal seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Bland called for the Resolution 2024-01 regarding water rate increases for all customers and asked if the Board had any questions or comments. Discussion followed. Director Christy motioned to approve Resolution 2024-01. Director Dolezal seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Bland asked if there were questions or comments on the letter to notify customers of the approved rate increase. Director Wehrman suggested using a different color paper for the letter. The consensus of the Board was for staff to send the letter as presented without changes and on colored paper.

Chairman Bland called for the General Manager's report. Mr. Wright presented his report. Mr. Wright called to the Board's attention a study prepared by Wilson and Company Engineering firm in 2007 on behalf of the District. Wilson and Company had previously prepared a study on the water treatment plant and the cost and infrastructure necessary to increase plant capacity. The study looked at increasing capacity to 1.7 million gallons. Mr. Wright also discussed Wilson and

Company's work and study they prepared on behalf of Mitchell 2 RWD and the potential to look at a connection with Mitchell 2 and Post Rock. Discussion followed. Mr. Wright also brought to the Board's attention a study previously prepared by Kirkham Michael Engineering company on the District's distribution system. Discussion followed among the Board and Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright is going to pursue a proposal from Wilson and Company to look at the plant and also a hydraulic study. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wright updated the Board on his discussion with the City of Gorham. Gorham wants to maintain the same contracted amount of water. Mr. Wright shared the usage history from Gorham and that they are not using as much water as what is in the contract. Discussion followed. There was discussion on the term of the contract as well. Discussion followed on minimum and maximum. Then discussion regarding maximum flow rates per minute followed. Mr. Wright provided the Board the timeline of when the contract term is expiring. Mr. Wright brought up that Gorham also has wells and they are selling water to another jurisdiction. Discussion followed. Mr. Wright will follow up with Gorham.

Mr. Wright shared a letter that was dropped off from the Ellsworth Co-Op to the District regarding shares the District holds. There were three options presented. The consensus from the Board was to cash out some of shares and retain some of the shares.

Mr. Wright brought up adding an AMR to certain master meters to assist in finding leaks. It would save staff time and resources. Director Teppe inquired how many AMRs we need. Staff responded that 8 of them need them and provided information on the different sizes of the lines. Chairman Bland provided some information on valves and lines going north from Waldo and Paradise and the inclement weather. Mr. Wright provided some clarification on pricing. Discussion followed. The consensus of the Board was this is necessary to assist in locating the direction and location of leaks – especially in inclement weather.

Mr. Wright provided a follow up from Viking Industries for them to inspect the rest of the water towers (a total of 5) for \$4,000. Discussion followed. Director Larson asked if the District had contacted Midco to inquire about pricing. Mr. Wright indicated he will follow up with Midco. Chairman Bland called for a motion. Director Teppe motioned to approve Viking Industries to inspect 5 towers for \$4,000. Director Dolezal seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Wright brought to the Board's attention that Matt Erickson, contractor on the 281 Highway project has hit the District's water line several times. Gorham Communications Company has been assisting the District and the District is keeping a close eye on the District's water line for any potential damage.

Mr. Wright brought to the Board's attention his desire to bring a part-time employee in to help answer the phones and assist with administrative tasks. Discussion followed. The Board agreed hiring a part-time employee to provide administrative support would be helpful. Director Dolezal motioned to authorize the General Manager to hire a part-time employee for approximately 15-

30 hours per week on a temporary basis for \$15 per hour. Director Teppe seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of the motion.

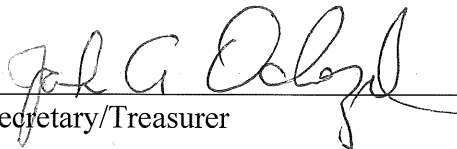
Mr. Wright shared with the Board that Mr. Greg Griswell, who the Board had authorized hiring would not be able to start until March 1st due to some personal circumstances. The Board agreed that March was a reasonable timeframe.

Director Larson inquired about the status of adding AMRs throughout the District. Discussion followed. Director Teppe inquired about potential grant opportunities. Director Wehrman inquired about revenue from the rate increase.

General discussion from the Board followed.

At 8:17 pm with no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bland called for a motion to adjourn. Director Dolezal motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Teppe seconded. All board members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:


Secretary/Treasurer

2-20-24
Date