

Ponderosa Community Services District

RESPONSIBLY PROVIDING PURE MOUNTAIN WATER AND EFFECTIVE SNOW REMOVAL

Minutes of meeting

May 11, 2023

Present:

Directors: W. Dolmovic, C. Marchaunt, B. Benton, G. O'Neill

Absent: J. Gordon

Staff: T. Griesbach

Staff via zoom: J Robertson, J. Landers, K. Klemcke

Guests: R. Cope, B. Arnold, D. Graham, T. Harness, D. Stewart, T. Stewart, E. Dick,

Bill Benton, Carla F. (via zoom) R. Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 by Mr. Dolmovic, followed by the flag salute.

Comments from the Public

ED – Mr. Dick wants to know how it is possible for PCSD employee to flood the PCSD truck. He also wants to know who was responsible for not clearing 5 culverts resulting in flooded cabins.

Bill B – the community has gone through a lot this winter. A lot of people did good things to help, thank you! We should be looking forward to the future.

D. Stewart – Mr. Stewart wants to review the clearing of snow from the fire hydrants. He walks every day and is concerned that the hydrants were not always cleared in a timely manner. There were 2 fires this winter and one false alarm. On Feb 22, the Smith cabin at Fox/Ponderosa exploded. On March 10, the Ponderosa Lodge burned down. On March 15, there was a false alarm. Mr. Stewart also noted that 5 hydrant markers have been destroyed and 2 are completely missing.

Mr. Dolmovic thanked the public for their comments and indicated the snow removal issues will be addressed at a future meeting.

Immediate Action:

Resolution 2023-223-A authorization of remote meeting

Due to the March 2023 declared state of emergency and evacuation warning/orders the March 2023 meeting was canceled, and the April 2023 meeting was held remotely via zoom. This resolution establishes the justification for those determinations.

Dolmovic moved and Benton seconded to accept resolution 2023-223-A authorizing the PCSD board to hold the regular April 2023 meeting remotely via zoom due to evacuation warnings and road conditions. The motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of all actions and determinations made during the April 13, 2023, regular meeting.

Dolmovic moved and O'Neill seconded to ratify all board actions and determinations made during the remote meeting held on April 13, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from April 13, 2023, regular meeting.

Having reviewed the draft minutes, Benton moved to accept the April 13, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented. O'Neill seconded, and the motion carried by unanimously.

Communications:

4/15 received from M. Goldsmith – does not consider the matter of prevailing wages and compliance program resolved.

4/16 received from MG – public record request for ‘a financial statement from the PCSD for the last 12 months’ and ‘copies of checks that were sent to High Sierra Snow Removal or Bill Dolmovic the last 3 years’.

4/16 received another from MG – public record request related to a specific transaction ‘a check was made out to Dustin Goings for equipment rented from Del White. Who was the 10-99 from Tulare County made out to? Was it Del White or Dustin Goings? I need a copy of the 10-99, with the employer ID or social security number blacked out.’

4/19 State Water Board – reminder Electronic Annual Report (EAR) due by May 13, 2023

4/21 received from D Ayers regarding snow removal and the buildup blocking access to her property at the end of Kramer Road.

4/25 State Water Board, Finance Assist Div. – survey for lead line replacement

4/27 received from MG – requesting a written statement regarding prevailing wage laws and how they apply to PCSD, and ‘contact information of the person from the DIR Mr. Griesbach spoke with.’

4/27 another from MG – public record request for ‘copies of all checks made out for the past 3 years.’

4/25 and 4/29 received from Ohnesorgen information for small water system funding and leak detection program

4/29 State Water Board first quarter drought reports due

5/1 request from the Fire Brigade for agenda item regarding the storage of the fire truck on PCSD premises

5/1 from MG – public record request for a list of W2 employees and 1099 contractors for 2022.

5/2 from Toro’s Tree Service – proposal to fill the water system and snow removal services vacancies. *This is a discussion only item on this current agenda.*

Staff Reports

General Manager – Griesbach

- Regarding a possible increase in facility development fees, he has confirmed an estimate for the cost of a new well is required as part of the justification/calculations.
- FEMA claim is filed, no determination received to date. Need to provide estimates of costs incurred. CalFire can inspect damages, and pictures are acceptable.
- Provided worker’s comp information to Benton
- The federal labor report was submitted
- Fresno Pipe – working on a credit account for material purchases
- Spoke with R. Cope – he is willing to work for PCSD doing snow removal for an hourly rate
- Spoke with Toro about working for PCSD, suggested Toro submit a proposal to the board
- Water meters need to be read soon, there are possibly some still under water
- Employee reviews should be completed by the June meeting
- Still working on the lead contamination education documents required by State Water board

Secretary:

Update website

Respond to and fulfilled (as needed) public record requests

Prepared meeting documents, distribute to directors and staff

Contact attorney – still waiting for memo

Working on EAR

Working on CCR

Working on meter reading sheets

Contracted Water Operator – K. Klemcke

- No special testing required until June
- Regular monthly water sample passed.
- Applied for waiver for SOC/VOC testing

Water System Damage Report

Dolmovic reported that was damage to PCSD wells, their electronics, and relays

The wells are running now. One of the backup generators wouldn't start, it was under water.

The transfer pump was under water but is running now.

The flow meter is not registering.

A tree fell on a power line, the propane tank at Summit is off its foundation, Summit's building braces tore off.

All wells are accessible now. There is a possibility that Holby will go under water during peak snow melt.

Water System Operations Report

Mr. Griesbach suggested the board consider if it is appropriate to downgrade the level of water use restrictions per Ordinance 2014-1-W. After a brief discussion and hearing none opposed, Mr.

Dolmovic stated the Ponderosa community may return to level 1 (voluntary conservation) of Ordinance 2014-1-W.

The water system suffered main line breaks in the later part of March and in April. During water breaks and repairs, water availability was periodic because availability was periodic because could not transfer. There was a leak at Fawn/Peppermint, another at Tamarack/Ponderosa. Replacement pipe had to be dug out of the snow. 2 properties had to be connected to hoses.

Additionally:

- PCSD parking area needs repair when dry
- the parts room and tool room are being inventoried and sorted
- Fawn generator needs servicing, Holby generator is dead, the Lake generator is fine.
- propane tank at Holby moved during the flood
- Meters at Holby need repair, Fawn and Lake meters are working.
- Summit needs a light on the building, reset the propane tank, and repair the timer.

T. Harness is helping maintain the water system.

Snow Removal Report

Dolmovic reported 43 feet 3 inches season total to date

The plow truck was flooded. It was towed to 5 Star Motors. The cylinders are full of water, might have to pull the transmission.

Mr. Griesbach started an insurance claim. The adjuster said depending on the cost of repairs and the amount of deductible, it might be better to pay for repairs instead. The claim can be closed.

Depending on the cost of repairs, the board may need to authorize the expenditure. Benton moved to pay for repairs if the cost was under \$1500, if the estimate is over that amount, it needs to come back to the board for consideration. The motion was seconded by Marchaunt and carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer – Landers

May report

The water budget has \$62,526 remaining

Snow has \$24,524 remaining

735 has \$23,047 remaining

\$3100 was paid out related to the break on Peppermint, the Edison bill was high, it was asked if the pumps are set to run during off-peak hours

A. No, because of water loss from main line breaks or other leaks, the pumps are running 24/7
O'Neill offered to contact Edison to see if there was some sort of plan that could save the district some money.

Benton moved to accept the March treasurer's report with the correction made due to formula calculation errors. O'Neill seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Benton moved to accept the April treasurer's report as presented. O'Neill seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Additional Reports

- PPOA/PCSD Liaison
- US Forest Service Liaison – Forest is currently closed. See FOREST ORDER NO. 0513-22-12

Status Update on Holby tank replacement project

- Electrical work on hold until conditions allow work to resume
- Status on reimbursement of expenses to date. – no reimbursement yet. Benton requested permission to go to Fresno and meet with the grant manager. The board agreed to reimburse her mileage if she did make the trip.

Director Comments

CM – Question about the fees charged to negligent property owners for water leaks.

- Yes, the board voted to increase the fees. No, a letter was not sent out to property owners notifying them of the increase.

Unfinished Business

Ongoing items: *These will be completed as weather allows.*

Gates or access barriers on Holby foot bridge, and access road to Holby well site

New Business

- Fire Brigade request to house fire truck on PCSD premises

Discussion of request and possible determination to allow the fire truck to be parked on PCSD property.

Benton moved to allow the fire truck to be stored in the PCSD garage bay until Sept 2023. The keys must be left in the truck so PCSD personnel can move it if necessary, and the fire brigade must gain permission to use the PCSD meeting room. Marchant seconded. Discussion followed: Pro arguments: It is a benefit to the community to have the fire truck more centrally located, and more easily accessible.

Cons argument: The garage bay is still in use; snow removal equipment is parked there. More people will have access to PCSD equipment/tools that are stored in the shared space.

The motion carried with 3 ayes, Dolmovic abstained.

- Proposal received from Toro's Tree Service regarding water system and snow removal

This is a discussion item only; no action will be taken at this time on this proposal.

The board appreciates Toro's proposal, however since Toro was unable to attend, due to illness, this item will be carried forward to the June meeting for review and discussion.

- Board consideration of Prop 218 hearing to increase snow removal rates.

Due to unprecedented snowfall this season snow removal reserves are depleted. It is unlawful to use funds collected for water services to pay for snow removal services. The last increase of 2.4% billed in the 2015-2016 snow season.

Current rate schedule:

Unimproved Residential \$169.94 per parcel

Improved Residential \$406.20 per parcel

Oversized Residential \$784.62 per parcel

(where there were originally 2 or more APN combined into one on the County tax roll)

Unimproved Commercial \$219.34 per parcel

Improved Commercial \$455.70 per parcel

Current income estimates: Total Entries – 327

Residential

Unimproved 170 x \$169.94 \$28,889.80

Improved	133 x \$406.20	\$54,024.60
	4 x \$784.62	\$ 3,138.48
	2 x \$595.40	\$ 1,190.80

Commercial		
Unimproved	10 x \$219.34	\$ 2,193.40
Improved	8 x \$455.70	\$ 3,654.60

Total Assessments	\$93,082.68
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The board takes this information under advisement and made no determination at this time.

Adjourn – Benton moved, O’Neill second to adjourn. Hearing no opposition, Dolmovic adjourned the meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held June 22, at 12:30 pm in the district building, with zoom link available.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Robertson/Board Secretary