

CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM

~PO Box 186 ~ 3006 Chevron Drive ~ Odell OR 97044~

October 17, 2024

President Mike McCafferty called the December board meeting to order at 3:05pm. Other commissioners present Jim Jans, and Eric Cederstam. Non-members present: Superintendent Fred Schatz, Mark Womble, and Grant Porter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

President McCafferty opened and closed the Public Comment period at 3:08. No members of the public were present.

Grant Porter addressed the board concerning a letter previously submitted to the board on September 19, 2024. The letter details challenges in a project collaboration, specifically a strained relationship with the Superintendent. Concerns were raised about unprofessional treatment on two projects.

Mr. Porter said he was quoted the price for the wrong property on Clear Creek Rd., leading to a financial commitment and a \$50,000 offer was made after the purchase decision was finalized. The owner requests a rate adjustment to compensate for the financial impact of the mistake.

Mr. Porter was told that SDC payment was required in advance, a fact he said was not initially known and that non-payment resulted in a delay of connecting and pressure testing lines. He felt that communication regarding the payment could have been improved. Concerns raised about unfair fee charging practices across the board. Suggested that we spread out fees over time instead of charging all at once. Mr. Porter discussed the impact of high fees on housing development in a region facing a housing shortage.

A design discrepancy between initial specifications 8" and later requirements 6" led to extra costs. The cost included an engineer's time to redraw plans, totaling 3 hours at \$380/hour.

President McCafferty relayed support for Superintendent and encourages a collaborative approach from both Mr. Porter and Superintendent Schatz. A letter will be sent with the board's response to the letter.

Commissioners unanimously approved the September 2024 regular meeting minutes.
(Jans/Cederstam)

Superintendent Schatz presented the September 2024 Treasurer's Report, providing an overview of revenues by category: residential, industrial, fire, and LIRA. (Cederstam/Jans)

Superintendent Schatz provided an overview of September 2024 bills paid. The Board unanimously ratified the payment of the September 2024 bills. (Cedarstam /Jans)

In “New Business,” the following were discussed...

Request from Diamond Fruit Gowers for leak relief was relayed by Superintendent Schatz to the board. Diamond's water bill shows significant inconsistencies throughout the year. A comparison of this years and last years bills reveal substantial differences, particularly in June and April. The high-water usage in June and April, along with the subsequent decrease in July, suggests a potential leak that was recently repaired. The leak's source was identified as an open valve on an abandoned line. High water usage led to inflated sewer bills, prompting a request for bill reduction. A \$14,000 difference was found over a 3-month span. The issue is attributed to a possibly open valve and maintenance oversight. The board recommendation was made to abandon the responsible pipeline section and leak relief would not be granted at this time.

Superintendent Schatz gave an update for the financial audit progress. The audit is underway, with 99% of the necessary information already collected. The only missing piece is last years bank statements, needed for comparison purposes and that the auditors' remote work style presents a challenge for monitoring progress.

Superintendent Schatz presented the Septembers Superintendent’s Report, addressing the maintenance crews progress on meter/valve replacements, and pipe projects.

Superintendent Schatz in his monthly report discussed the Lead and Copper inventory requirements from EPA. A state-provided template for data submission was released in September, with an October 16th deadline. Significant inconsistencies were found between the state's template and the federal requirements, particularly in nomenclature and wording. The data migration process proved complex, involving adjustments to approximately 25 data points per entry and potential data retrieval from various sources. However, the district finished by the deadline and had been certified by the State Health Department.

Repairs were conducted at the summit, involving the replacement of faulty galvanized pipe. Ongoing projects include completing minor tasks before winter and commencing winterization preparations.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm by unanimous consent.

Mike McCafferty President

Eric Cederstam Secretary