

DURANGO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT #2
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2023

- I. Call to Order
President Carly Thomson called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Other Board Members present were Directors Stephen Wells, Derek Ryter, and Beverly Lawrence. Board member Corey Beaugh attended late. Also present: Jane Looney, District Manager. Dave Marsa, Water Operator and Stacie Tucker, Accountant did not attend. Two residents attended.
- II. The minutes of the October 18, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Beverly made a motion to approve the minutes. Stephen seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- III. Public Comments – Resident attended to observe the meeting as interested in serving on the Board. Also asked about street sign replacement.
- IV. Administration
 - A. Financials
 1. Jane presented the accounts receivable list for October 2023. Account #s 802060 and 20660 are both paid.
 2. Accounts payable were presented for approval. Beverly made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Stephen seconded. Motion was approved.
 3. Financials – Financial statements ending October 31, 2023 were presented. Stacie’s written report is in Board packet. The board said that Stacie should wait until January when we know where the 2023 budget ended up before transferring more funds to the Money Market account. The board expressed concern that DW1 is delinquent in its payments to the WW fund despite repeated communications.
 - B. Water & Wastewater Operations
 1. Water Operations Report – Dave was not present but Jane will ask about the tank inspection which is past due.
 2. Wastewater Operations Report – Jane provided an update on our Ammonia Discharge Variance that is up in 2024. SGM provided a progress report and is working on estimates for scenarios if don’t get variance renewed.
 3. Sewer Operations Update – Jane emailed notices to 1165 Oak Drive and 1205 Oak Drive to remove their fences that are restricting access to our manholes. There was a sewer back up at Wedgewood Drive on October 26th. A resident had a sewer backup into his basement bedroom and bathroom. Our manhole was filled up. Dave provided a temporary fix and contacted Southwest Sewer. They came that evening and fixed the problem. It was a branch with baby wipes wrapped around it. Dave thinks that someone pushed it through their blocked sewer line into our main where it got caught up. Jane contacted our insurance to submit a claim. They “settled”, agreeing to reimburse the resident for damages.

However, the district is paying under the District's No Fault Sewer Backup coverage, not the Liability coverage.

According to our insurance/claims adjuster: *While the district maintains main sewer lines, it is not liable for sewer backups that may originate in individual resident's service lines or homes. Any sewer backup that originates in the District's main line is investigated to determine whether the District was negligent in its operation or maintenance of the sewer line and, if no negligence is found, liability will be denied. It is therefore advisable for homeowners to add coverage. Depending on the insurer, it would be labeled as a "sewer backup" or "drain backup" endorsement.* He advised letting new residents know they should get coverage.

C. Roads and Open Space

1. Road Update – Street sweeping update: Jane had our mowing contractor pick up major needle drops in some gutter areas and then the street sweeper came in on November 1st. She recommends continuing this combination as it lessens trips from the street sweeper and likely averages out to cost the same amount or less. As our mowing contractor had two truckloads of needles that he took to the dump, she will tell him next time to instead unload at the top of Aspen Drive. Parking – still an issue. The Board discussed the proposal to draft a resolution allowing the district to fine residents. Board members would like to double-check why other options like booting and towing don't work.
2. Open Space Update – Improvement Location Certificate (ILC) - Jane sent samples of ILC to board. The cost to the homeowner is: \$450 to \$1700. This proposal needs more research.
Pond Project Update – Terry will start projects on November 20. Jane contacted the new GOCO representative for our region. He says that it is very unlikely they would award a grant to DW2 due to our small size and because we are near so many recreational opportunities. Jane suggested a study session review past pond materials. Stephen said that a resident sued the district for flooding at the end of Spruce Court in the early 90s and thought the pipe by his house may have supplied water to the pond 30 plus years ago.

V. Business

1. Approve 2024 Budget Resolutions 2023-07 and 2023-08 – Beverly made a motion to approve Budget Resolution 2023-07. Stephen seconded. Motion passed. Stephen motioned to approve Budget Appropriations Resolution 2023-08. Beverly seconded. Motion passed.
2. Approve Owen, Tucker, & Bechtolt Accounting Engagement Letter – Derek motioned to approve the engagement letter. Stephen seconded. The motion passed and the Accounting Letter/contract was approved.
3. Review Drainage Study Estimate: Jane presented an updated memo on SGM's estimate for conducting a drainage study to examine what flows into the pond and what storage capacity is needed. After discussion, the board decided to table this item until the January board meeting.

4. Discuss District Manager Compensation * - Derek motioned to go into executive session per *per C.R.S 24-6-402(4) (g) to discuss specific personnel matter pertaining to district manager's compensation. Beverly seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Stephen motioned to approve one-time, 5% bonus for the district manager for 2023. Beverly seconded. All were in favor. The board discussed that given increasing job demands, we need to pay a reasonable salary for whatever the job entails. The board believes this should be a salaried position without bonuses; and that annual bonuses are too subjective for this type of position with board oversight and a set budget.
 5. Other District Correspondence: home buyer preparing for home inspections asked since sewer and wastewater systems are primarily maintained by the district, do most new residents opt out of the sewer inspection? Resident wondered if could still participate in the slash pile chipping; parking on Pine Ridge Loop; questions about cattails and pond plan; brown water; speeders coming on Highway 160 heading east using our turning/acceleration lane as passing zone; suggestion to do a reminder to look right for drivers using our turning lane/acceleration lane as their personal passing lane and to be extra careful turning left as a car (or cars) in the outside lane or turning into our subdivision many times are blocking our view of a car behind them; many queries about billing and increase; several residents wanting to post to bulletin board and heard could use their mail key.
 6. Newsletter Items – Safety reminder re: turning onto Highway 160; no meeting in December; budget passed; electronic newsletter
- IV. Adjournment – Beverly motioned to adjourn meeting. Stephen seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Jane Looney, District Manager / Secretary