

WEST GREAT FALLS FLOOD CONTROL & DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 791, GREAT FALLS, MT 59403  
(406) 316-2878  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

**Location of Meeting:** Temple Baptist Church 313 18<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Great Falls, Mt.

**Call to Order:** 7:01 PM by Commissioner Rogers

Meeting with Katie Brewer, the City's Emergency Manager, is rescheduled to next meeting. This meeting is to discuss ways to work together to improve community emergency preparedness.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Mares, Fairhurst and Rogers. Janet Fulmer is absent. A quorum was present.

**Public Attendance:** Judy Rogers, Janine Poulsen, Marci Lorio, Trina Mans, Dennis Croxford, Julia Kurth.

**Reading of the Minutes:** Minutes of June 20, 2023 and August 15, 2023 were approved as read.

**REPORTS:**

Treasurers Report August not available yet. The July 2023 Treasurer's report, Operations balance \$490,540.76, Maintenance Reserve balance \$51,451.90, Flood Emergency balance \$24,786.66.

O&M Assessments- Commissioner Rogers reported assessments have been completed and turned into the Treasurer's Office and Clerk of Circuit Court. Adjustments have been made as the State of Montana eliminated two accounts for special assessment groups, Northwest Energy and Century Link.

Inspection Report - Commissioner Rogers reported he still had not completed the portion of inspection from Station 186 down to 135. Mike Andre had completed his portion of the inspection. He exercised the gates and cleaned out all but station 186 for the outlets. Commissioners do plan to go out and finish their inspections.

Mowing Progress Report – Mowing done great up to 27<sup>th</sup> Street only. The Commission hired Dr Lawn to do the slopes for \$11,500 and that work also done only up to 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Bill for mowing and weed control has been received. Commissioners met with Dr Lawn and were told that after mowing will complete weed spraying.

Pest Control Progress Report – Commissioner Fairhurst stated nothing new to report. A bill from the Bug Doctor has been received and will be paid.

Drainage Structure & Flap Gate Report – Commissioner Mares stated that Mike Andre had completed work except for station 186+50 due to water in outlet. Watson Coulee in excellent condition. Mike Andre has not been able to get anyone to flush out gates over 36". Commissioners met with Ron with T & L Painting and received a bid to do flap gates 311, 280, 152, 147 and 216 for \$12,500.

Fencing Report – Commissioner Fairhurst stated that Fairfield Fencing has completed fencing from 6th Street SW from the river to top of levy with a new gate and fencing complete from top of levy to Carlson's and Croxfords property. A bill has been received.

Status of annual Fiscal Report – Commissioner Rogers stated that he has all the numbers and will work on next week.

Woody Vegetation Removal Report – Commissioners plan to do inspection in a week or two. Then will contact Donny Leighthizer.

Lake Drain Upgrade Status Report – Great West is 20% complete with the Permitting process and has submitted a bill. Commissioner Rogers stated that still not sure that the Flood Plain Administrator will accept the District's qualitative as opposed to quantitative analysis report. If not, there is an additional expense of approximately \$24,000. Fish Parks and Wildlife stated that in that event, they may have contacts that can help with funding.

Permit Required Confined Space Progress – Commissioner Fairhurst stated that he is still working on the language of the permit.

Pott's Summons and Complaint against the District – Attorney Potts filed suit claiming that, by law, the District must have a designated licensed attorney to answer current complaint by September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board made motion and approved motion to get an attorney specific to this complaint.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

File Storage Options: Commissioner Rogers reported that Andre Excavations sent a bid for a pad for a Conex Box on District Property for file storage in the amount of \$3,000. After discussion the Board approved Mike Andre pouring the pad and Commissioners will continue researching storage containers.

Video Monitoring of Staff Guage: Commissioner Rogers has been in contact with Shortgrass Communications for getting the video from the guage to web page and possibly looking into the cost of developing a web page for the District. They will not charge the district for looking into this. Commissioner will continue working with them and report .

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board approved Fairfield Fencing to move the access gate near Thares to a new location to a new location to the west and to install wire gate with lock on the west side of the 323 drainage ditch in the amount of \$3,422.30.

The Board approved motion for T & L Painting to refinish the flap gates at stations 311, 280, 252, 247 and 216 for a cost of \$12,500 with Mike Andre to provide the opening and/or removal, if necessary, at a cost of time and material.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Rogers will not be available for October meeting. Board approved Commissioners Fairhurst and Mares to approve bills and have next public meeting in November.

A lengthy discussion about finding a replacement for the current secretary.

**Invoices to be paid:** Approved warrants for Commissioner Mares \$15,262, Commissioner Rogers \$158.62, Fairfield Fence \$14,149.40, Janet Fulmer (Ooma) \$34.64, Bug Doctor \$8,800 for gopher control, Great West Engineering \$1,400 for completing 20% of permitting process and transferring \$13,000 from cash to reserve cash.

Adjourn: Time 8:10 pm

Approved:

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Fred Fairhurst

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Sandy Mares

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Chuck Rogers