

West Great Falls Flood Control & Drainage District
PO Box 791 Great Falls, MT 59403-0791
January 16th 2024
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Location of Meeting: Temple Baptist Church 313 18th St SW, Great Falls, MT

Call to Order: 7:01 PM by Commissioner Rogers

Roll Call: Commissioners Mares, Fairhurst and Rogers present. A quorum was present,

Public Attendance: Judy Rogers, Trina Mans, Kate Brewer, Aspen Northern, Jeffi Poulsen

Commissioner Rogers introduced Kate Brewer the Great Falls Fire Rescue, Community Risk Reduction Manager. Ms. Brewer's explained her duties and responsibilities as the Risk Reduction Manager and chair for the Local Emergency Planning Team. The Committee is putting the finishing touches on the seven-year pre-disaster mitigation plan. Ms. Brewer answers questions from the board and the audience, After the board explained some of the USACE requirements for flood fighting Ms, Brewer was eager to help the district complete its emergency preparedness manual and put us in contact with services the district would be working with during a flood emergency. Ms. Brewer stated that with the Mitigation Plan, doors could be open for different types of grant opportunities. Ms. Brewer said that the District should let her know all the concerns the District has, and she will see what is available and also will discuss District concerns with the Local Emergency Committee.. Commissioner Mares asked if Pre-planning is a key step and Ms. Brewer stated yes. There was also a discussion on different levels of flood insurance If the levee is rated acceptable to the Corps, the Corps transmits this information to FEMA. The Chairman stated that the District has their Periodic Inspection in 2020 and have yet to know what the District needs to work on. Ms. Brewer said she could ask DES to reach out to the Corps and get something going on the inspection. The Board then thanked Ms. Brewer for coming to the meeting.

Reading of Minutes: Minutes for Meeting December 20th, 2023 read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurers' Report: November 2023 Operations Balance \$500,361.93 Maintenance Reserve Balance \$52,327.51. Flood Emergency Balance \$25,208.39 (December not available at time of meeting)

Election Report: Commissioner Fairhurst has filed for reelection. It is not known yet if anyone else will file.

Inspection Report: Commissioners have not been able to get on the levee. Commissioner Rogers has been trying to get started on the last 6 month's inspection report. Commissioner Rogers will start on that in January.

Mowing Proposal Report: The District received three proposals for mowing; Dr. Lawn \$41,100, A&R Construction LLC for \$106,183.33, and Terrascapes LLC for \$23,088. A general discussion followed. Commissioner Fairhurst stated that if Terrascapes is awarded the contract and comes back for compensation maybe the District could compensate them. He thinks we should have Terrascapes attend the February meeting. Commissioner Rogers will advise A&R Construction LLC that their bid is not being considered.

Drainage and Flap Gate Repairs Report: Suspended at this time.

Pest Control: Commissioner Fairhurst went to Fish Wildlife and Parks and got 10 beaver/muskrat kill permits and delivered them to Mark Tracy and Dustin Ashby. The District has also received a bid from the Bug Doctor to kill gophers and fill the holes in the amount of \$8,800. Commissioner Fairhurst made a motion to renew the Bug Doctor Contract. Motion passed. Commissioner Rogers will complete the contract.

Drainage Structure & Flap Gate Repairs: Suspended

Fencing Report: Due to the weather no report.

Status of Annual Fiscal Report: Commissioner Mares has completed reports for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and will handle mailing them after the commissioners sign.

Woody Vegetation Report: Donnie Leithiezer has begun tree and brush removal per approval from last meeting.

Lake Drain Upgrade Status Report: Commissioner Rogers stated the District has submitted the application permit to the Cascade County Flood Administrator and paid the \$700 permit fee. Just waiting to see if the District will be required to do a hydrological study.

Permit Required Confined Space Progress: Commissioner Fairhurst continues to work on this.

Potts Summons and Complaint Against the District: Commissioner Rogers said that Mr. Potts sent notice to Fort Shaw, Cascade County and the District stating he was going to file for a summary judgment for a new election as he felt no one would object. All parties objected. The District does have the option based on Election Laws of the State of Montana section 85 chapter 3 to conduct an election at the District Annual meeting and bypass the county election process.

Status of Court Report: No Update

Road Repair Report: No Update

Internet/WEB Page Status Report: No Update

Newsletter Status: Commissioner Fairhurst completed the newsletter and submitted a copy to the commissioners for approval. Approved as submitted. They will be mailed next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Annual FY 22-23 Court Report was approved. Commissioner Mares said she would submit it.

NEW BUSINESS

After a line by line discussion the commissioners approved the 2024-2025 budget recommendation as follows:

Administration		Operations	
Bank Fees	\$ 120.00	Closures	\$ 6,000.00
Commissioners' Pay	6,825.00	Roadways	2,000.00
Community Outreach	2,820.00	Levee Structure	500.00
Insurance	4,860.00	Fencing	8,700.00
Legal	2,100.00	Mowing	27,000.00
Office Supplies	250.00	Pest Control/Repair	8,900.00
Payroll Taxes	525.00	Tree/Brush Control	1,200.00
Secretarial	4,800.00	Weed Control	15,000.00
<u>Copy/Printing</u>	<u>400.00</u>	Improvements	10,000.00
		<u>Pipes Inspection</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
Total	\$22,700.00	Total	\$93,300.00

For a total budget recommendation of \$116,000.00

Approved a Method of Agent Designations for Business and trusts – Tabled

Discuss and Approve Annual Calendar – Tabled

Invoices to Be Paid

Commissioner Mares \$158.61, Commissioner Rogers \$158.61, State Fund \$99.11, MDOR late fees \$29.00, T&L Painting \$12,500.00, Cascade County \$700.00, Great Falls Tribune estimate \$227.00, Travelers Insurance estimate \$175.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:14 PM

Charles Rogers
Commissioner

Fred L. Fairhurst
Commissioner

Sandy J. Mares
Commissioner

