

West Great Falls Flood Control & Drainage District
PO Box 791 Great Falls, MT 59403-0791
December 20th 2023
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Location of Meeting: DES 521 1st Street 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: Jeffi Poulsen and Dennis Croxford

Reading of Minutes: Minutes for Meeting November 21st 2023 approved as submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurers' Report: November treasurers report not available at time of the meeting.

Inspection Report: Commissioners Mares and Rogers completed some of the inspections. The Corp of Engineers wants detailed inspection reports to cover 6 months. Commissioner Rogers will start on that in January.

Mowing Proposal Report: Commissioner Rogers stated that an RFP has been sent to Great Falls Builders Exchange , Montana Department of Labor through the Unemployment Office and is on our Website. Dr. Lawn has sent in a proposal and Terrascapes has stated that they would send in a proposal soon. There have also been a couple interested parties.

Pest Control: Commissioner Fairhurst met with Dustin Ashby and Mark Tracy and had them both sign the Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreements. Each of them has a copy and Commissioner Fairhurst advised them to carry it with them anytime they are on the Levee. Dustin Ashby also has rattlesnake equipment if ever needed.

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

Fencing Report: Commissioner Fairhurst stated that fencing at Thares is done. There are others but Commissioner Fairhurst wasn't sure where they were. As soon as Fairfield Fencing knows these locations, they will be taken care of.

Status of Annual Fiscal Report: Commissioner Mares stated that she has completed and reconciled the Annual Fiscal Report. She will get the final Fiscal Court Report filrd. Commissioner Mares will call The Department of Local Government Bureau as she has not been able to locate last years report in order to reconcile beginning and ending balances.

Woody Vegetation Report: Commissioners Mares and Rogers showed Donnie Lietheiser all the areas they wanted him to do and a proposal will be presented in New Business. Commissioner Rogers stated that the part behind Croxfords belongs to the State of Montana. The State has been contacted and said not theirs but it is. Commissioner Rogers would like the State to cover the \$11,800 if possible or the District will. Commissioner Fairhurst talked to Dennis Croxford about an junk south of his coral and this will be cleaned up in the \$11,800 proposed amount. Mr. Croxford will take care of the farm equipment that is there.

Lake Drain Upgrade Status Report: The District has received the Land Use Permit. After Great West gets it they will contact the Flood Plain Administrator and see where we will go from there.

Permit Required Confined Space Progress: Commissioner Fairhurst stated that he is still in the process of working on the report and going through 32 pages of government information.

Potts Summons and Complaint Against the District: Commissioner Rogers contacted the District's attorney, Ms Faure, and asked if the changes made by the County Commissioners to the Elections Department is going to affect the lawsuit. He has not heard back from her.

Status of Court Report: Commissioner Mares said that the Budget Report will be completed by Commissioner Rogers in January, Draft Report done in February and Final Report completed in March. Commissioner Mares did say the judge questioned the length of the report at 89 pages. Quite a bit of the report is historical information that does not change from year-to-year. Commissioner Fairhurst recommended that all historical information be made available as addendum's upon request. All Commissioners agreed that this is a good idea. The billing Property Assessment Report for 2023 has been received.

File Storage Status Report: The District Conex box is in place and the archived files will be moved at a later date. Commissioner Rogers would like to get the desk, printer and the 2 file cabinets for current information moved to the District Office space at Taylors soon.

Web Page Status Report: Commissioner Rogers has not been able to work on this. However, Commissioner Rogers has been recreating all of the financial records for the past 2 years, He also found out that the District did not file the stuff for the State of Montana last year. It has been completed and the interest and penalties have been paid. The second quarter 941 report and payment were mailed but never received. Everything is caught up and end-of-the-year stuff is completed.

Unfinished business: Approval of FY 22-23 Court Report postponed til next meeting.10

NEW BUSINESS

Western Enterprise has submitted a bid for trees and dead fall removal along segments of the levee. The bid is broken down into 12 areas with separate bid for each area. In a side note, Commissioner Rogers spoke with Nick Brown who has a burn setup and he could do the area behind Croxfords for \$10,000. This option is on hold pending possible State funding. The total amount of the work is over the \$15,000 district threshold so Commissioner Rogers proposed doing items 2-8. After a brief discussion item 9 was added. (see list below)

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|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Area behind Croxford's | \$11,800 | 7. Storage Shed..... | \$ 250 |
| 2. End of 14 th St SW..... | \$ 5,200 | 8. Watson Coulee Outlet..... | \$ 1,450 |
| 3. 14 th St SW..... | \$ 620 | 9. Approx 29 th St SW..... | \$ 625 |

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| 4. 5 th Avenue SW Access Road.....\$ 2,800 | 10. 32 nd St SW.....\$ 5,600 |
| 5. Station 216 Olive Trees.....\$ 1,300 | 11. Station 323 channel\$ 1,200 |
| 6. West of Station 216.....\$ 625 | 12. Wadsworth Access Road.....\$ 3,800 |

Commissioner Fairhurst made a motion to spend \$12,870 and complete items 2 through 9 this year. Items 10 thru 12 will be completed next year. Motion approved.

Commissioner Rogers would like to have someone take over the newsletter. Commissioner Fairhurst will prepare the 5x8 postcard to be mailed to notify people in district that February is deadline to file for a position currently held by Commissioner Fairhurst. Also included on the card will be a notation that anyone wishing to receive a monthly copy of the agenda to provide their email address. Commissioner will prepare a draft for review.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to have Mike Andre repair river side access road from 175+50 to 280+50 due south of Tilleras in the amount of \$3,000. Motion approved. Currently people are driving on the side of levee as road is so rough.

Public Comment concentrated on the staff gauge monitor that was discussed in the past.

A motion was made and approved to to purchase the package to electronically file the 1099 NEC with the IRS.

Invoices to be Paid:

Commissioner Mares \$158.61, Commissioner Rogers \$158.61, Fairfield Fence \$2,414.30, State Fund \$51.54, MDOR Late Fee \$50.19, Chuck Rogers reimbursement \$170.77, Year End IRS 941 Payment \$160.65, 2nd Qtr IRS 941 \$187.42, Year End MW3 payment \$84.00

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:55 PM

Charles Rogers
Commissioner

Fred L. Fairhurst
Commissioner

Sandy J. Mares
Commissioner