

JEFFERSON COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #13

1951 Wellman Rd. Lawrence, KS 66044

785-842-1502

www.jfrwd13.com

MONTHLY PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: District Water Office - 1951 Wellman Rd.

CALL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order by Chairperson Gordon Brest at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chairperson Gordon Brest, Secretary George Pogge, Treasurer Paulette Schwerdt, Director John Hachmeister, Director Crystal Miles

Board Members Absent: Director Rick Reischman, Vice Chairman Andrew Brewer

Staff Members Present: Joe Osborn, Niki Fincham

Guests: Louis Funk with Bartlett & West

Patrons: Rich & Jane Bireta, Ron & Roberta Renz, Mark Robbins and Linda Zohner

Mark Robbins is recognized and expresses that the overarching issue with the Waterline project, for the homeowners, has been dealing with the contractor. The Contractor has "mucked up" the land and left trash behind. They repeatedly "dig things up and then recompact the ground". The bulk of the damage is within the easement but also extends beyond. They have reseeded but then reopened the ground several times. Louis Funk explains that the contractor is in the process of switching the services over from the old line to the new line which will require them to go through the land again. He acknowledges that this is the prime time to be seeding and has stressed that to the contractor who "assures us they are prioritizing the seeding". According to the contract they are to put starter fertilizer down and mulch, as well. Mr. Robbins emphasizes that he does not want the reseeding to be fescue. He has Native Grass. Joe Osborn assures that he will reiterate that to the contractor and asks if there is a special blend he would like used as it's possible to obtain and reseed with it specifically. Louis Funk states the contract requires the Contractor matches "what's already there". Mr. Robbins says he will provide the specific native mix blend.

Jane Bireta states they've had to pay a plumber to correct issues inside of their home due to sediment and is encouraged to petition the Board in writing for reimbursement.

Roberta Renz speaks on behalf of Sarcoxie Township regarding flush hydrants that have been discussed previously saying that they have documented the amount and locations of these hydrants and have given the list to Joe Osborn. Joe acknowledges 12 hydrants total in Sarcoxie District and 9 of them have the potential of producing 250 gallons per minute, or more. Louis Funk explains that is the minimum standard that the industry recognizes as minimum fire flow set by the Insurance Service Organization. Their role is to go into cities and define fire flow rating classes. In the cities only, not in Rural Water Districts who automatically default to a rating of Class 10 unless by meeting an insurance company's requirements you can be upgraded to a Class 9.

There is no "certification" in Rural Water Districts for fire hydrants. So these hydrants, meeting the minimum standard can be hooked up to and used for firefighting. Hydrants that do not meet the minimum standard are typically painted black. George Pogge suggests that the Board discusses the issue of adapting 3 of the hydrants to a 5" port and contact the Township with their decision.



USDA LOAN PROJECTS:

MONTHLY UPDATE:

Louis Funk presents Hettinger's Pay App #11 for approval that is included in the Monthly RD Payment Request #27.

MOTION: It is moved by John Hachmeister and seconded by George Pogge to approve the Monthly Payment Request #27.

VOTE: So moved 5-0

- 1) He reports that Hettinger is done with the pipeline and are in the process of switching over services. They still have a fair amount of cleanup but the majority of what's left on their contract is associated with the buildings i.e., the Pump Station, the Well Building and the pipeline down to the well. They've started on the concrete foundation for the Well Building. The company drilling the well will be doing so "any day now". The Pump Station is to be in service by July 1.
- 2) Louis shares his concern about the state of the USDA's future and that there is hardly anybody left at the office in Topeka.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES FROM March 20, 2025 BOARD MEETING

NEW CERTIFICATES - 3 TRANSFERS - 1

MOTION: It is moved by Crystal Miles and seconded by Paulette Schwerdt to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: So moved 5-0

TREASURER REPORT:

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: A complete and thorough Executive Summary Report and Cash/Cash Equivalents - Detail Report is included in the Board Packet with an Unpaid Bills Report.

MOTION: It is moved by Paulette Schwerdt and seconded by Crystal Miles to pay bills.

VOTE: So moved 5-0.

MOTION: It is moved by John Hachmeister and seconded by George Pogge to accept the 2024 Audit Report.

VOTE: So moved 5-0.

PLANT & DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT:

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: A detailed report is included in the Board packet regarding the following: New Water Operator (Matt Asher begins on May 5th); Archer Road Extension; Water Plant; Distribution; Water Usage & Water Loss; Water Sold Breakdown and Water Loss Report/Chart.

OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT:

All detailed reports are included in the Board packet



BUSINESS:

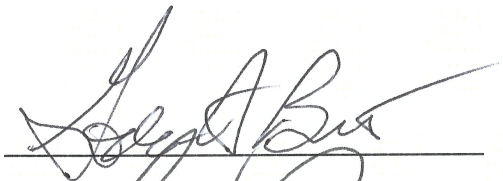
- 1) Analyze rate for City of McLouth and LV#10 – (McLouth will be omitted once the New Pump Station is in operation)
- 2) Review SSI Forms – All members reviewed the SSI Forms and Niki will have them filed appropriately.
- 3) KRWA Conference Notes from staff and Board Members – George Pogge reports that Cyber security was one of the main topics this year as Artificial Intelligence is becoming a major problem here. He also provides a copy of KRWA's Financial Statements.
- 4) Review Calendar for Next Month's Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

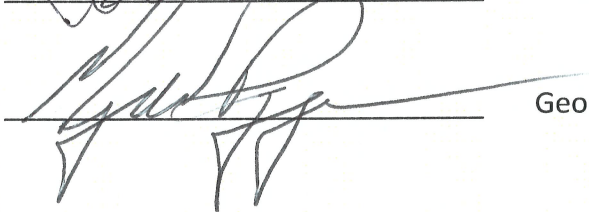
MOTION: It is moved by Paulette Schwerdt and seconded by John Hachmeister to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

VOTE: So moved 5-0.

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by,
Niki Fincham, Office Operations Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon A. Brest", written over a horizontal line.

Gordon A. Brest, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Pogge", written over a horizontal line.

George Pogge, Secretary