

**BATTLE GROUND**  
**CONSERVANCY DISTRICT MEETING**

**December 21, 2022**

Attendance: Chairman Rick Oliver, Vice Chairman Carol Watson, Philip Baer, David Bisher, Ron Holladay, and Joe Kline. Absent: Andrea Agree

Also present: Dan Gemmecke (Superintendent), Georgia Jones (Financial Clerk).

Rick Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Chairman Comments**

Rick Oliver will pass the chairman gavel to Carol Watson at the next meeting. He thanked the board for making 2022 a good year. In his experience with boards and committees this board and staff function really well together.

**Minutes**

Joe Kline moved to accept the minutes of November 16, with second of Ron Holladay.

**Motion** carried with unanimous vote.

**Customer Service Report**

There were no call log entries for issues in November, however one work order in November was resolved by helping the customer flush their water heater. Manufacturers recommend maintenance flushing twice a year to prevent sediment buildup.

**Water Superintendent Report**

Tower 2 fence is not installed yet, Dan is waiting for Tipmont to finish their line work at the site. With winter weather setting in there is no timeline estimated, just wait and see.

**Financial Clerk**

Carol Watson moved to approve the Register of Claims, Nov 17 to Dec 21 in the amount \$158,861.49. This amount includes the utility payment escrow Nov 30 transfer \$64,148.67 and the budgeted transfer to capital reserves \$50,000. Second of Joe Kline, **motion** carried with unanimous vote.

The 2023 salary ordinance was submitted for review. Carol Watson moved to set the billing clerk wage rate at \$15.12 per hour beginning January 1, 2023. Second of Ron Holladay, **motion** carried with unanimous vote.

Dave Bisher moved to approve Ordinance 2022-15 Salaries and Wages for 2023. Second of Philip Baer, **motion** carried with unanimous vote.

Unused encumbrance for meters will be liquidated, and check# 15579 from December 3, 2019 will be cancelled. Director payroll claims for additional meetings will be paid in January.

Annual meeting notices were discussed and the board favors a format to include with the January utility bill mailing. Those customers receiving emailed bills will need to have their notices emailed separately. The information will be posted at town hall and the post office, and will be on the Conservancy web site. There is no contested election for the director vacancies, reducing the amount of information required in the notices.

### **Old Business**

District Plan – Carol Watson reports everything is ready except one final petition to collect. The package of resolutions and petitions for the court will be ready in January to submit to the attorney.

Revenue Committee – a revised draft of the revenue study was discussed. The board appreciates the format of the report by Bill Jones. It is easy to understand the Conservancy's current financial base and fee structure and why it is necessary to adopt a new rate structure so all consumers contribute the minimum cost of producing and distributing water. The Action Plan section of the report identifies steps in a timeline to accomplish revenue goals for operations and projects in the next two years. A new ordinance would take effect in July 2023, with minor adjustments for inflation planned over several years.

### **New Business**

Dan Gemmecke gave the board information about the upcoming assessment for lead and copper abatement. He is working with a company to determine what resources will be needed to complete the work by July 2024.

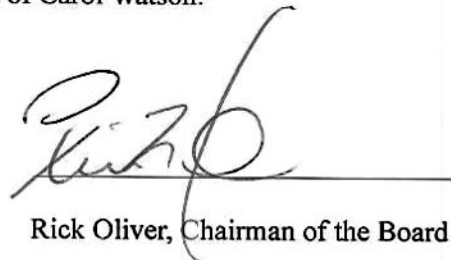
The Town Council has set up meetings to investigate the use of solar panels for electricity to reduce operating costs particularly for both water and sewage utilities. Dan will attend the meetings and represent the interests of the Conservancy as the concept is developed.

Members of the board are concerned about a commercial enterprise request to tap the Teays aquifer for 100 million gallons of water per day for manufacturing. This causes concern that utilities which already depend on the aquifer will be affected. This includes Dayton, West Lafayette, Brookston, and Battle Ground along with the city of Lafayette. The board asked Dan Gemmecke to talk with the Lafayette mayor and formally present the Conservancy's objections.

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by Joe Kline with second of Carol Watson.



Georgia Jones, Financial Clerk



Rick Oliver, Chairman of the Board

## Memorandum of Open-Door Law Compliance

Date: December 21, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present in Person: Rick Oliver, Carol Watson, David Bisher, Ron Holladay, Philip Baer, Joe Kline

Member Present Virtually on screen: none

Member Present by Telephone: none


Also Present in Person: Dan Gemmecke, Georgia Jones

Guest Present in Person: none

Guest Present virtually: none

Electronic Means of Communication Used For Members and Public: Zoom.us

Attest:



Georgia Jones, Financial Clerk