

BATTLE GROUND
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT MEETING

August 17, 2022

Attendance: Chairman Rick Oliver, Vice Chairman Carol Watson, Andrea Agree, David Bisher, Ron Holladay, and Joe Kline. Philip Baer was absent. Also present: Dan Gemmecke (Superintendent) via zoom, and Georgia Jones (Financial Clerk) in person.

There were 2 guests, Joanne Titolo attended via zoom.us and Bill Jones was in person.

Rick Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Guest Comment

Joanne Titolo requested follow-up about the leak on Winans Street. She asked if the easement would be determined and recorded, and if she could have in writing the determination of who is responsible for the repairs there. Carol Watson sent Joanne an email with current information earlier today, and Dan Gemmecke indicated there would be more research of alley, deed and easement information before he could reach a conclusion about repairs and financial responsibility. Ron Holladay mentioned the water line would need to be excavated to see what exists. When access to the utility area is confirmed, a vac truck will be scheduled to remove the water and soil to expedite repairs.

Customer Service Report

There were 19 service requests in July.

Eight calls were water quality related. Four of those were "little or no water", and all of those were on Tomahawk Lane. One was low pressure on West Street. Three concerned rust or water color with two in the historic area and one from the area north of County Road 600N.

Four calls were billing questions or potential leak concerns, and five calls requesting or providing information. Two calls requested irrigation activation and back flow report information.

Minutes

Motion by David Bisher to approve the minutes of July 20. Second of Carol Watson, motion carried with 6 Aye.

Water Superintendent Report

Chemical equipment has been repaired.

Water operator time is spent on meetings and assisting the work on Tomahawk project and the Starbucks and Taco Bell projects. The water at Taco Bell will be turned on tomorrow. Locates for fiber and communication installations still takes a lot of time.

The Starbucks services have the meters installed and ready. The new meters for the apartments on Tomahawk Lane project were received.

Tomahawk Lane water line tie-in on Sherman Street was not installed correctly and Milestone will replace the connection. The pressure test was completed and the main is ready for service lines.

The start date for Tower 2 has passed and the work is not done. Greg Martz and Butler Fairman & Seufert are working to secure a date from the contractor for the completion of the water mains that will serve the tower.

Financial Clerk

The utility escrow transfer to Town of Battle Ground for July is \$69,243.73. The register of claims July 21 to August 17 is \$102,576.05 and includes the August payment on water tower loans. **Motion** by Joe Kline to approve the July escrow transfer and register of claims July 21 to August 17. Second of Ron Holladay, motion carried with unanimous vote, 6 Aye.

Budget expense and revenue estimates were discussed. There is one large purchase anticipated for 2023, a generator. Indiana Bond Bank current lending rates for equipment are about 3%. A loan could be used to finance the new truck approved last year. The truck is at Thomas Dodge, which is an Indiana QPA dealer. Some directors believe it would be good to consider financing terms, possibly preserving cash for other needs. Joe Kline moved to look into financing requirements, if the loan could be secured quickly, and approve Rick Oliver to sign documents. Second of Carol Watson, motion carried with 6 Aye votes. Rick will check with Bill Jones to submit a request to the Bond Bank and make a determination whether to finance or draw down the cash reserves.

The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law announced in August will have funding opportunities for lead line replacement and other water and wastewater projects. Communities must show a Median Household Income (MHI) by census or survey that is within program guidelines.

Old Business

Carol Watson reported there will be a refund of part of the money paid to obtain an income survey. It was determined that the target program would not be available to Battle Ground regardless of the income level established and the survey was cancelled.

There will be a District Plan committee meeting to sort out details of the next phase in the plan update process.

The Revenue Committee will meet August 23 to review options for rate structure and revenue.

Rick Oliver reports there has been no success contacting the surveyor who developed the most recent parcel information for the well field north of 139 N Railroad Street. The easement agreed to by the Conservancy has not yet been delineated in a legal description. Rick will sign on behalf of the Conservancy when the deed preparation is completed.

The process for collecting a fine for water system tampering will be pursued in small claims court. The attorney would like supporting documents and evidence of the tampering. Dan Gemmecke and Ron Holladay are familiar with the chain of events from first warning through notice of fine, and may have photo evidence for the attorney to use.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. by Joe Kline with second of David Bisher.



Georgia Jones, Financial Clerk



Rick Oliver, Chairman of the Board

Memorandum of Open-Door Law Compliance

Date: August 17, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present in person: Rick Oliver, Carol Watson, Andrea Agree, David Bisher, Ron Holladay, Joe Kline

Members Present Virtually: None

Also Present: Dan Gemmecke, Georgia Jones

Guests present in person: Bill Jones

Guests attending Virtually: Joanne Titolo

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

Attest:


Georgia Jones, Financial Clerk