



**BIG PLAINS WATER AND SEWER SPECIAL SERVICE
DISTRICT MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REGULAR MEETING
1777 N Meadowlark Dr, Apple Valley
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Mayor | Dale Beddo

Councilmembers | Marty Lisonbee | Kevin Sair | Paul Edwardsen | Mike McLaughlin

CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Beddo calls this meeting to order at 6:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Led by Council Member McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Dale Beddo

Councilmember Kevin Sair

Councilmember Marty Lisonbee

Councilmember Michael McLaughlin

Councilmember Paul Edwardsen

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing on Tentative Budget for FY22

Mayor Beddo comments looking at 2021, we came under budget pretty much for the year with the exception of grants and still some outstanding grant money that has not been collected. Mentions that page 3 line item 1 has an allocation of grants for \$904,000. It was suggested that is for the pipeline going to the Canaan Springs water tank, however, the cost of that pipeline is far less than this number stated, it appears this is the number we started off when we started the project. We will need to address this before we get to a final budget.

Mayor Beddo commented we need to clean a few things up and get some verification in some areas. States that some of the increases are pretty large, some have an increase or decrease of 300%. We want a little closer look at those numbers before adopting the final budget.

Councilmember McLaughlin ask questions on the professional services and why that increases and decreases the way it has.

Mayor Beddo commented that probably has a lot to do with the construction of the Canaan Springs.

Mayor Beddo opens the public hearing.

Jarry Zaharis, 1345 E Cedar Dr, stated it's pretty apparent that no one knows about the budget or what it pertains too. Feels we are trying to make sense on something before we adopt a new budget. Asks about the legal process for the town taking over the water board.

Mayor Beddo comments on the resolution that was passed in the last meeting.

Jarry Zaharis, 1345 E Cedar Dr, asks so there aren't any legal requirements to do this.

Mayor Beddo comments the Council has the power to take away the responsibilities and the powers of the Water Board.

Jarry Zaharis, 1345 E Cedar Dr, asks so it will take time before you can make reasonable decisions on the issues.

Mayor Beddo comments it will always take time and we don't want to have a knee jerk reaction.

Councilmember Lisonbee mentions we have 2 members that were on the water board for a while as well.

Bob Pilkington, 1333 E Big Pinion Ln, stated he agrees with Mr. Zaharis, and it feels like we have been learning about this for only 7 days. He would like to see them table it for a couple weeks at least so they can come up to speed on everything. The people that you released of their duties are not willing to cooperate with you. Could we slow it down and take a couple of weeks? We have only had 7 days. Is this your budget or is this the budget the water board put together. To take ownership of someone else's million-dollar project does not seem prudent. He suggests taking a couple of weeks to get up to speed.

Mayor Beddo comments the million-dollar project has already been expended and completed. This is the Water boards budget, but Marty and I have been part of that process. We are aware of much of the budget, and we have time constraints that we must follow by state law and in this case, this is only the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2022. This is a priority to get us caught up to speed.

Mayor Beddo closes the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing on The Increase in Water Rates

Mayor Beddo reads the letter attached included in the packet.

Councilmember McLaughlin comments feels we can't raise these rates this high by state law.

Hurricanes highest rates is \$1.80 for 80,000 gallons of over usage. The proposal is to go to \$10 which is a huge increase.

Councilmember Sair comments doesn't know anyone who can afford a \$350 water bill. Wonders if the allotting of an acre foot can be addressed.

Councilmember Lisonbee comments that the Cedar Point system is the only system in dire need at this time.

Councilmember Sair comments doesn't understand why we would penalize all of the systems. States that when we bought cedar point, it costs about \$17,000 a year to run those pumps so if we had those things hooked up years ago, we wouldn't be having these problems right now.

Mayor Beddo opens the public hearing.

Jarry Zaharis, 1345 E Cedar Dr, comments the scale that we are proposing on that jumps from \$5 and then to \$10 above that. He isn't sure the law will allow us to make that big of a difference. There needs to be a more gradual jump. Feels it needs to be reviewed and the state needs to be involved.

Councilmember McLaughlin comments we have certain percentages that we are allowed to increase so we need to look into what we can legally increase the rates too.

Mason Walters, 1793 N Rome Ave, asks do we know how many residents are using more water.

Mayor Beddo comments we do and there are 1 or 2 houses that are using upwards of \$500 of month in water. This was meant to be more of a deterrent to get people to use less water.

Mason Walters, 1793 N Rome Ave, stated that a letter was sent out requesting people to voluntarily reduce usage. She advocates that we respect families with children and when she looked the average use shows that the average use is 100 gallons per person per day which would be 12,000 gallons. Then focus on increasing for those using over 30,000 gallons. Between 12,000 and 30,000 a minor increase. The other thing that was mentioned at the last meeting that should be restated is that Dale Harris,

water superintendent is willing to go to any property that has a higher water bill, and he will go through their system to look for water leaks.

Councilmember McLaughlin comments that the Water Conservancy District will also do those water checks. They will even show you how to conserve on water and that is a free service.

Mason Walters, 1793 N Rome Ave, commented we should make that clear to residents that we as a town will do what we can to assist them in finding leaks and eliminating them. We want to be here to help.

Councilmember McLaughlin mentions that Hurricane goes by service and the size of lines connected. I'm not saying we need to match that price, but we are already over that with our current rates.

Mason Walters, 1793 N Rome Ave, suggested looking into the water rates at Virgin. The bigger users we should raise those rates accordingly. Their base rate is \$55.

Bob Pilkington, 1333 E Big Pinion Ln, commented the utility statute in Utah does not allow for raising rates to curtail or penalize people. The rates must be reasonable, and the increases must be reasonable. There is nothing here that tells us where that \$10 came from. So, if we just pulled it out of the air, that wouldn't be reasonable. There is no explanation for what the rate is for other than curtailing usage. That letter does not provide appropriate reason. Asks that they please be reasonable and take it into consideration. Just make sure we don't open this town up to any self-respecting paralegal to file suite.

Tish Lisonbee, 1386 N Mt Zion Dr, commented she is confused on whether we are talking about raising the rates or talking about trying to conserve water. She believes that was the original goal and the rise in rates was a deterrent to try and encourage people to do so but she feels the actual goal is try and get through the summer and conserve the water in the Cedar Point area.

Kendra Webb, AV-1362 asks about the million-gallon tank on the budget and which tank is that.

Mayor Beddo comments referring to the Cedar Point million-gallon tank.

Kendra Webb, AV-1362 asked if it's legal to let the water board go and couldn't they consolidate the loans.

Mayor Beddo commented on the USDA will not consolidate the loans they already have.

Kendra Webb, AV-1362 stated that when they bought the water system from them, they had to wait for a consolidation and then there was a late fee and she doesn't get any kind of a letter, but have they decided not to use her easement to the million-gallon tank.

Mayor Beddo commented that decision has not been made and is not on this agenda.

Kendra Webb, AV-1362 mentions she just wanted to know and that she is willing to work with the town on this.

Mayor Beddo closes the Public Hearing.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3. Discussion and Possible Action on The Increase in Water Rates

Mayor Beddo commented he has 3 primary issues with this. The letter is obvious in its purpose that they wanted to curtail the usage by increasing the rates. Whether it's illegal or legal, he doesn't find it appropriate.

Councilmember McLaughlin commented feels we need to table it or re do it all together and reevaluate.

Councilmember Edwardsen commented he agrees, we are just trying to manage.

Councilmember Lisonbee commented feels its punitive where we are trying to punish people for their water usage, and he is not sure we want to legally extend it to this point as is.

Mayor Beddo commented feels this is not an appropriate tool to fix this problem.

Motioned to deny, reject the increase in water rates on item number three discussion and possible action on the increase in water rates.

Motion made by Mayor Beddo, Seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin.

Voting Yea: Mayor Beddo, Councilmember Sair, Councilmember Lisonbee, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Edwardsen

The vote was unanimous, 5-0 and the motion carried.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Adopting The Tentative Budget for FY 22

Motioned to approve the Tentative Budget for FY22 as listed for FY 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember Lisonbee, Seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin.

Voting Yea: Mayor Beddo, Councilmember Lisonbee, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Edwardsen

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Sair

The vote was 4-0, and the motion carried.

REQUEST FOR A CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Beddo commented that the Water Board needs to appoint the Chairman and Treasurer and to make sure on next month's agenda.

Motioned to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Sair, Seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin.

Voting Yea: Mayor Beddo, Councilmember Sair, Councilmember Lisonbee, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Edwardsen

The vote was unanimous, 5-0 and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Date Approved: _____

Approved BY: _____

Chairman | Andy McGinnis

Attest BY: _____

Recorder | Jenna Vizcardo