

1 **ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**
2 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
3 **May 12, 2023**

4 **NOTE: Due to continued COVID restrictions, this meeting was a "hybrid" of an in-person meeting for Board and staff**
5 **and Zoom for additional attendees**
6

7
8 **A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

9 President Grant called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

10
11 Directors Present: President Janet S. Grant, Vice-President Janice Ganong, Evan Salke, Dave Smelser and
12 Christine York

13 Directors Absent: None

14
15 Staff Present: General Manager Joseph Mueller, Miguel Ramirez, and District CPA Mike Dobrowski.

16
17 Guests included NTFPD Fire Marshall Brent Armstrong and approximately 45 members of the public in
18 person and online.

19
20 **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

21 Ron Scoglio asked where the funds for repairs to the fire house come from. The response was that
22 NTFPD pays those costs.

23
24 Mary Bennett read a statement voicing concerns about a number of items, including how property tax is
25 distributed, the NTFPD lease of the fire house, the share the ski area pays for NTFPD services, the date
26 the of the last Alpine Meadows General Plan, upcoming development agreements, the possible sale of
27 greenbelt lots to build up reserves, and why ASCWD pays a CPA in Reno rather than hiring a local
28 bookkeeper,

29
30 Rachelle Latimer is on the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council. She is concerned that ASCWD is no
31 longer covering the cost of chipping services or defensible space inspections , making it more difficult for
32 residents.

33
34 Jason Mack asked that ASCWD open a discussion about building a bike trail along the first mile of
35 Alpine Meadows Road.

36
37 A gentleman has heard that NTFPD is staffing the Alpine Meadows station more than is required in the
38 contract, but that service may be cut. He encouraged keeping personnel in Alpine Meadows, particularly
39 EMS.

40
41 In response to questions, Mueller and Brent Armstrong summarized the contract between ASCWD and
42 NTFPD. Chipping is a priority and options are being explored. For the past seven years, the station has
43 been staffed 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Continuing that will be budget driven. Both Mueller and
44 Armstrong invited the public to call them any time with questions or suggestions.

45
46 Jerry Marinoff said uninsured, unbonded workers are being hired to do defensible space. They are
47 working without proper safety measures, which is a concern.

48
49 **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

50 **C1) APRIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

51 **It was moved by Smelser and seconded by Ganong to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2023**
52 **Regular Board meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

1
2 **D. PUBLIC HEARING**

3 **D1) PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING PROPOSED RATE INCREASES TO**
4 **WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE SERVICE FEES.**

5 The Public Hearing was opened at 9:32 AM.

6
7 Mueller said information on the Master Plan and Rate Study is available on the ASCWD website. He
8 reviewed the Proposition 218 process, noting there have been six public meetings over the past five
9 months regarding these projects and the Rate Study.

10
11 Josiah Close from HDR Engineering gave a presentation on the components of the Rate Study, including
12 the data evaluated to develop the recommended rates for the next five years for water, sewer, and garbage
13 services. The useful life of infrastructure helped drive the recommendations, as well as replacement costs,
14 cost of service and the need to rebuild Reserves to be used for emergency repairs, such as the tank failure
15 a few years ago.

16
17 The public asked questions during the presentation clarifying components of the Study and proposed
18 strategies to achieve the needs. It was noted that because of Brown Act requirements, only those present
19 could offer verbal comment today. There were suggestions that community meetings be held in the
20 evenings so people who work can attend. Interest was expressed in having educational workshops about
21 District water and sewer systems.

22
23 The proposed capital projects were reviewed and there were recommendations for a robust bid process
24 and consideration of alternative funding. Mueller explained the design and construction process. There
25 may be cases where design work could be done separately from construction for some projects but that
26 would not necessarily result in cost efficiencies in the long run, given potential construction costs and
27 inflation.

28
29 There were comments about the proposed rates, noting potential impacts to those on a fixed income.
30 Mueller clarified that the proposed rates are not necessarily what the rates will be for the next five years.
31 Every year during the budgeting process, staff and the Board prioritize capital projects for the next year
32 and can adjust rates accordingly, up to the noticed 218 amounts.

33
34 Mueller explained the District's role in trash collection. TTSD erroneously categorized condominium
35 projects as commercial, not residential. Per code, a local agency must be responsible for trash service. The
36 District charges the actual TTSD fee plus a fee for administering the contract and maintaining a reserve
37 funds for rate stabilization, CIP implementation, and emergencies. The District cannot change the
38 classification. A discussion specifically about garbage fees will be on a future ASCWD agenda.

39
40 It was noted that the park is not funded by water, sewer, or garbage rates but is rather a general fund
41 activity. .

42
43 Discussion continued regarding the proposed rates and capital projects. There was a request for a
44 spreadsheet linking the proposed projects to the rates and expenditures. There was a request that all
45 pertinent documents be placed on the District website.

46
47 The Public Hearing was closed at 12:10 PM.

48
49 Mueller reported there were 188 protests submitted per the Proposition 218 process, which is below the
50 385 required.

51

1 **It was moved by Ganong and seconded by York to Motion to adopt by Ordinance #1-2023 the**
2 **noticed maximum utility rates for FY 2023/24 through FY 2027/28 with the direction that annually**
3 **the utility rates are reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and the Board of Directors to**
4 **assess the District’s revenue requirements and make a determination if an amount other than the**
5 **maximum per fund should be implemented.**

6 **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Smelser, Ganong, York, Salke, and Grant**

7 **NAYS: None**

8 **Motion carried unanimously.**

9

10 Everyone was thanked for attending this meeting and was encouraged to continue participating in the
11 District’s business. Salke noted this Board continually strives to be more transparent and communicative.
12 Come to meetings, offer comments and input, and let staff know if there is something that should be on an
13 agenda.

14

15 *Salke left the meeting at this point and was not present for the following items:*

16

17 **E. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

18 **E1) FINANCIAL REPORT**

19 Dobrowski’s written report on the financials for April 2023 was in the meeting packet.

20

21 **It was moved by Smelser and seconded by Ganong to approve the April 2023 financial reports as**
22 **presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

23

24 **It was moved by Smelser and seconded by York to approve payment of checks #32952 - 32992**
25 **payroll, and electronic fund transfers. Motion carried unanimously.**

26

27 **E2) FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

28 Armstrong introduced staff at today’s meeting. He said NTFPD responded to 15 calls in Alpine Meadows
29 last month.

30

31 The attorneys are vetting the proposed contract amendments. The main issue has to do with cost
32 recovery, specifically for chipping.

33

34 The item was open to Public Comment. A question was asked about NTFPD’s costs and what Alterra
35 contributes given the majority of calls in the winter are medical responses to the ski area. Mueller said
36 Alterra pays Olympic Valley Fire only when the ski area requests additional services. A brief discussion
37 followed regarding the service level provided in Alpine Meadows and how the ski area and community
38 could be impacted if that level were changed.

39

40 **E3) GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

41 Mueller’s written April 2023 report on activities for the month were in the packet.

42

43 **E4) OPERATION & MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

44 Miguel Ramirez presented the April 2023 Operations Report, including wastewater flows and water
45 production, as well as maintenance addressed during the month. Damages from this winter are still being
46 assessed.

47

48 **E5) TTSA REPORT**

49 The report of the April 19, 2023 TTSA Board meeting was in today’s meeting packet.

50

51 **F. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1 **F1) BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (PRESIDENT GRANT)**

2 Grant reported that at the May 11 meeting, the Committee considered investments that may yield a higher
3 return than CDs while keeping the funds liquid. Options for T-bills will be considered.

4
5 The Committee reviewed the Operations and Capital budgets in great detail and identified no needed
6 adjustments. The Committee agrees with the recommendation to contribute \$30,000 to OPEB from the
7 proposed budget.

8
9 The Treasurer's Report was included in the Committee report.

10
11 **F2) PARK, RECREATION & GREENBELT COMMITTEE (DIRECTOR YORK)**

12 York reported a greenbelt meeting is being scheduled. One of the topics will be to host a defensible space
13 workshop about greenbelt land to correspond with the upcoming Forest Forever initiative.

14
15 **F3) LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DIRECTOR SMELSER)**

16 Smelser said a Committee meeting will be scheduled. The group will consider items raised at today's
17 meeting including building Reserves and getting input from the community about priorities for capital
18 projects.

19
20 **F4) ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (DIRECTOR GANONG)**

21 This Committee did not meet.

22
23 **G. BUSINESS ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION & ACTION**

24 **G1) DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

25 The proposed budgets were presented. Mueller was asked to research options for condominium garbage
26 accounts. An item will be on the next agenda to clarify the billing fees, noting the administrative costs are
27 a constant.

28
29 For Public Comment, Mueller read a letter from Dawn Grass encouraging the Long-Range Planning
30 Committee to consider the studies about fire flows on Juniper Mountain and to expedite the
31 implementation of solutions.

32
33 **G2) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2022/2023**

34 This item was tabled.

35
36 **G3) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #3-2023 APPROPRIATION LIMITS FOR**
37 **FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024**

38 **It was moved by Smelser and seconded by Ganong to approve Resolution #3-2023 establishing**
39 **appropriations limits for FY23/24.**

40 **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Smelser, Ganong, York, and Grant**

41 **NAYS: None**

42 **Motion carried unanimously.**

43 **(Salke was not present for this vote)**

44
45 **H. FUTURE AND OPEN AGENDA ITEMS**

- 46 • TTSD Contract for Board Approval

47
48 **I. CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD**

49 There was no additional correspondence presented.

50
51 **J. CLOSED SESSION**

1 **J1) GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE**
2 **EVALUATION**

3 **General Manager performance evaluation for fiscal year 2022/2023**

4 This item was tabled

5
6 **K. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

7 Grant asked for an agenda item to review comments from today's public hearing. Mueller recommended
8 reviewing the suggestions at the next Board meeting. Any items the Board would like to investigate
9 further can be on a future agenda with a staff report.

10
11 **L. ADJOURNMENT**

12 There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 PM. The
13 next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Friday June 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

14
15 Respectfully Submitted,

16 Judy Friedman

17 Recording Secretary

18 THE PAPER TRAIL SECRETARIAL & BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
19