

Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District (BRDWID)
Minutes of the Board of Directors Open Public Hearing
April 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM

ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/6789156405?pwd=VnpYZGFVMU45b01Zd2x3bUNEZjBydz09&omn=94506088584>

Call-in number: 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 678 915 6405
Passcode: 259120

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tom Osterday called the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District (BRDWID) meeting to order at 1:02 PM

Board Member Roll Call: Mike Bourne, Brian Willia, Tom Osterday, Casey Samsill and John Ritter were present.

Quorum: Tom Osterday declared that 5 board members were present and that constituted a quorum to conduct business.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Accept Agenda as Presented

Brian Willia made motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by: Casey Samsill.

The motion was passed by: John Ritter, Mike Bourne, Brian Willia, Casey Samsill and Tom Osterday.

4. Budget Committee Proposal for the Draft Budget Plan a tat Requires a Rate Increase.

Linda McDermott presented the plan approved by the Budget Committee to the Board and the public. The presentation is posted on the BRDWID website.

Highlights:

The annual budget must be zero.

The Board approached WIFA and got very favorable terms going forward including keeping the 1.96% interest rate for the term of the loan.

The Board is against any taxes for District members, District revenues will come from user fees.

5. General Public Questions and Comments

John Ritter read all the comments received by the Board via Email or letters, these will be posted on the BRDWID website with the addresses redacted.

In-person Comments

Caroline and Ray Thanked the Board for the work done, and value the water and support the rate increase as being necessary.

On-line Comments

Matt Porter brought up a 2019 presentation where the steering group stated that the District would hold rate increases to lower than what was expected if a private for profit company purchased Starlight Water. He did not understand the 91% price increase since the District took over and has seen no "improvement" in the water service.

In-person comment

Kate Drew had concerns about the high costs up front and will rates go down as more customers come on line.

Tom Osterday explained that yes, the rates will be reviewed yearly and may go down as reserves are built up.

On-line Comment

Bill Paterson appreciated the work the Board has done and feels the extended delay of AZCC approval of the sale of Starlight Water led to the current increase in rates and believes the Board should revise the rates in the future if revenues justify it.

Tom Osterday and Dave Wang discussed the timeline of the AZCC process and costs involved.

In Person comment

Art Buyer had questions about restricting sale of water to outside customers.

John Ritter explained that outside water sales were limited to community members including Ranchers, the Fire Department, Forest Service and other local groups. The restrictions are for non-local customer wanting to truck the water to other communities for profit.

Danny S wanted to understand why the operator rate was going up for non-routine issues.

Mike Bourne explained that the rate was going up to match what the operator was charging the District for the services provided.

On-line Comment

Cassie Langford asked how the rate increase will help with emergency repairs.

Mike Bourne explained how the extra cash flow would be used to set up reserve funds to cover emergencies.

Matt Porter asked about why the District needed a building to store supplies.

Mike Bourne explained that there was no plan to build a storage building as the District already has storage facilities and further that there was no reason to store significant supplies as they were readily available nearby.

6. Adjournment

Casey Samsill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 PM, Brian Willia seconded.

Brian Willia, Mike Bourne, Casey Samsill, John Ritter and Tom Osterday approved the motion.

John Ritter
John Ritter Board Secretary and Clerk
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

Prepared on: April 7, 2024

Tom Osterday Board Chairperson
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

Board Approved on: _____

DRAFT