

Pursuant to the Open Records Act: The minutes of the LCRWS #17 are available to its members upon request. Copy rates are posted at the LCRWD #17 office and on file with the County Clerk. Minutes will also be available at our website lcrwd17@myruralwater.com

LCRWD#17 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

- Vicki Cearnal led the meeting with a prayer.
- Member questions not on Agenda: None.
- Roll Call: Vicki Cearnal Chairman, present. Jean Conklin Vice-Chairman, present. Deb Butler Treasurer, present. Kendle Ortiz Secretary, present. Matt Pollard, member at large present, arrived late. Also present were John Butler, Water Operator and Sean Balzanna Operator apprentice. Guest list see sign in sheet filed with BOD reports.
- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Secretary's Report: Kendle Ortiz presented the board with a copy of the BOD meeting minutes from February 13th and the Special called BOD meeting minutes from February 27th. Kendle asked if there were any questions or amendments to the minutes. There were none. Deb Butler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 13th as well as the Special Called BOD meeting minutes from February 27th. Vicki Cearnal seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Jean Conklin voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried.

- Treasurer's Report: Deb Butler presented the Treasurer's report to the board. Copy of the report filed with the meeting minutes. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Treasurer's report. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the district's water loss numbers. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the installation of the gate valves and our ability to identify water leaks. Kendle Ortiz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jean Conklin seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried.
- Operator's Report: John Butler presented his operator's report to the board. A copy of the operator's report is filed with the meeting minutes. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the operator's report and upcoming projects. John stated that the Lead Service Line Inventory was ready to be filed. He presented a copy of the report to the board to review. He stated that the district would be able to show that we had done our due diligence. John stated that DEQ had an inspection and we were going to have three new violations involving the booster stations. John stated that DEQ would be sending a letter regarding the violations. Matt asked how long we would have to address the violations. Kendle stated that the time line for that would be included in the letter notifying us of the violation. There was a lengthy discussion regarding missing hardware for the current project. Sean Balzanna presented his operators report. There was a lengthy discussion regarding his operator report. John and Sean were thanked for their reports and hard work.
- Old Business:
 - Grants Update: Deb Butler presented the board with the grant updates. Copy of the grant update filed with the meeting minutes. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the grant updates. Deb stated that the RIG 1 should be completed by April 30th. Deb stated we would need to publish an article in the paper when we complete the project.

- Homeserv: Kendle Ortiz explained the process for the Homeserv program. Vicki asked Kendle to forward her a flyer regarding the program and contact information for the program. Kendle stated she would do that next week. Jean Conklin made a motion to table the discussion of Homeserv insurance until Kendle could provide written materials to review. Matt Pollard seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried.
- Further discussion on Eclipse mail out/action items: Jean Conklin stated that the flyer would be printed in color and given to Deb Butler by the 14th for mail out. She stated they would be pre-folded to assist with the mail out. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the eclipse and the district will attempt to keep the tower water level higher in preparation for the eclipse due to potential excessive demand due to the event.
- ORWA Sustainability Award – select date: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the award. Deb Butler made a motion to set the date for May 14th at 4 PM. Vicki Cearnal seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried.
- ORWA Meeting April 10-12: There was a discussion regarding the ORWA Annual meeting. Deb stated that since our district did not win District of the Year that they would not be attending the conference. Kendle stated that she might still attend to represent district #3 and #17 since district #3 would be paying for her participation. The board decided not to attend since it would all be out of pocket for the board.
- New Business:
 - Resolution for ORWB REAP booster #1: Vicki Cearnal read the resolution into the meeting minutes.

RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR APPLICATION FOR OKLAHOMA
RURAL WATER BOARD REAP GRANT

WHEREAS Rural Water District #17 in LeFlore County has a water loss ratio between 50-70% monthly due to poor installation of the water line 22 years ago that has depleted their resources; and there is a danger of loss of water service for customers due to lack of backup generators and poor electrical wiring in booster #1 and

WHEREAS Rural Water District #17 in LeFlore County is financially incapable of remedying the situation which threatens the public health and welfare of the people of Big Cedar, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS it is justifiable and in the best interest of the citizens of Rural Water District #17 in LeFlore County, to expedite the preparation and submission of an application for financial assistance to resolve these electrical issues in the Pipe Springs area and seek an Oklahoma Rural Water Board REAP grant for no more than \$150,000.

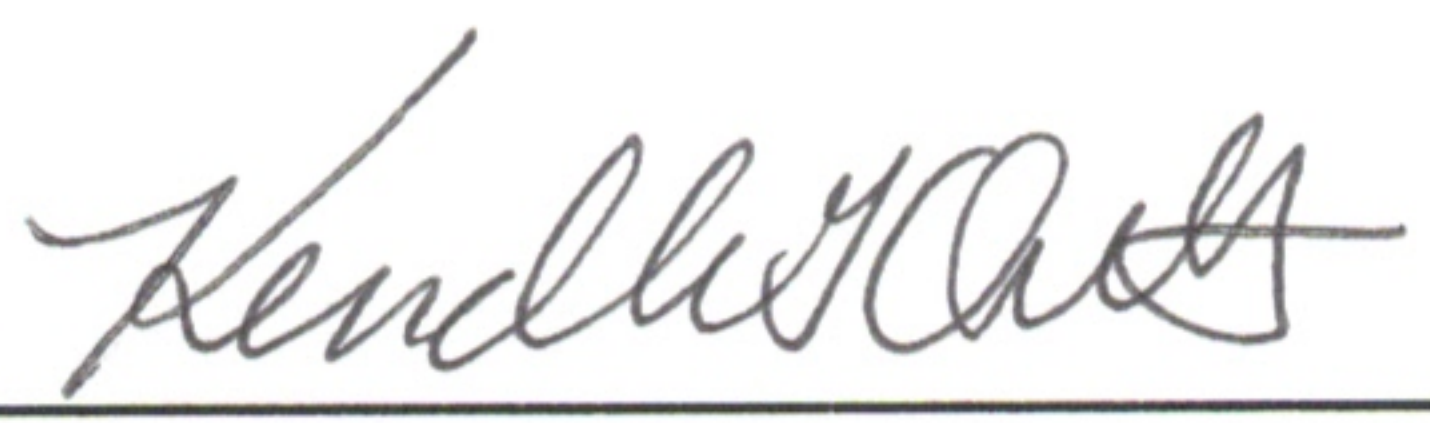
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a situation is hereby recognized and declared to exist in LeFlore County, Oklahoma and Vicki Cearnal, Chairperson of the Board, and/or Deborah Butler, Treasurer, are hereby authorized and directed to sign an application and related documents necessary to file and process the grant on behalf of Rural Water District #17 in LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

Kendle Ortiz made a motion to accept the motion as read into the meeting minutes. Deb Butler seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried.

- Award of funds for a new vehicle: John Butler and Sean Balzanna would be going to accept the new vehicle that the district was awarded. Vicki Cearnal will be going with them as well.
- Truck Maintenance – Tires: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the truck tires. Deb Butler stated that will all the extra expenses at this time that she did not feel it was a good time to get the tires. The board will revisit this issue in about six months.
- Open Member Discussions: Mr. Cruse stated that someone had taken two of his meters and he wanted them back. There was a lengthy discussion of the bylaws and the ownership of the meters. Mr. Cruse stated that he

purchased the meters when the district was started. Vicki Cearnal stated that after reviewing the bylaws that it was clearly stated that the meters were owned by the district. Mr. Cruse stated that he wanted his \$500 each for the meters that he had paid. Vicki informed Mr. Cruse that there was nothing in the bylaws that would allow us to pay him that money. She stated again that it clearly stated in the bylaws that the district not the customers owned the actual meters. Ken Winkenwerder stated that the original USDA loan also stipulated that the ownership of the meters was to the district. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the ownership of the meters and the removal of the inactive meters during the new meter install upgrade. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the misunderstandings surrounding the original meters and the terms used including Benefit Units. Vicki stated that at the next annual membership meeting in January he would be welcome to come and make a motion to change the bylaws at that time. Mr. Cruse left the meeting.

- Adjournment: Vicki Cearnal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Pollard seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Jean Conklin voted yea. Deb Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Matt Pollard voted yea. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Signed: 

Seal:

