**SPANISH FLAT WATER BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**September 8, 2022**

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| **Directors Present** | **Public Present** | **Staff Present** |
| Wesley Plunkett  Julia Robinson  Sandra Barta  Cheryl Bean | Guest of Sandy Barta | Steve Silva  Paul Quarneri |

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**: 6:00 pm

**PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVED BY**: Sandra Barta and 2nd by Wesley Plunkett

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**:

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**: given by Paul Quarneri

There is currently $144,117.00 in the general fund and $76,047.00 of that is allocated to ongoing fire repairs.

There was a brief discussion regarding the replacement auditor that had been recommended by Constance Coughlan, our auditor for the past few years. This change is mandated by the State and his fees are in line with other auditors. A motion to approve the hiring of the new auditor was seconded and approved via vote by all members in attendance. It was noted that we do not have a dated for when this audit will be conducted. It was discussed further that we should find out if there is a State rule regarding at time limit to “if/when” we can rehire Constance Coughlan.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Ongoing Fire Recovery: The moving of the generator at the Villa pump station onto the pad still needs to be done. Various methods of how to accomplish the move were discussed, including materials and equipment needed as well as what would be cost effective.

A new Power Washer has been purchased and now we can begin clean up at the Storage Building in the Pines.

Paul stated that the Electronic Company was still working on getting the Control Panel completed.

Paul informed the Board, our insurance company had advised that loss of income due to the fire would be calculated via “days that there was no water available x the number of homes”. This would not be a very significant amount as it did not include the number of homes that have burned and we are no longer receiving income from these homes.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

The need to have our current Rates increased was brought up for discussion. All agreed that every form of operating costs have increased, i.e. fuel, power, labor, materials, insurance and government fees. It was agreed that we wait two months to have an analysis of costs at our last increase vs our current costs completed. The December Board Meeting was tentatively scheduled to evaluate what the increase should be. After which the formatting of a letter to customers regarding the proposed increase and the date to hold the required public meeting. It was agreed to request the use of the Senior Center for the proposed public meeting. Also we need to find the rule(s) governing Public Notification of proposed rate increase, i.e. time periods for when the letter needs to be mailed in advance of the meeting.

Guy Chiles from Waste Water Management is wanting SFWD to be part of a study regarding the “Salinity” of our waste water. There would be a monthly fee to be a part of the study. After some discussion it was agreed there would be no actual benefit to SFWD to justify this cost.

**OPERATIONS**: given by Steve Silva

The Lake is getting lower each week and at the Pines there is only one Pump still in the water. Rubber hose has been ordered to replace the aged hose & exposed hose at the Pines (500’ at $5,000.00) this should be here by next week. Not sure how long it will take to get the new wire ($3,300.00) and connectors that are also needed. Steve added that we may possibly need more material than what has been ordered once they start the project he will know better.

There was a sewage back up into the garage at 199 Berryessa Drive due to aging infrastructure. Roto Rooter made a service call to fix the problem but, the next week it happened again. Steve has personally cleaned the garage, but the owner is stating he will file a claim against SFWD for damages. We will have to wait to see what the owner will actually do. The property has been a rental home for years and is currently unoccupied.

Our customers need to be told about our aging infrastructure, including the fact that the funds that had been set aside to repair and or update the infrastructure literally burned up in 2020.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**: 7:20 pm by Julia, 2nd from Sandy, motion approved.