

KEELER COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June11, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Gibson
Noah Bricker
Jim Macey
Sherry Cosgrove

PUBLIC PRESENT

Bruce Spry John Dukes
Robert Spry Lucette
Patty Thorn
Karen Riggs

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:32PM by acting Chairperson Noah Bricker.
2. Voting in new secretary, Karen Riggs – Noah stated the Leigh’s last official day as secretary would be June 13, 2021.
 - Robert made a comment that as the secretary, Karen should not give free water to any water users.
 - Jim responded that Karen wrote a letter to the board upon her previous resignation as secretary, with the quote, “I assist the board, but I work for the people.” He stated that the board would expect her to conduct business honestly and fairly across the entire group of water users. Jim also stated that Karen showed favoritism to a group of people before and wanted to know Karen’s response to his statement.
 - Karen responded that she believed he was referring to a loss of records that occurred during a change in secretaries. She did not charge individuals if there was no record to support the charges.
 - Jim asked if Karen would conduct billing fairly so that all rate payers were treated the same. Noah stated that he was not sure of exactly what happened in the past but that he would expect Karen to do things accurately, especially with the use of Quickbooks. Karen responded that she would fulfill the duties of secretary and that the records are there for any person to follow up on her previous performance as secretary.
 - Sherry made a motion to accept Karen as the new secretary, with a second made by Noah. All members in favor.
3. Cerro Gordo Project – Jim would like to help Cerro Gordo, as they are Keeler’s neighbor. The owners are struggling to build a very historic ghost town. Keeler should support them and give them whatever little water is needed for the concrete Cerro Gordo is pouring.
 - Noah stated that Cerro Gordo is taking 6, 300-gallon totes, which would not be much water but could still generate some cash for the KCSD. Mike responded that he has no

problem selling water but would not want to donate water. Water would need to be sold at the current rates.

- Jim stated that, according to Dan Dickman, the KCSD sold water to Hat Creek Construction Company for \$50.00 for a 4,000-gallon truck. Sherry stated that she and Jim are willing to cover the costs of the water and that no water users would have to cover the costs themselves for the Cerro Gordo project. Mike responded that the water should be sold and accounted for and that everything should be on the books. Rules need to be followed and kept consistent across all water users.
- Noah stated that the owners of Cerro Gordo also have three properties in Keeler that they are paying for. Robert stated that he had no problem with giving Cerro Gordo water as long as the KCSD is bringing in money for it. He also stated that Cerro Gordo would need to use different equipment because we do not want water backflowing into our pipes, that an anti-vacuum device needed to be used.
- Mike made a motion to sell water to Cerro Gordo at \$50.00 for 4000-gallons, with a second made by Sherry. All board members in favor. Leigh and Karen will develop a contract for the Cerro Gordo project, keeping in mind that Sherry and Jim have offered to cover costs. Cerro Gordo water was delivered via a hose into the top of the water containers, meaning that there was an air gap and no possibility of back flow into our system.

4. Bottled water grant – Jim stated that he has been in the process of trying to obtain this grant for nearly a year. Miscommunication continues to occur, and he will be having another conference call with the grant manager.

- Sherry asked if the water users would be reimbursed if they have to pay for bottled water themselves. Jim did not have an exact answer, but he stated all records must be kept very clear in order to receive reimbursement.
- Noah stated he has a warrant out with the county to pay for the Crystal Geyser water. Once the grant is processed, it looks like the KCSD would still have to pay for water and be reimbursed for the purchase. Credits could possibly be added to water users' accounts if they purchase bottled water, rather than wait for the long reimbursement process.
- Mike stated that more time should be given since the state will be taking over soon. He is not comfortable with charging people individually, as it affects low-income folks. Low-income persons are more likely to need the bottled water. This process would also overcomplicate billing and accounting.
- Jim stated that all residents need potable water regardless of income. Free water is available at Portuguese Joe's Campground and at the visitor center. Residents of Keeler have taken up this practice before of gathering their own water from one of these locations. The consumption of bottled water could be minimized if residents were to continue this practice.

- Robert asked about recycling the large water bottles once finished with them. Sherry stated that the bottles could be placed outside of her property once emptied. Noah requested that people crush the lids of the water bottles and that no items are placed inside the bottles. Mike has been keeping track of emptied water bottles and storing them inside the water storage container. The state would highly disapprove of the KCSD tossing these bottles away and not attempting to manage/recycle them.
- Noah and Sherry will work together to make sure emptied water bottles are returned to the water storage container.
- Mike asked to make the discussion of the water grant a recurring item for the regular board meetings, to which Noah agreed.

5. Public comment – Robert stated that information on the January 2020 minutes needed to be corrected, but he did not clarify as to what information needed correction. Sherry stated she would make whatever fixes were needed.

- Robert also requested that Jim apologize for telling him to “shut your mouth” in previous board meetings and that the public has the right to speak. He claimed that there is proof of Jim telling him to be quiet. Jim responded that he does not recollect telling Robert to not speak, to which Robert warned Jim that he would not be on the board for much longer.
- Mike stated that no board member has made any member of the public stop speaking, as everyone does have the right to comment. However, the discussion should remain on topic, be kept in line with the agenda, and stick with the 3-minute maximum as mandated by the county. Jim responded that the KCSD board meetings are “not a forum for personal attacks.”
- Jim stated that the Inyo County Auditor needs a form signed by the chairman of the board so that their audit can be completed. Noah responded that he has seen the e-mails and will get the document signed and sent.
- Jim asked if Leigh has submitted delinquent accounts to the county. Noah stated that she has a list of the accounts and will work on this item over the weekend.
- Mike asked that the Inyo County Auditor form and the list of delinquent accounts be added to the next regular board meeting.
- Robert commented that when he is talking to board members, they should respond with ethical answers.

6. Mike made a motion to adjourn, with a second made by Jim. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.

Minutes by Leigh McLendon, Secretary

Board Member Signature _____ Date _____