

Minutes
KEELER COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021
Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 858 6267 0506 Password: 712061
Time: 5:30 PM

Board members present:

Jim Macey

Sheri Cosgrove

Noah Bricker

Public in attendance

Robert Spry

Bruce Spry

Patty Thorn

Alice Robertson

Dan Dickman

Tammy Hursell

Jeanne Elliott

1 Director Noah Bricker called the meeting to order

2 Approve Minutes from Sept. 2, 2021 Sheri Cosgrove made a motion to approve the minutes from Sept. 2. Noah Bricker seconded. All in favor.

3 Customer Report: Secretary Karen Riggs reported that 74 bills were sent . Most customers are keeping current. Some are waiting to see if funding help arrives in the form of Covid Relief Arrearages Grant. Sheri Cosgrove made a motion to accept the customer report. Noah Bricker seconded. All if favor.

4 Financial Report : On October 6, the KCSD had \$68,754.24 on the cash on hand, secretary/treasurer Karen Riggs reported. Income was \$2,107. Expenses were \$5,672.12 including : Liability insurance for \$2,244, bottled water for \$1,681.28, Southern California Edison for \$682.28, Chlorine for \$439, Office Supplies for \$124; Internet Web Hosting for \$50: Space rental at Keeler Volunteer Fire Dept for \$50 and secretary/treasurer for \$400. Noah Bricker questioned why the So Cal Edison bill was so high and asked Karen to check with John Bowden to make sure the solar panels didn't go into error. Noah Bricker made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Sheri Cosgrove seconded. All in favor.

5 Petty Cash Report: There is \$132.65 in petty cash. Jim Macey made a motion to accept the petty cash report. Sheri Cosgrove seconded. All in favor.

6. Letters of Interest for KCSD Board of Director. Two letters of interest to serve on the KCSD Board of Directors were received: Tammy Hursell and Jeanne Elliott. Alice Robertson expressed a concern that they did not live here and if there were an emergency water leak, they would not be available for a quorum. Tammy said that she could easily be reached by phone or email and would not be fixing anything – “Just saying.” Patty Thorn wanted to know if the question of being a registered voter in the precinct had been answered. Karen Riggs responded that County Counsel had been consulted, and yes, they need to be registered in the district. Both Tammy and Jeanne are registered voters in Keeler.

Sheri made the motion to vote Tammy Hursell in as a KCSD Board Member. Jim seconded. All in favor.

Jim Macey made a motion to accept Jeanne Elliott as a new board member. Sheri Cosgrove seconded. All in favor. They will be sworn in by the secretary with via ZOOM, with Board member Sheri Cosgrove as witness.

Bylaws: Discuss/Approve Update: Jim clarified bylaw language: To be eligible for the board, you have to have a valid Keeler address and be a registered voter in the district. On the rate chart, Jim asked that language be included that when selling outside water, “an air gap is sufficient.”

A lengthy discussion ensued about water rates. Bruce Spry said it was unfair that someone with undeveloped land who was not using water was paying \$12 and someone who could use all the water they wanted on undeveloped land was paying \$15. Jim Macey responded that a person might want to plant some trees, so their water usage would be minimal. Alice Robertson brought up the issue of meters. Jim Macey pointed out that the dissimilar metals in the meters led to corrosion and meter failure. Tammy Hursell said “I just have a comment and I know it's going to be very unpopular, but as I understand it, in Darwin they pay one rate no matter what.” Sheri Cosgrove responded that the KCSD rate update took 2 years and a tier system was the result, so that people who do not use the water do not pay as much as the going rate. A wording change for \$21 tier was requested by Sheri Cosgrove to read “Occasional use water turned on.” Noah suggested to Patty Thorn that if her neighbor had an issue with his water rate, his

course of action would be to write a letter to the board. Alice Robertson said there should be other things in the bylaws like a dispute resolution and bottled water usage.

8. Update of bottled water Grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board. Jim Macey reported Rural Community Assistance Corporation is assisting Keeler in grant preparation, a process that has taken two years, so far. The RCAC has stepped in to enable funding and will help with water distribution.

Karen Riggs reported that RCAC will be able to offer “gap funding” for immediate water needs. It would be a loan without interest. KCSD would pay it back to RCAC at the end of the state funding grant. The State grant might not be awarded for months or even a year, but reimbursement could come from RCAC as money is spent, based on receipts. “So it's a reimbursement as we go, to my understanding, but there would be an amount agreed upfront,” Karen said.

Patty Thorn and Danny Zukatis helped get the bottled water into the container. Alice Robertson, Patty Thorn, Thomas and Sheri Cosgrove helped distribute bottled water.

Alice Robertson questioned whether Shauna and her family got water. Karen responded that the state regulations for bottled water distribution are being defined. No one is being denied water. KCSD is acting in good faith and will follow the guidelines set forth. Alice asked Karen to explain why Randy was getting bottled water. Karen Riggs stated that she paid for two active water hookups. Jim Macey reiterated that the state guidelines were very strict and KCSD would adhere to them.

Noah Bricker said there is nothing that should stop a household from getting water. Sheri Cosgrove said if need be, she would give away her water allotment.

9. Noah Bricker made a motion to approve the RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND AUTHORIZING AND DESIGNATING A BOARD MEMBER FOR THE KEELER COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT FOR BOTTLED WATER PROJECT. Sheri Cosgrove seconded it. All in favor.

10. Hiring a contractor to purge the KCSD water system. Jim Macey said he and John Bowden have volunteered to purge the water system. They are working on

acquiring equipment. Upon checking with the state regulator, John reported there is not state requirement to purge the system, although a flushing once a year, is recommended.

11. Keeler Dunes Project – Tabled until November meeting

12. Feasibility Study: Written comments on the Feasibility Study of Water System Improvements to Mitigate Arsenic and Manganese in Drinking Water prepared by the California Rural Water Association may be submitted to Keeler Community Service District, PO Box 107, Keeler CA. 93530.

Sheri Cosgrove said that we have to dig a new well in order to have an adequate reserve of water available for a fire or some kind of major need. It's possible that we could consider a POU system that would work, get another tank and not drill a well, an expensive endeavor. They tell us that if we get a new well, it might have lower arsenic. I don't think that's possible, but I want to know. Alice Robertson said the Arlan Dunn well had lower arsenic but once he started pumping the arsenic started going up and his well is in the same aquifer ours, she said.

Sheri Cosgrove said going through the feasibility study and choosing a method to mitigate arsenic is the ultimate goal.

13. Director's Reports Noah Bricker : "I don't have anything with the exception of: This will be my last meeting as a board member. I've got way too much going on with work and home ."

Jim Macey took issue with some things posted on the Post Office Bulletin board by Alice Robertson. "She says when the new water system was installed, KCSD made an agreement with property owners on either side of the alleys to accommodate an easement for the new water lines. No such agreement exists." Also, the KCSD is not bound to abide by the petition circulated, Jim said. He also noted a strange phenomenon, whereby a mysterious wind blows one side of the bulletin board, but the side where Alice posts her notices is never blown off. "We lack honest communication via the binder or the bulletin board," Jim said.

Alice Robertson said she lost things in the last windstorm, too. "You've got to use at least 6 to 8 thumbtacks on that stuff or it's going to blow off the first good wind we get. And I'd like to know who keeps stealing the thumbtacks off the bulletin board, because I keep putting thumbtacks up and they keep disappearing or

they're on the ground when after the papers blow off, I'm still picking that up. And the only thing I requested was that people, at least within two days, take their stuff down.”

Public Comment: Bruce Spry alleges that in 2014/15 secretary Karen Riggs gave free water to a board member who was working on his trailer *

Jim Macey made a motion to adjourn. Noah Bricker seconded. All infavor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Approved: _____

Minutes submitted by Karen Riggs, KCSD secretary

* Tier rates went into effect in 2018. Before that, unoccupied residences were not charged.