

# KEELER COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT

## Board Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2021

### Board Members present:

Jim Macey  
Sheri Cosgrove  
Noah Bricker

### Public present:

Theona Wasson  
Tammy Hursell  
John Dukes  
Robert Spry  
Carole Puryear  
Alice Robertson  
Patty Thorn  
Jayna Jacobs

**1. Meeting was called to order** at 5:37 PM by acting Chairperson Sheri Cosgrove.

### 2. Old Business:

- Review/Pass regular board meeting minutes from May 25, 2021. Jim Macey made a motion to accept minutes. Mike Gibson seconded. All board members in agreement.
- Review /Pass regular board meeting minutes from Special Meeting June 11, 2021. Sheri Cosgrove made a motion to accept minutes. Jim Macey seconded. All board members in agreement.
- Customers' Report: Karen Riggs reported that KCSD has 73 customers. Fifteen registered letters are scheduled to be sent out for accounts overdue by 120 days or more. Of those, 11 have not paid for more than six months and several are multiple property owners. Last year, 7 accounts were sent to the Inyo County Auditor's Office to be included on their 2020-21 property taxes. Discussion followed about how to handle the meeting giving customers the chance to address the arrears before Aug. 10. Robert Spry read from the bylaws and it was determined that a public meeting was required and it would be held before the next public meeting.
- There was no financial report as none had been received from the county at this time.
- Petty Cash: Cash on hand of \$190.00 Leigh Mclendon has put in petty cash reimbursement to bring it back up to \$300.
- Secretary contract: Sheri asked if anyone had changes they would like made to the contract. Jim said he approved it as written. Sheri made a motion to approve. Jim and Mike seconded. All in favor of approval. Karen Riggs will sign the contract as approved.

### 3. New Business:

- Discussion of **Charging for Bottled Water at Cost** - Jim Macey asked to table this item.
- **Auditor's Letter** – Discussion of the Letter to the Auditor centered on its purpose, which is for approval of KCSD to be audited. Sheri volunteered to check with Noah for his signature and return the letter to the Inyo County Office of the Auditor.
- **Contract for sale of water to Cerro Gordo** - Robert Spry asked if when KCSD sells or gives water to Cerro Gordo, are they going to take it out on weekdays; which hydrant, which blowouts will they use. Are they going to use their own hose?

Jim replied that the water that Cerro Gordo used for the concrete pour had already been used. It was taken from a stand pipe with a hand held hose emptied into a container from the top. There was an air gap with no chance of back flow into the KCSD system. It's already been done. It sounds like it was about 1,800 gallons. Robert stated that the amount of water is wrong. Sheri asked how much it would cost. Jim replied that since KCSD charged \$50 per 4,000 gallons and it was less than half that it would be rounded off to \$25. Mike said he thought there was a \$50 minimum. "I want to be consistent," he added. Alice stated there was no actual signed contract. Mike said "we voted on it." Sheri said she would check on it.

- Discuss/approve/disapprove Payment for Water Leak Repaired at the Old Keeler House: Alice asked to Table this item
- Update of Grant for bottled water - Jim said there was no update.

### 4. Director's Reports: No Director's reports

### 5. Public Comment

- Carole Puryear said that the engineering portion of the Feasibility Study (Water System Improvements to Mitigate Arsenic and Manganese in Drinking Water, Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Management Program 2021) was completed. Grace Holder and Carole Puryear performed the test and Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District paid for the test to be analyzed. Carole said the test cost \$530.00. She suggested the KCSD Board send a letter of thanks to Grace and to GBUAPCD. Sheri directed the secretary to do so.

- Tammy Hursell asked if anyone had heard anything after the State Water Meeting. Jim responded that he has had contact with Omid, who is high up in the State Regulatory body. Further, the administrator arriving in Keeler will be a private, for-profit company. Jim said that from what he's heard, Keeler is the only district in California to enjoy such intervention. The administrator will be coming in about 4 or 5 months. Carole Puryear said she had received a letter from the state about the transfer of regulatory jurisdiction from Inyo County to the State of California and she had forwarded it to the board

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members. Mike stated that there are two things happening; the state is basically taking over all the water districts in the county (and they're doing that all across the state) Furthermore, they are appointing an administrator. Carole asked that the letter become a part of the record of these minutes. Karen asked if it should also be posted on the website and it was agreed that it should be done.

- Alice asked who approved the water to Cerro Gordo without a board meeting? Jim responded that he believed it was taken from an active service paid for by Cerro Gordo. Alice responded that it was taken from a riser in the alleyway and the riser by the old gas station. Alice stated she had pictures – from that stand pipe and the stand pipe belongs to KCSD. Jim replied “Correct.” Mike asked was the water taken before the contract was voted on at the special meeting. Alice said yes and Mike said he didn't know that.

Alice stated that what took place at the meeting Aug. 29 (2020), when the details were lacking about who was buying water (price of \$50.00 per) 4,000 gallons, that there was no contract for the road construction company. Also, there was no contract for Cerro Gordo. She stated that was illegal. Mike said, “Going back to Cerro Gordo, we voted to sell it, but you're telling me that the water was taken before we voted to sell it to them?” Alice replied, No. It was voted on. What you guys did was not give us names of who was getting the water in August 29th meeting. You did not have another meeting about selling water after that. You did not tell us who was getting water. Alice said, you can sell water, but you still have to come back to the board meeting and state who's getting water and why. And you didn't do that. You're going to get sued, Alice stated. Mike said “End of conversation, if you are going there.” Mike and Alice disagreed about whether or not it was discussed at a meeting.

Sheri said I'm going to state that this board is going to pass a contract for sale of any water in the future. Maybe we didn't (in the past) and if we didn't there is nothing I can do about it.

Another issue, Alice said, is a petition presented “with enough signatures to stop you from selling our water, so why is it still going out. You guys have never addressed the petition and reversed your vote.” She asked that the water leak issue be carried over to the next agenda, as well as the petition be included.

Tammy Hursell said she called the county and asked about the legality of the petition, and it is within anyone's jurisdiction to put out a petition and get signatures, however it is not a legal document and you can present it to the board and they can take it under review. But, it's like 20 people showing up to a meeting and saying ‘Hey, this is my opinion, and we all agree and we're more than you guys, so you have to do what we say.’ That's not true, Tammy said.

“It will be true if I take it to the county,” Alice responded. Tammy said she wasn't sure because of the forceful way in which it was presented at that meeting, which is why she said she called the county.

Patty Thorn wanted to know why there was a contact being made for Cerro Gordo after the fact. Sheri responded that it was a verbal contract.

Robert said they were taking 1500 gallons per load to Cerro Gordo. How many loads were taken? Jim

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said Noah reported 6 loads.

- Sheri moved to adjourn, Jim 2nd. All in favor. Adjourned at approximated 6:30 pm.