

**Water District 19**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

**Regular Meeting 6:00 PM**

**Board President Seth Zuckerman** called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Those also in attendance were **Commissioners Michael Weller** and **Robin Pfohman**, **General Manager John Martinak**, **Operator in Charge Armin Wahanik** and **Office Administrator Melody Snyder**. Visitors present were Chris Howe, Susan Adams, Kim Roeser, Marie Browne, Rob Wheeler, Leslie Brown, Ward Carson, Bruce Kirschner, Sarah Kassik, Luke Peterson, Michael Laurie, Diane Emerson, Jeremy Hale, Julie Hempton and Ron Irvine.

6:00 Call to Order – **Commissioner Zuckerman**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Regular Meeting. **Commissioner Pfohman** made a Motion to approve the minutes as amended; **Commissioner Weller** seconded. Motion carried.

**Review of Vouchers/Warrants/Electronic Payments: Maintenance Fund Vouchers #27298** through #27322 totaling \$40,012.45. **Capital Improvement Fund Voucher #12297** totaling \$608.85. **Payroll warrants #4014** through #4030 totaling \$37,392.84 and **Payroll EFT Direct Deposits** totaling \$12,355.34 dated 12/16/22 and 01/03/23. **Electronic payments** dated 12/19/22, 01/04/23, and 01/14/23 totaling \$9,493.85 and Department of Revenue Payment for \$6,640.08. Motion to approve made by **Commissioner Weller** and seconded by **Commissioner Pfohman**. Vouchers approved unanimously.

**System Operations Report** – **Operator in Charge Wahanik** reported on last year’s water production, and presented information comparing 2022 with recent high, low, and average years. Last year was a little below a typical year, largely due to the wet spring. Operations staff are still exploring ways to lower DBP’s (Disinfection Byproducts). The District is below the threshold, but we’ve had to raise the chlorine levels. Operators have been running the plant on sunny days, trying to keep the plant idling but they are mainly running the wells. There was a problem at the 115<sup>th</sup> Booster Pump Station during the freeze that occurred in December 2022. The meter froze preventing the Booster pump from working properly. The operators had to switch those customers back onto the main line. They have since replaced the frozen meter and customers are back on the Booster Pump station.

**Beyond Moratorium** – Information/Discussion Item – **Commissioner Zuckerman** explained to the audience about the Board’s decision to widely publish the meeting concerning lifting the moratorium. The Board is wanting public input. **Commissioner Weller** presented a slide show explaining the background of the beginning of the moratorium in 1996 and how new water units became available allowing the district to work towards lifting the moratorium.

The Board explained one idea on how it might work: Once a year, depending on how many water units become available, there would be an allocation event based on the process detailed in the district’s Master Resolution. The Board asked the audience for input on the allocation

process. Suggestions included holding an auction, rather than charging a flat fee. Another suggestion was allowing people to stay on a list from year to year, rather than having to sign up for the next lottery. Another suggestion was a “use it or lose it” process. If the water unit wasn’t used within a certain time line, it goes back into the lottery bucket. Prioritizing affordable housing was also discussed but **Commissioner Zuckerman** informed the audience that the District is likely unable to favor one use over another because of the District's duty to serve all customers equally. The board hopes to finalize the allocation process and rules at the February board meeting.

Leslie Brown, working for the Vashon Beachcomber raised questions about the arsenic levels known to be in the Beall Well and if issuing more water units would put more arsenic in the system. The Board and Operator in Charge Wahanik explained that in an emergency such as a huge fire, Beall Well could be brought into production. Diluted water from Beall Creek would be blended with the well water, keeping the arsenic levels below the legal maximum. Since the Beall Well was drilled, there has been no emergency.

**Financial Report – General Manager Martinak** said the district could be \$85,000 in the deficit next year due cost of living increases and his projection on the loan payment. He still is continuing with projections once he has a more accurate figure for the loan payment.

**Commissioner Zuckerman** commented that he is unprepared to make a motion for a rate adjustment until more information is provided to enable the board to make that call.

#### **New Business and/or Action Items:**

- CWA Review for Vashon Pharmacy: The property owners submitted an application for a Certificate of Water Availability to add space to the existing building & 3 rooftop apartments – their water use calculations are at 667 gallons a day. **Commissioner Weller** noted that this project fits with the district’s new multi-family commercial service connection policy for the purposes of calculating usage rates. **Commissioner Weller** made a Motion to approve the CWA application as submitted; **Commissioner Pfohman** seconded. Motion carried.
- Labor negotiations – Information item – **General Manager Martinak** reported that not much has happened since the last meeting. Short recap: union reps and staff have produced their proposals, we have countered, next meeting scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>. He’s also meeting with our new labor attorney on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Next Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, February the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

There being no further business to come before the board, **Commissioner Pfohman** made a Motion to conclude the meeting at 8:11 PM; **Commissioner Weller** seconded. Motion carried.