

REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETING
Of The
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Of
DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
May 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Deschutes Valley Water District was called to order by Board Member Tom Jaca (TJ) at 7:00 P.M. Other commissioners present were Dana Oppenlander (DO) and Jo Guiney (JoG). Public present was Will Ibershof from the City of Madras and Scott Surgeon.

TJ asked for public comment. Scott Surgeon stated his interest in being on the board.

JoG moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as presented. Seconded by DO. Motion carried.

City of Madras was added to the agenda. Joel Gehrett (JG) reminded the board that the City of Madras is interested in the district taking over the cities water system. He received financial records from the City. With their water consumption of 27 million cubic feet annually for approximately 1000 meters, this would generate an estimated annual revenue increase for DVWD of \$375,000. The district would have to hire at least one more serviceman and install antennas for each meter. The cost of a new employee would be about \$100,000 per year and the antennas would cost about \$150,000 to \$200,000 which includes installation. JoG said the district is still interested in receiving more information. Will Ibershof is taking this information to his commission. They are at least 6 months away from deciding if they want DVWD to take over their water system.

TJ asked JG about an improvement plan from the city and what the cost going forward would be to replace pipelines. JoG would like a timeline of expenses, cost of capital improvements. DO asked how many hours a month a serviceman would be fixing leaks and repairing the system.

JG said the district would need to change from a distribution level 2 to a level 3 because of the increased meters. The City of Madras has certified water rights of roughly 750 gallons per minute that could be transferred to the district.

Scott Surgeon asked about franchise fees. After discussion, JoG said we need to be exempt from franchise fees and that it would need to be in writing.

JG gave the following report:

- Umpqua bank accounts need to be closed by a board member. DO and TJ offered to go close the accounts.
- Hired a new laborer, Nathaniel Napyer.
- Kurt Schonnek and Shane Bush are retiring the end of May. Kurt's retirement lunch is May 20th and Shane's retirement lunch is May 29th.
- Kelly West will be taking over for Kurt Schonnek as foreman.
- District is hiring a couple of summer helpers.
- Considering hiring engineering firm, WSC, to work on ODOT project to relocate 20" pipeline at NW 1st St and NW B St in Madras.

- Looking to work with Jeff McCullen who contracts GIS work for the County and the City and helping Shawn Chapman with GIS support, asking for a scope of work with a monthly retainer fee and not to exceed.

DO asked about the SCADA system. JG has talked with several companies. They would contract for 5 years to be paid annually about \$20,000 per year.

Executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660, was called to order at 7:54 P.M.

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:02 P.M.

DO moved to accept the financial statements, pay the Hydro and General Fund bills as presented and approve next month's payroll obligations. Seconded by JoG. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Secretary, Dana Oppenlander