

**REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETING**  
Of The  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Of  
**DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**  
December 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Deschutes Valley Water District was called to order by Chairman Kathy Marston (KM) at 7:00 P.M. Other commissioners present were Jo Guiney (JoG), Tom Jaca (TJ), Lee Baggett (LB) and Dana Oppenlander (DO). Guests present were Will Ibershof and Gabriel Soliz from the City of Madras.

KM asked for public comment. None at this time.

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

Joel Gehrett (JG) met with Will Ibershof from the City of Madras last week. The City is asking if the District would take over their water system. The City has roughly 1,000 customers and generates one million dollars in revenue per year. An issue JG has is the City's infrastructure and the need to upgrade their meters which would cost about \$500,000. JG feels a feasibility study is essential that would show the following:

- If it would be a burden on existing District customers.
- The cost to improve the City's infrastructure.
- How much demand would there be for customer service and service work.

Will has no interest in making money on this deal and the City would pay for the feasibility study. Discussion followed. The Board agreed on the feasibility study.

JG gave the following report to the board:

- Invited the board members to the company lunch on December 20<sup>th</sup> and mentioned the employees are putting a gift basket together for Gabriel and family.
- The District had a surprise OSHA inspection. They found a couple of minor issues.
- 50% of District customers are paying by credit card or ACH and 31% are signed up for paperless billing.
- Employee's had confined space training last week.
- There was an issue with vacation planning at Opal Springs.
- Closing the office the week of Christmas.

DO moved to award District employee's a \$175.00 Christmas bonus. Seconded by LB. Motion carried.

JG informed the board that the employee's would like a different skid steer than the one approved of last month. Discussion followed. The purchase of a new skid steer will be moved to the next budget cycle.

Executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations was called to order at 8:23 P.M.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:39 P.M.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

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Secretary, Dana Oppenlander