

**WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 OF MIDLAND COUNTY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: MAY 17, 2023**

**Board Members Present:**

Todd Gentry, Edenville  
Terry Hall, Edenville  
Carl Hamann, Sanford  
Linzy Kreiner, Jerome  
Doug Kruger, Lee  
Heidi Pitt, Lee  
Dave Rothman, Hope  
Bonnie Whaley, Sanford  
Mike Wood, Jerome  
Kevin Wray, Lincoln

**Staff Present:**

Rowan Everleigh  
Nathan French

**Drafted:** May 17, 2023

**Approved:** 6/21/23

LOR  
KW

**Public:**

Identified self as "Good Citizen"

**Board Members Absent:**

Roger Crockett, Lincoln  
Rita Goul, Hope

**MEETING LOCATION:** Jerome township Hall

**CALL TO ORDER:** Wray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND ROLL CALL:** Pledge performed. 10 members in attendance, a quorum.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Whaley, second by Pitt, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting. Motion approved by voice vote.

**OPERATIONAL BILLS:** Moved by Kreiner, second by Wood, to approve WD#1 bills totaling \$85,696.98, checks 13146, 13156-13158, 13160-13165, 13175-13184, plus 5 EFTs. Motion approved by roll call vote, 10/0.

Moved by Kreiner, second by Hamann, to approve payroll totaling \$50,499.11, checks 13147-13155, 13159, 13166-13174 plus 6 EFTs. Motion approved by roll call vote, 10/0.

Moved by Kreiner, second by Hamann, to approve local unit fee payments totaling \$12,050.00, checks 1476-1479.

Moved by Kreiner, second by Hamann, to approve reimbursement of French Delta College tuition costs after successful completion of the class. Motion approved by roll call vote, 10/0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**STAFF REPORTS:** Everleigh- 5,076 bills sent out for a total of \$367,726.71. Audit report is set for June Board meeting. Our credit card processor had a major problem that messed up every credit card payment made to WD#1 on Sunday. It cost approximately 2 full staff days to correct records at our end.

French- 3 seasonal employees on the job, recently finished flushing hydrants, now beginning hydrant maintenance. 170 stakeouts. Other seasonal work includes water turn-ons. 4 permits sold. Flood-damaged meter replacements are underway, expect will be paid for by FEMA.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** Wray- Board member Crockett is out of the hospital, now in rehab in Saginaw. Rate increase discussion needed for the June Board meeting, to deal with the \$0.16/1000 gallon bulk water cost increase. B&F to prepare a response.

**Operations and maintenance:** Hall- Met last Thursday. We received 98 water meters for replacements. The bulk water station in Edenville is nearing readiness for installation of the dispensing apparatus. Discussion of replacing one of the vans, which is 10 years old but has low miles. New truck will be purpose-built to better serve WD#1 field staff needs, likely cost \$43K, but must wait for 2024 prices. Old van value estimated at \$23K. Moved by Hall, second by Hamann, to approve buying a new truck and selling or trading in the old one. Motion approved by roll call vote, 10/0.

New part-time seasonal hire starts June 13, working 20 hours/week.

**Business and Finance:** Kreiner reported that the Committee met May 16. Noted that Michigan CLASS rates are now 5.18% on our deposits.

**Policy:** Whaley- Proposed changing Good Friday, Christmas Eve and New Years Eve from half-day paid leave for full time employees to full-day paid leave. Discussion that this policy change would be consistent with other local government offices. Policy would only apply to full time employees. Moved by Whaley, second by Kreiner to approve. Motion approved by roll call vote, 10/0. Proposed changing Paid Time Off increments to 15 minute intervals. After discussion, Whaley moved for approval, second by Gentry. Motion approved by roll call vote, 9/1. There was discussion of marijuana testing policy. WD#1 reserves the right to prohibit alcohol or drugs on the property or employees who show up for work under the influence of either. It was suggested that Whaley contact BHS, the District's insurance agent to understand what our existing policies have to say about alcohol or drug use by our employees.

**Human Resources:** Wray- discussion about raising the minimum wage for seasonal help to \$14/hour. This appears to be the common local rate ~~required~~ <sup>required</sup> to fill seasonal jobs. Moved by Wray, second by Hamann to approve the pay change. Motion approved by roll call vote, 9/0 with Wood abstaining.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Moved by Wray, second by Wood to close the meeting and excuse staff after public comments. Motion approved by voice vote.

**OTHER ITEMS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** "Good Citizen" had questions about the new bulk water filling station in Edenville. Specifically asked if the bulk water would be metered and paid for by users, answer was yes. Then asked if the sale of bulk water would pay for the cost of installing the station, answer was that this was

intended to deal with a problem at the north end of the water system. Due to low usage rates in warm months, WD#1 had been flushing large volumes of water to keep chlorine levels in the safe range. Rather than throwing all the flushed water away, the bulk water station would allow the District to recover the cost of some of this lost water and reduce staff time spent flushing lines. Then asked if there would be another bulk water station in the system, answer was that there is not such a plan at this time as no need has been established. "Good Citizen" seemed satisfied with these answers.

Staff was excused from the meeting and "Good Citizen" chose to leave.

Wray talked about the approaching date of Ron Rose's employment, currently expected in mid-June. Ron talked to Wray about options to help with the cost of health insurance until he qualifies for Medicare. During discussion, Wray provided data that Rose needed to have 24 hours/month work as a consultant at a rate of \$60/hour as a consultant to cover the cost of insurance at the rate the District pays. The value of keeping Rose as a consultant would be continued access to his experience which he is still transferring to the staff.

It was moved by Wray, second by Wood, to take the meeting out of closed session. Motion approved by voice vote.

It was moved by Hall, second by Wood, to retain Rose as a consultant for 24 hours/month for 9 months after Rose's retirement. Motion approved by roll call vote, 8/2.

ADJOURN Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

---

2. David Rother  
Wray