Farwell Kensington Sanitary District Minutes

November 14, 2024

Members Present: Pryce Score, Todd Eystad, and Randy Nessman

Members Absent: Larry Husfeldt, Karin Anderson

Guests:

The monthly meeting for the Farwell Kensington Sanitary District was held on November 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center Council room.

**Motion (Eystad/Nessman) to approve the agenda. MCU**

**Motion (Nessman/Eystad) to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024, meeting. MCU**

**Motion (Eystad/Nessman) to approve the financial report and to pay claims 941 through 948 listed on the claims list. MCU**

Mike Moen- People Service Inc.: Mike was not present; however, a copy of his report was handed out to the Board. The monthly Fluoride Report was completed and sent to the state. The injection line from the potassium permanganate was pulled and cleaned. The hydrants were flushed with one problem to report. The hydrant on the corner of Central Avenue S and Douglas does not drain on its own after use. The weep holes are plugged. I pumped out the cylinder to avoid winter freeze up. A “Drain after use” tag should be purchased for this hydrant. The question was raised if Mike is using the diverter when he flushes hydrants. There is a hole in the grass at the end of Tower Street that is slowing growing and wondering if it’s from flushing hydrants. The quarterly fluoride and Bac-T tests were collected and sent in. A ground water leak was discovered on the corner of Central Avenue South and HWY 55 by the photography studio. An emergency dig was scheduled with Sandstead Excavating on Thursday, October 24th. The leak was found on the supply line before the curb stop. There was a second curb stop next to it, both risers were bad and were replaced. Everything is back online and working as it should.

Monthly DMR was completed and sent into the state and work orders were completed. A sinkhole was discovered behind the school by the playground. It was determined that it was a drain line from the school roof that had collapsed. The force main behind the catholic church was pumped out. The air relief valve appears to be working as it should. Fall discharge at the ponds was completed.

Jerri Gunvalson requested from the board and was denied late fee forgiveness for the month of October for her 2 Farwell accounts 78 & 34 and her 2 Kensington accounts 396 & 540. The late fees for all 4 accounts totaled $ 30.63.

**Motion (Nessman/Eystad) to approve the 3-year contract for Cummins Sales and Service for Generator maintenance at the water plant in the amount of $3,927.04. MCU**

**Motion (Nessman/Eystad) to approve Resolution 2024-11 authorizing the district Secretary/Treasurer to assess past due utility accounts for property taxes payable in 2025. MCU**

The board discussed the purchase of a new meter reading tablet. The tablet we got with the system is no longer able to be used because our READy software (meter reading software) will not work on a device that has an Android version under 11, and ours is an Android version 9. A quote for a new tablet was received from DSG in the amount of $ 595.00 with set up, however we can order that same tablet ourselves from Amazon for $491.36 and Jennifer can do the set up. Jennifer will do some research on other tablets to purchase.

**Motion (Eystad/Nessman) to approve the purchase of a new meter reader tablet in the amount of $600.00 or under. MCU**

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a couple of 8’ traffic barricades. The board discussed purchasing 2 for now and speaking to the City of Kensington to see if they would have any need to purchase a couple as well and we could share them as needed. Jennifer will check with the city council.

**Motion (Nessman/Eystad) to approve the purchase of 2 - 8’ traffic barricades in the amount of $ 185.00 each plus potential shipping. MCU**

The board held further discussion on the homes in Farwell across from the lift station that has a sewer smell. The one homeowner said she did have a plumber out to double check her sewer venting to make sure that was not the issue. Mike has spoken to MN Rural Water, and they can perform a smoke test to see if they can determine any obvious issues. The ground must be dry and have no snow cover to perform the test accurately. Wet or snow-covered ground will prevent the smoke from coming up and making us aware of potential issues with the sewer lines themselves. We also discussed the possibility of smoke testing Kensington to help determine potential issues for our I & I plan. MN Rural Water can assist us with this and the only thing they charge for to do this service is the smoke. This is something we can investigate in the spring/summer of 2025.

A brief discussion was held regarding the inflow and infiltration reduction ordinance, the board would like more time to review the ordinance for discussion.

Pryce discussed a potential increase in wages for the Secretary/Treasurer, he spoke with Mayor Schecker, and they would like to propose an increase of $1.50 per hour. This increase will help get her a little closer to what other cities are paying for this position.

**Motion (Nessman/Eystad) to approve a $1.50 per hour increase for the Secretary/Treasurer position from $22.00 to $ 23.50 effective January 1, 2025.**

Past due accounts were reviewed, and letters will be sent out.

**Motion (Eystad/Nessman) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. MCU**

Next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Jennifer Kangas, Pryce Score

Secretary/Treasurer Board Chairman