

High Valley Water Company  
Meeting Minutes for March 26th, 2024

Board Members Present: Scott Houston, Geneo Young, Dave Maurer, Bob Martin, Meghan Newsome

Staff Members Present: Andy Oyler (Jimmy Oyler present since Andy is on vacation), Justin Rametta  
Sunrise Engineering: ~~Derek Johnson~~ and Earth Services: ~~Chase Adams and Kolt Way~~

Meeting Opened at 7:03 PM by Justin Rametta

Minutes from February 27th, 2024 meeting read and approved

Financial statements from February 2024 reviewed and approved.

We opened the meeting by formally voting in Bob Martin as a permanent member of the board.

We then jumped right into discussing the infrastructure project. Justin let the board know that we have formally notified the bond company about the issues we've been having with the project and requested their assistance in getting things back on track. The bond company and Earth Services were formally sent a letter on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We then had a conference call on March 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss subcontractor payments and a follow up site visit on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to review issues with the project in person. In response to our letter Earth Services, and their parent company UBA, is promising they will step up and pay their subcontractors and remedy the issues with the project themselves.

Justin let everyone know that Summit County Engineering Department has sent HVWC a letter rejecting the road work that was completed last year and requesting that work be repaired. The county believes that there was insufficient compaction in the backfill process and incorrect machinery used to prep the subgrade before paving the road. This has led to areas of the road sinking and settling and asphalt that is wavy instead of smooth. This letter was given to Earth Services and the main topic of conversation during our March 22<sup>nd</sup> field meeting.

The question was asked how we got this far along in the project without anyone noticing the issues and who is responsible...We discussed the fact that while Earth Services is ultimately responsible for the execution of the project, Sunrise Engineering is also partly to blame for not catching these issues sooner and bringing them to everyone's attention at the time. We acknowledge the fact that we are on our third project manager from Sunrise and feel like the first two were not paying attention to things on our project the way they should have. We are very happy to have Derek Johnson as our project manager now and feel like we are in good hands going forward.

We were asked if we can make announcements to the community before commencing work this year to let the neighborhood know when to expect their street to be worked on and plan for the disruption as best they can. We agreed that sending out blast notification emails to the neighborhood was a good idea and will plan to do that if and when we have a timeline and schedule from the contractor.

We discussed the lack of compliance with the American Iron and Steel requirements. We were asked if those parts were going to be removed and replaced or not. We don't know exactly how that will play out. We feel like the parts that were used are of good quality and safe for water lines, they just don't meet the requirements of the funding for the project. However pulling them out and replacing them now could put the line in more jeopardy than leaving them installed and letting the State ding the contractor for lack of compliance in the past, and enforce compliance going forward.

The question was asked if we should be concerned with the quality of the water in new pipes being used. We do not have any reason to believe there is anything wrong with the lines on Highland and Fairview currently being used. They were tested and passed off by the County Health Department and we continue to have random draw samples taken and tested by the Health Department monthly.

It was reiterated that Sunrise Engineering really needs to do a better job of managing this project going forward and be responsible for quality control. They are the only ones qualified to protect our interests and guarantee the quality of the work being performed.

Justin explained that Root Insurance did reimburse High Valley for the damaged fire hydrant on Highland Drive.

No progress has been made in the past month on the lead and copper service line inventory process.

We discussed Verizon's proposal again. Verizon is still interested in our site but we have paused negotiations with them until we can fully vet the feasibility of building an accessory structure next to the tank. Justin and Bea have been too busy dealing with the mess of the infrastructure project to focus on pursuing things with Verizon.

Justin told the board that UBB has installed their power consumption monitoring device on their tank equipment so we can track their usage throughout the year and get reimbursed at the end of the year.

Justin announced deviating from the original plan to use MuniBilling for our new billing software needs. Instead we will use Pelorus Methods for the billing software and use Xpress Billpay for the invoices and payment collections. Using these two smaller Utah based companies will come with a cost savings over MuniBilling and does not require a long term contract.

We discussed the ability to also monitor your water usage and get leak notification emails using the new AMI meters once installed.

The question was asked what the long term plan for our water company was with regards to maintaining our independence or joining one of the larger neighboring systems. Currently our goal is to upgrade the entirety of our system so that we can continue to operate independently into the future. We feel like the new main line distribution system combined with AMI meters and online billing will bring our water company into the modern era and allow us to maintain our independence into the future.

We finished the meeting by Geneo pointing out that Mountain Regional and Summit Water both increased their rates by about 30% at the beginning of the year. While we are now paying that 30% increase in our water cost to them, we have decided NOT to raise our rates yet and see if we can continue to make things work with the rate structure we have in place now. If things don't work out we can always change that in the future, but currently that is not something being considered.

Next monthly board meeting is on April 23rd, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 8:40