

MANAGERS UPDATE

Joe DeCerbo

April 6, 2022

FASD CONFERENCE: Please let us know at the Board meeting if you will be attending the Conference. Those of you who have attended know the value of this Conference and its relevance to your role and the administration of the district. It would be great to have everyone attend. The district pays for your registration and lodging and is an approved budget item. Diane handles the registration; we each make our own hotel reservations and submit an expense report afterwards.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE: Field project chart of work is attached to the Board packets. All water projects being funded thru SRF are moving forward.

SURPLUS LAND: Closing took place March 25th.

PICKELBALL COURTS: Developing new RFP for 4 courts without lighting to see what the cost will be. Funding option to be discussed at meeting.

FIRE/EMS STATION: Included in the budget that is now with the Governor. Hope to have a final update for our meeting. The amount is \$3 million.

BOARD ELECTION: After speaking with the Supervisor of Elections and reviewing our Charter, if no one files for Seat #4 or Seat #5 the Board has the power to appoint with a minimum of three elected Supervisor's voting. A notice appeared in the March 29th News Sun announcing the two seats.

CENTURY LINK: We have been working with Mark Chard for nearly three years to secure fiber, to no avail. He and VP Patricia Wallace spoke to me about their renewed interest in putting high speed fiber optic in Spring Lake if they could secure an exclusive marketing agreement with our Board. I took it upon myself to tell them what they could do with that option. We may not hear from them again!

COMCAST: Have had several conversations with Derek Cooper, who attended our last Board meeting. Everything is on schedule to begin connections this summer. He will be doing an article for the June Breeze on timetables, processes, and costs. To this point he has followed thru on everything he committed to.

UTILITY DATA: I was curious about our past rate increases and I regret I did not give this to you for the public hearing. Water base fee was \$20 in 2019 and was increased to \$27 for 2020 thru March of 2021 at \$27. The new rate is \$31.05.

Wastewater was \$46.60 from 2016 thru 2018 and \$74.60 for 2019. The rate was held at \$90 from 2020 thru March 2022. The new rate is \$103.50

BUDGET: At the end of March, we should be at 50% of budgeted expense. As you will see from the financials, the General Fund is at 42.1%. Even with the two vacancies in Field that we will be filling, we are in excellent shape.

NEW STATE STATUTE: All units of government must now project their stormwater and wastewater plans for the next 20 years. The forms and data that must be collected and completed are very substantial, and several months ago the Board approved additional engineering funds to do the study. I have started to work on the project that is due to the State by June 30, 2022. I have had discussions with Gene Schriener, and while I can do about 75% of this with the help of Clay, Israel, and FRWA data, he will have to complete the remaining work and certify it. Given what other entities are budgeting for this, we will save over \$25,000 by being able to do so much of the work ourselves.

WASTEWATER PERMIT UPDATE: This is a DEP requirement that must be completed by October. CAS gave us a bid of just under \$20,000 to complete. Clay is working on it himself and will involve FRWA at a fraction of the cost. I was very disappointed that CAS didn't offer to do this at no charge, given the work that they have done, and are doing, for us. This was out of Gene's control due to his retirement in June from CAS, and the cost was sent by owner Steve Smith.

E-MAIL LISTS/THE BREEZE: As a result of the updated customer profile form that was in The Breeze, we have added a substantial number of new e-mail addresses. Our total mailing for general updates, wastewater customers, and Pinedale Estates totals 1,440 as of March 31. Cindy is monitoring people who come to the drive thru and into the office to ensure we have their updated information. The form is also in the welcome packets. This number of subscribers gives us the opportunity to do a smaller, condensed electronic version of The Breeze monthly and save a substantial amount of money. We always must have a June edition because of the State mandated water report. It can be an expanded issue and serve as an Annual Report type of publication. We will discuss further during the budget process.