

**Worden/Ballantine Water & Sewer District**  
**Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting**  
**June 24, 2021**

**Call to order/roll call:** Dan Ewen, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7pm on June 24, 2021; board members attending: Dan Ewen (via phone), Judy Becker, Marc Larson, Scott Schelm, and Gary Fredericks; employees present: Dan Krum, Joey Oltrogge, Sandy Kust; Engineer present: Chad Hanson, Great West Engineering; public present: Katrina McNiven, Yellowstone County News, and Kim Mueller

**ARPA funds:** Chad Hanson, Great West Engineering attended the meeting to give an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Infrastructure Funding Opportunities that was addressed at the MT Rural Water Conference that Dan Krum and Gary Fredericks also attended.

There are 3 types of funding in the Infrastructure Bill totaling \$7 trillion, of which \$1.7 billion for Montana and divided between counties.

**Bucket 1**

Treasury Funds: Total of \$339 Million to Montana and \$31,2 million awarded to Yellowstone County for water, sewer, broadband, and COVID relief. This money would come directly from the Yellowstone County and there is not a match it would all be in the form of a direct allocation from Yellowstone County and the District would have to set up a meeting with the Yellowstone County Commissioners and ask for the money and hopefully get it;

**Bucket 2**

Gas Tax Allocation (HB 632) which approved \$462 million into water & sewer projects, all successful Treasure State Endowment Programs grants as well as Department of Natural Resources & Conservation grants will come out of bucket 2. Yellowstone County was awarded \$2.8 million which has to be spent of water & wastewater projects. This is also a direct allocation from Yellowstone County with a 1:1 match or 25% of Local Recovery Funds and the District would have to set up a meeting with the Yellowstone County Commissioners and ask for the money and hopefully get it. Since this would be an extension of the current project the District already has a match of \$4.8 million and would be able to document the affordability, need, safety for the project;

**Bucket 3**

State of Montana Competitive Grant Program which has approximately \$177-\$200 million. The District would have to fill out an application to the MT Department of Commerce for this grant which is competitive and application are due July 15, 2021. While a match is not required,

projects that document matching funds will rank higher. Also, projects that make a case for health and safety as well as benefit Montana's natural resources will also rank higher.

Chad stated instead of the District having a \$4.8 million dollar project, the District could have a \$13 or \$14 million dollar project. Chad provided a map showing phase 4 and 5 of the proposed project which is all distribution lines, a map showing the proposed project is on file with the District records.

Gary Fredericks has visited with the Commissioners and they told him to apply for funds, Gary will set up a meeting with Commissioners to review the proposed project and give an estimate for the cost of phase 4 & 5 of the project. Chad Hanson estimated phase 4 & 5 would be approximately \$9 million.

Chad stated the county give all the money needed for phase 4 & 5 or the District may have to apply for the competitive grant. Gary stated the District needs to start at the County level first.

Motion by Judy Becker to have Gary Fredericks set up a meeting with the commissioners to seek an estimated \$9 million to complete phase 4 & 5 of the water project; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marc Larson, motion carried unanimously

**Trask Well Agreement:** Dan Ewen visited with Mark Trask about a potential well site on his property. Mark Trask asked for a perpetual easement at \$20,000. Motion by Gary Fredericks to move forward with the well agreement for \$20,000 contingent upon having a usable production well, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marc Larson, motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm