**HYDESVILLE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**June 10, 2025, at 6 pm**

**Location: Hydesville County Water District**

**3455 Hwy 36, Hydesville, CA 95547**

**707-768-3000**

***CALL TO ORDER***

The meeting was called to order: Randall Stone at 6:01 pm. Directors present: Dave Jackson, Russell Holmgren, Randall Stone, Ron Olsen, Bill Christen Director Staff present: Megan Lowe, Austin Evans

**Public Comment**

None

**1. Consent Agenda**

2.1 Approve Board minutes of May 13, 2025

2.2 Approve Payment of Bills June

The date on the top of the minutes is incorrect and Megan will fix that before the minutes get posted.

Dave asked about the paychecks for Tim and Jordan, how many hours they both worked and how long the pay period for them was.

Russell asked about the Audit payment, not sure what the amount is for as the invoice does not show what we are being billed for, no hours . Just stated the 2nd interim billing for Audit for 2023-2024

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve the consent agenda/bills.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

**3. Old Business.**

3.1 SHN Update

June 16th, Fisch will be on the site to drill for the new test well. The rig is up and going so we are set for this date to get the drilling done.

3.2 USDA/CRWA Funding

Megan and Austin had another meeting with USDA representatives to go over the options that were sent for new potential grants that could work. Megan had gone over all the requirements that each grant required, and the district doesn’t qualify for any of them. Abel stepped in and may have said that he knows some other things we may qualify for. The only good side to this is that the original grant for the wells was supposed to go to the main line replacement, and when the test well is complete, we will file a construction grant for the wells, and it will include the main line replacement. It will just be a longer wait to get it fixed. The only other option we might have is to look into split funding, but we would need to find another agency besides the USDA to fund some of this replacement, then the USDA will step in and help with finishing grant money for the project. Megan will start looking into this option and see what she can find.

3.3 2025-2026 Budget

Megan put all three sections in the budget, the 2024-2025 budget, the actual numbers that we have used for the 2024-2025 numbers and the potential budget for 2025-2026. Austin is looking to spend another $50,000 in the 2024-2025 budget; it was in the budget to spend this year. Just using more of what we have as income showing for this year. This project has been a long time coming and trying to get completed since 2021. Even spending this amount will still leave us in the green for the year. The new 2025-2026 budget does include a larger amount to finish the radios and meters; along with an increase in relief operator salary for extra hours to be used to help Austin complete the radios and meters.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Bill Christen) to approve the 2025-2026 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

3.4 Cell Tower Lease

Austin reached out to the guy who is representing the company, the tower is for version. The company will make and maintain the gravel road to the tower. He suggests asking for an additional $250.00 a month making the payment to the district $1250.00 a month. Since this is a 50-year lease the district can ask for a 5% increase every 5 years. An additional thought is to ask for $100.00 every month every time a new carrier gets added to the tower. The $2000.00 is just to hold the rights to the land for the 24 months, $1000.00 every month after that to continue to hold the rights. Rent for the land begins the moment that the company breaks ground, not when the tower is up and running.

Once we get more information the district will present it on the agenda to make the public aware of what the district is looking to add to Hydesville.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve the letter of intent to begin negotiations for the cell tower lease.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

3.5 CPA’s

Dave had reached out to Dan and had a private conversation to ask about the billing and questions that are being asked of Austin and Megan. The board still wants to continue to look for a new CPA and books auditor. Megan has reached out to a couple CPA’s and no one is taking on Audits. Dave will reach out to a few that he knows and reach out to Keith for some insight.

**4. New Business**

4.1 New Insurance Policies

The district received the new Workers Comp Insurance and the Water District Insurance. Workers’ comp went down, and water insurance went up about 400.00. Not bad numbers with what is happening in California.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve the new insurance policies for 2025-2026.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

4.2 Electrical Work Bids

Three electrical work bids came in, two are close and the other is way too expensive. Owsley is local here in fortuna and the board has said they have heard good things about their work. The board has talked about adding an outlet to the quote for outside of the building, for Christmas lights.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve Owsley Quote for the Electrical.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

4.3 2 Brothers Cathodic Protection

It is the yearly checks for the tanks to make sure that all is running correctly. It is the same price as it was last year and is a requirement that has to be completed every year. This company has been the one to do the service for at least the last 5 years.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Bill Christen, Ron Olsen) to approve 2 Brothers Cathodic Protection.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

4.4 Aquametric Meters & Radios

Austin found a Sensus SR2 dealer Aquametric, however these are being phased out and the newer model that is coming out is i-Pearl. There will be no more moving components that can get gummed up, it’s now a laser with the new model. The new ones have a 20-year warranty on them and eventually will need to switch to them as the SR2 is no longer being made. This company that Austin has been in contact with can also provide radios for the meters, which was part of the meter upgrade budget. In the invoice Austin has provided, he would like to spend the $15,000.00 that was allocated in the 2024-2025 budget on meters and radios, plus another 30,000.00 to finish getting the meters. Now that the budget had been approved for the $60,000.00 budgeted for the meter upgrade project, order the rest of the radios after the new fiscal year begins. Both invoices provided show all that is needed to finish upgrading the system for meters and radios, it also includes all the training, software and programming that is needed. This company has them in stock in California. The total would be roughly about $115,000 dollars to finish out the system, with this amount being split over 2 fiscal years.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve the quotes for Meters and Radios.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

4.5 Director Compensation

Dave wanted to put this on the agenda as he has been on the Board 25 years, and the compensation has stayed the same. He also is suggesting that the President and Vice president get a larger stipend as it requires more time from them to be on the board handling situations of the district. The president would get $100.00, Vice Chair 75.00, and the rest of the members would stay at $50.00.He also suggests that instead of giving a stipend, look into getting free water for the board members. It seems roughly about the same as what the district is paying the board for the base rate of the district, and any overage of the base rate would be paid by the board member. Randall does not want to have higher compensation than any of the other board members. Bill agrees that since he is the vice chair he doesn’t want to get paid more than any other board member. A suggestion was made of $80.00 for all board members instead of $50.00. The board wants Megan to look into what the Board policy states and will revisit this matter at another time

**5. County Planning Dept Project Referrals** – Vote to approve applications received to date.

5.1 3968 Highway 36

The new owner of the property tore down the old mobile home that was on the property and is just wanting to replace it with a new one.

A MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Ron Olsen) to approve the County Planning Referral.

MOTION CARRIED (5, 0)

**6. High Bill Adjustments**- Vote to approve applications received to date:

NONE

7. **Secretary’s Report**

Megan sent out 19 shut off mail notices and 8 door hangers go out tomorrow. Printed and sent out 165 2nd notice letters and surveys for the cross-connection surveys. Which is a good number considering we sent out 436 in the beginning of January. Megan had a deposit to return to a tenant, and she is wanting to split the deposit to pay the bill of $110.25 out of the $200.00 deposit and send her the rest in the mail. The board agrees that this is ok to do, and Megan will print the checks and have them come in and sign.

Had a lot of customers call in with questions about billing. No leaks just an unusual amount of high usage, with simple things of leaving hoses on, running toilets, or a gardener running over a hose and not saying anything.

Since this account has been behind for over a year, they will need to pay the amount that is fully due to keep from shutting them off. They have made a payment of $200.00, and the amount needed is $160.53. The board says that they need to pay the full amount to not be shut off regardless. Well

**8. Manager’s Report**

Well number 2 had a huge hit, not sure why or how it was able to get such a high hit. Something had to of got into the well, but Austin is not sure of how. Up 15,000 gallons of water per day, which is normal for this time of the year.

Scouted out the next 3 fire hydrants that are going to be replaced this coming fiscal year, 3581 Ast, 3215 Willis and 3390 Diana. Fixed the leaky wharf hydrant on Quail, we had it replaced but reused the head and Austin had to take it back off and clean it really good again put it back together and repainted it.

Wendy Point will be out sometime this next month to do fencing at the tank site. Fisch, Watson and Rich well drilling all do the camera that was mentioned to see what our old casings look like. However, to do this the well will need to be shut down for 2 days, and that is not something the board wants to do during this time of the year. To not have to shut down the well and pull the pump we can only camera down to 35ft, board agrees not to pull pumps and look into getting quotes for just doing the first 35feet.

Ford is not willing to pay for the entire time that we had a rental truck, they only pay $40.00 a day for 5 days per ticket. Our overall bill is around $3700.00 and with Fords rules of what they pay out we would only get about $600.00 back. Going forward, making sure that we have ford actually file for the rental truck instead of the district going and renting it on our own. The board says go ahead and turn all the information to get the $600.00 back from Ford.

**9. Board Member Comments**

Randall is asking that Austin asks the Jordan and Tim the relief operators to send copies of their water licenses to Austin so that they may be hung on the wall in the office.

**10. Items for Future Agenda**

**11. Adjournment**

MOTION WAS MADE (Dave Jackson, Bill Christen) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED (5,0)

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Megan Lowe/Board Secretary*