

ASPEN SPRINGS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
PO Box 488
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A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Aspen Springs Metropolitan District was convened on May 09th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District building located on Metro Drive in Unit 5 Aspen Springs Subdivision. Elected board members Ken Barber (Chair), Pam Wallis, Kelly Evans, Jame Venturini, and appointees Eric Davidson & Chris deVries were in attendance, as was employee Carey Brown. Thirteen property owners attended.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 17:57 by Ken Barber

NOTE: The order of agenda items were changed to facilitate the early exit of those who did not need nor desire to attend the entire meeting.

Reading & approval of previous Minutes

April’s minutes were approved – **Motion**: Jame, 2nd: Pam, Passed unanimous

Treasurer's Report

- Jame presented last month’s financial data:

April	2023		
Total Cash Assets: \$450,718		Total Assets: \$2,264,200	
	MTD (\$)	YTD (\$)	% of Budget
Total Income	40,674	176,598	38
Property tax income	126,805		45.46
Water Depot Income	5,004		20.02
HUTF income	40,680		28.05
Total Expenses	26,698	107,747	25
Primary/Major monthly expenses:	First Bankcard	\$2,282.89	
	Brennan Oil	\$2,081.93	
	Trinity Land Consultants	\$2,064.50	

Motion to approve April’s Treasurer’s Report: Eric, 2nd: Pam, Passed unanimous

- Kelly provided a copy of the sales tax exemption to give to vendors
- The Board and the attending property owners collectively thanked Jame Venturini for his service over the past eight years!

Park

- The group Sovereign Commons gave a summary of their clean-up efforts throughout Aspen Springs
 - A team cleaned up along Indian Land Road and property owners were encouraged to clean up their roads as well
 - A total of 11 Roll-away Dumpsters were collected!
 - The band helped relieve the waiting time for unloading
 - The Board and the attending property owners collectively thanked the Sovereign Commons group for their efforts & successes!
- No word from Attorney regarding prairie dog complaint – Kelly to push

Well (Community Water Supply)

- Al Fister, San Juan Water Conservation District (SJWCD), Chuck (SJWCD), and Justin, Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District (PAWS-D), presented the proposal to apply for a grant – through CWCB or DOLA – to extend the water supply line from the Elk Park tank to a fill station at the corner of Hwy 160 & Hurt Drive.
 - ASMD would be the financial oversight (Financial Sponsor)
 - A 12” line would extend approx. 2 miles from Elk Park to the 5 acres gifted from CDOT to Archuleta County where a filling station would be installed. (Hwy160 & Hurt)
 - The siting of the pipeline is dependent upon the Engineering Survey to be completed early after the money is available (CDOT right-of-way, high pressure gas line, difficult terrain, etc.) after which time the total cost of the project can be accurately estimated.
 - The Trails filling station would be closed
 - The grant process takes about one year from start to funding
 - PAWS has a grant writer available to help work with the board and an engineer to write the grant.
- Questions / Observations:
 - Ken: We just spent over \$160k last year for a new well. During a drought, would the fill station be closed or metered?
 - Justin: No filling station has been shut down in the past (except for routine maintenance)
 - Ken: Can we get a clear email from PAWS outlining expectations, hopes, & plans? It needs to be clear on delineation of responsibilities between CDOT, PAWS, SJWCD, County Bus Stop, and ASMD’s expected contributions in both time & effort.
 - Al, Chuck, & Justin: Yes
 - Property Owner (PO): This financial obligation increases our Audit Liability, and will probably trigger the

- requirement for an annual audit (at least \$3-5k added cost)
- PO: We need an agreement or MOU committing that the station will not be shut down nor restricted/metered due to severe drought conditions unless the entire district is similarly affected.

Budget / Election – Oaths of Office

- Kelly Evans, Eric Davidson, and Chris deVries were sworn in as appointed members.
- If there is an open position, DOLA says we can appoint Pam for a term lasting until the next election.
 - **Ken: Motion to appoint Pam back onto the board as there are no other applicants for the position. 2nd: Eric, Passed Unanimous**
- Pam Wallis was sworn in as an appointed member for a two-year term
 - **Pam: Get confirmation of this from DOLA rep Chris Champagne.**

Property Owners' Concerns

- Mitch expressed concern regarding prairie dogs & noxious weeds. He spoke of Ethan Proud issuing citations via the County, and we invited him to come to the next meeting.
- Ethan Proud, Archuleta County Weed & Pest Department Supervisor gave a brief 10 minute verbal presentation regarding noxious weeds and prairie dogs/gophers. All the information presented can be found at the following site:
 - [Weed & Pest | Archuleta County, CO - Official Website](#)
- Questions / Observations:
 - The Bubonic Plague can wipe out an entire colony, but what keeps them from returning?
 - Ethan: There isn't much that can be done, but there are relocation services available.
 - What can be done to reduce the prevalence of noxious weeds?
 - Ethan: Musk thistles – cut root crown (~2” below surface); solarizing the soil with a black tarp or similar for at least 8 weeks; seeds can exist in the soil for 50 years; companies like Bee Happy Lands can do removal plus soil augmentation; extreme violators of weed ordinances are typically given a warning first before enforcement begins (30 days to comply, then \$100/day fine); citizens willing to organize a weed pull can contact Ethan for help.

Public Works

- Carey – No gravel available at the pit. Closest available is 50 miles south of Ignatio.
- Pam – Notices showing progress toward compliance (Cactus & Raccoon).
 - Errol (County) to notify the proper authorities for citing Raccoon address for septic-related violations
 - Cactus: trailers to be removed or permit application process started
- BOCC Resolution 2022-19 declares a new road off of Deer Trail called “Greenback Court” in order for owners there to have a physical address. The ‘road’ is approximately ¼ mile long, not up to county standards, and may encroach on Hwy 160 and/or High Pressure Gas Line.
 - Ken: Spoke with Ronnie Maes, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). There had been no communication between the County & actual property owners. Ken reminded Mr. Maes about County regulations stating that the county must provide a road to county standards to ASMD and extend the HUFT funding to accommodate the additional road length. Additionally, such motions must be read in public twice in order to take effect – to allow for response/protest. No further action is required.
 - **There is no available signed version of the County/ASMD agreement regarding road completion & transfer.** (2023 is the next “scheduled” date for updated signing)

Review SDA calendar

- No issues on the current calendar
- The board will determine how the Treasurer’s position will be filled at the June board meeting.

Old Business

- Old business issues have been addressed above.

New Business

- CSD Pool Admin contacted Eric regarding a Safety and Loss Prevention Grant. An allocation of \$1,070.02 from 2023 has been applied to our account, which stands at \$5,963.88. The fund can be applied up to 50% for safety and loss prevention purchases
 - Could be used for warning signs and camera at the filling station!
- Lot Consolidation Requests:
 - Unit 1, 95 Circle Drive: Approved
 - Unit 2, 357 Jackrabbit: Approved
 - Unit 5, 111 Corral Court: Approved
 - Unit 6, 74 Side Lap Court: Approved
 - Unit 4, 100 Nutria Lane: Approved

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 19:21 by Ken Barber