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PO Box 119  
Saint Marie, MT 59231

**North Valley County Water & Sewer District, Inc.  
P. O. Box 119, St. Marie, MT 59231  
Board Meeting #398  
6:00 p.m., Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Town Hall**

***Directors in attendance:*** Chris Helland, DeLee Hustad, Russell Kolpin, Carl Millerick (Call-In)

***Directors absent:*** Frank Piosos

***Others in attendance:*** Terry Kolpin, Brad Korang, Rob Esaias, Mary Jean Slaughter, Abagayle Korang, Jennie Mason, DeAnn Ketchum, Renee Tost

- A.*** The meeting was ***called to order*** by Chris Helland, at 6:00 p.m. and the ***public welcomed***.
- B.*** Helland noted four (4) Directors were present, providing a ***quorum***.
- C. Proof of notice*** was by posting today's agenda on town hall bulletin board, and on the bulletin board at the Valley County Courthouse.
- D.*** Helland asked if there were any ***additions or deletions to the agenda***. There were none.
- E.*** Helland called for a motion for ***approval of the agenda for meeting #398***. Carl Millerick made the motion to approve the agenda for meeting #398. DeLee Hustad seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.
- F.*** Helland asked all directors to read over the minutes from two previous meetings, meeting held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. R. Kolpin made the motion to approve the minutes as written for meeting held October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Millerick seconded the motion, and the vote was three in favor and DeLee Hustad abstained from voting.

R. Kolpin then made the motion to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Hustad seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**G. Financial Report:** Terry Kolpin read the financial report explaining the income and expenses for January 2023 month end.

**H. Operator Report:** Rob Esaias reported that the lift station continues to be a problem with issues. Also, no major water samples are currently due.

Renee Tost (customer) brought up issue with the meter readings not having been done and the high bills for the month of January. Esaias, T.Kolpin and the Board responded and explained the usage amounts and how billing was handled.

**I. New Business:**

1. Greg from Great West Engineering explained the status of the construction project. The water main replacement was sent to DEQ for review and should have a response in late March, early April.

Greg went over what he could about the meter proposal that was received. Only one proposal came through with everything requested with the new meters and level indicator for the water tower. He will mail the proposal binder to the office for review.

2. Helland brought up the Shipp Grazing Land Lease. He requested to have the directors read through the current lease and asked if anyone had any parts they would like changed. R. Kolpin made a motion to approve a new lease for the 2023 calendar year with the same terms as last year. Hustad seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Helland opened the discussion on the benefit of a possible sale of the excavator, noting the monthly cost of the payment and the use. Issue was tabled until rates and availability could be received from Glasgow Rental for their excavators.

**J. Old Business:**

1. Greg from Great West Engineering gave the update under new business along with the meter replacement information.

2. Helland described the need for the district to have a lawyer for representation. T.Kolpin explained that after reaching out to several law firms, only one submitted a proposal and interest in the position, Kristen Omvig. R. Kolpin made a motion to hire Omvig Hammer Law, P.C., as the district's lawyer. Hustad seconded the motion, and the vote was three (3) in favor (Helland, Hustad and R.Kolpin).

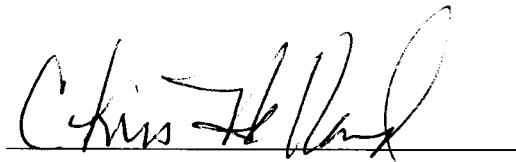
**K. Public Comments, Matters, or Concerns:** Renee Tost spoke about her frustration with charges, wants usage and base rate to be broken out on the bills. She also stated that her base rate keeps changing. T.Kolpin responded about how bills are provided from the system and how charges for base rate and usage are combined. Jennie Mason expressed the same concerns.

DeAnn Ketchum questioned why directors would approve three (3) months of meters not being read.

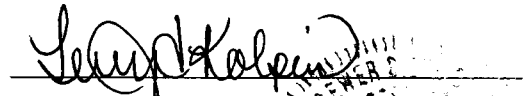
**L. Board Comments/Announcements:** There were none.

**M.** Helland announced the next board meeting to be held Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**N.** Helland dismissed the meeting at 7:25pm.



Chris Helland  
NCVW&SD Board President



Terry Kolpin  
Recording Secretary

