

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOUNTAIN HILLS SANITARY DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District and Town Council of the Town of Fountain Hills met in a **Joint Work/Study Session** on **Wednesday, October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Agenda Item No. 1

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dickey called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 2

Roll Call.

The following Directors were present:

Vice Chairperson Robert Thomson, Director Tammy Bell, and Director Jerry Butler.

The following Town Council Members were present:

Mayor Ginny Dickey, Councilmember Peggy McMahon, Councilmember Gerry Friedel, Councilmember Mike Scharnow, and Councilmember Sharon Grzybowski.

The following Executive Staff members from the Sanitary District were present:

Dana Trompke, District Manager and Dan Jones, Legal Counsel.

The following Executive Staff members from the Town of Fountain Hills were present:

Grady Miller, Town Manager, Aaron D. Arnson, Legal Counsel, and Angela Padgett Espiritu, Acting Town Clerk.

Agenda Item No. 3

Discussion regarding Value of Intergovernmental Agreement between Town of Fountain Hills and Fountain Hills Sanitary District.

The District Manager quantified some of the items that the District and the Town work together on.

The first item is a financial reporting of the cost of services the District does not charge the Town of Fountain Hills. There are 12 different buildings and services which would account to approximately \$10,600 per year in sewer service fees that the District does not bill. The next item is the delivery of approximately 110 million gallons of reclaimed water per year that is used

to irrigate Desert Vista Park, Golden Eagle Park, and fill Fountain Lake which irrigates Fountain Park at an approximate cost of \$125,000 per year. Adding the two together, it's a savings of approximately \$135,000 per year to the Town, which is \$1,350,000 over 10 years.

There are quite a few unmeasurable efforts that show the coordination in how well the two agencies work together. The District has to time the reclaimed water delivery between all the customers and have a very good working relationship with parks superintendent and staff which has to do with irrigating, delivering water, overseeding, and when to hold water and when to deliver. Coordinating repair activities at the District wells with parks staff. The collection system staff, public works and streets staff often coordinate on construction activities, right-of-way, sewer service repairs and major roadway repairs. Coordination of wash cleaning and repair activities. There are times the District staff has been able to help with needed equipment.

Agenda Item No. 4

Discussion regarding joint District-Council working group to develop strategies to reduce sodium pollution.

Director Butler stated he would like to recognize Mayor Dickey and Chairperson Maroon for creating the committee.

In July, an article was created by Bo Larson and District Manager regarding sodium chloride. A similar article appeared in the Times.

Director Butler stated the residents and businesses add approximately one million pounds of sodium to the Fountain Hills wastewater every year at a rate of approximately 2,600 pounds per day. It's estimated that 70 percent of Fountain Hills homes now utilize salt-based water softeners. Each bag of sodium chloride includes 15 pounds of salt. Every drop of wastewater generated in Fountain Hills must be disposed of within the Town's limits and is used mainly at three golf courses and three Town parks.

Councilmember Scharnow stated this is a costly issue and the committee is all in favor of continuing the public awareness campaign and to keep educating people.

Mayor Dickey indicated that this is not just a Fountain Hills issue, it is a County, State, and national issue. She asked if anyone has looked into going to the legislature with this issue.

Councilmember McMahon suggested educating realtors and builders with them having a discussion with the buyer or seller about changing the use of sodium chloride to potassium chloride.

Director Bell suggested the committee open the group up to residents and get more people involved.

Agenda Item No. 5

Discussion regarding Well 1 control building location and improvements at Fountain Park.

District Manager informed the Council and Board that the Districts Well #1 is in need of repair. Well #1 is in the great lawn area and the District is trying to work for another solution where the Town and District work together and the public benefits from it. The District is trying to find something within a reasonable distance to provide a building.

Town Manager indicated they have been very appreciative of the District Manager trying to work with the Town on the location. He stated they are very confident the Town and District will find a location that is a mutually agreeable sight.

Vice Chairperson Thomson stated how he appreciates the flexibility of the Town working with the District on the location of this control building. It is a complex issue as staff has recognized and very much appreciates the help.

Agenda Item No. 6

Discussion regarding proposed Fountain Lake improvement projects and future timing.

Town Manager stated that the report received from Black & Veach indicated there was considerably more life left on the lake liner. The reason this item is on the agenda is to make the Sanitary District aware of this project. The Town will need the District Manager and staff to help on the coordination aspect.

Town Manager indicated he had a discussion with District Manager about having a storage system for the water that would provide enough storage for a day or two so the Town could still irrigate the entire park without having issues once the lining has been removed. Approximately two years before the liner is removed, the storage system would need to be in place. The Kiwanis location has been identified for the storage tank to be installed below ground and feed towards the park.

Agenda Item No. 7

Discussion regarding coordination of wash maintenance in areas of District utility easements.

Town Manager has discussed the wash maintenance with the District Manager and addressed it with their staff and feels very confidently that the District is doing what they can to make sure that the vegetation that is in place is not being denuded.

District Manager indicated the original Town planners constructed and laid out a sewer system network and unfortunately a lot of the lines ran through the washes. There is 209 miles of gravity sewer and of that, only 30 miles of gravity sewer is in washes. The District needs to have access to the facilities to clean and inspect. Most importantly, the District needs be able to

get in quickly if there is a problem or an infrastructure failure of some kind that needs to be repaired. The District does not remove large trees, mostly the shrubs that cause tumbleweeds. The District generally has an easement that is about 20 feet, 10 feet on each side of the sewer pipe. Mostly the District cleans enough to get their backhoe and sewer cleaning truck into the location.

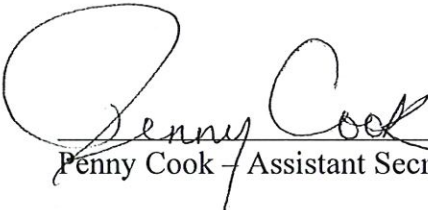
Town Manager indicated the bigger issue is there has been a lot of erosion from the storm events from the last couple of years. Maricopa County Flood Control District has a major study going on that is evaluating all of the Town's washes and dams. Black & Veatch is conducting that study.

Councilmember Friedel asked if there was something that can be done to mitigate the wash erosion.

Agenda Item #8
Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Fountain Hills Sanitary District


Penny Cook - Assistant Secretary