

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE ESCUDILLA  
MOUNTAIN DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF APACHE, ARIZONA,  
July 5, 2024 at 11:00 am at the Alpine Fire Station #2 in Nutrioso, AZ**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** David Knobbe called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Present were Melissa Chivers, Pat Cruse, Mike Draper and David Knobbe. John Cochran was absent. Nine district members were in attendance.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.** Pat Cruse motioned to approve the agenda. Mike Draper seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 22, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING.** The minutes were previously distributed. Pat Cruse motioned to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Board Meeting, seconded by Mike Draper. Unanimously approved.
4. **CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS AND CLERK REPORTS.**
  - Financial Report - Lorie Knobbe reported for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 that \$55,116.00 was collected from the Infrastructure / Access Fee (plus \$73.61 in interest). There were \$16,285.08 in expenses leaving \$38,904.53 held in the Apache County and BMO accounts.
  - WIFA - Lorie Knobbe reported that the Federal Programs Committee to review the applications submitted by June 6th is scheduled for August 1, 2024 with the WIFA Board Meeting on August 21, 2024. David and Lorie Knobbe will be attending both.
  - ADEQ - David Knobbe reported that ADEQ has received the completed Elementary Business Plan (EMB) for our standpipe project. They have asked for additional data regarding the predicted 100 year water supply and a short narrative on aquifer characterization in our area. John Cochran, Mark LaCombe and David Knobbe hope to have the additional information to them in the upcoming week.
  - Key Card Reader - Mike Draper explained the options available using the Portalogic Fill Stations. Depending on the model chosen a variety of functions can be chosen to customize the system for our Standpipe needs. The system features allow secure user access, simplified payment options, and accurate metering. Tanks can be filled from the top or the bottom. Either cards or PINs can be used. Customers can precharge their purchase of water with a pin and thus no collections needed. No employee would need to be hired to do the billing thus the system would pay for itself. Mike did clarify that this is for the standpipe. Once infrastructure to the individual lots is put in that billing system would need to be different. The Portalogic system can run on solar power. David mentioned that both engineering companies that he has reached out to have heard of this

system. Mike said the system also keeps track of gallons used which will be helpful to monitor the amount of water used annually as required by ADWR.

- Solar option for power at the wellhead and standpipe - Mark LaCombe educated the group on the possibility of using solar power vs NEC power. There is a fixed monthly fee with NEC for each location. Mark mentioned that he has worked at both the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant and APS and can build a solar system for both sites. His ballpark figure for the components and the shed is \$9600 but he thinks we can do it for less with volunteers. He has built other systems in the past and would recommend that spare key components be housed in the shed for immediate replacement. When Mark asked if there were any questions, Dave Overson asked about the option of putting the pumps underground in a vault type setup vs a building. Pat Cruse mentioned that there are restrictions for confined spaces. David mentioned that the well site is located near a floodplain so the vault would have to be elevated. This would be very expensive. Melissa Chivers added the solar info needs to be noted in the bid process. There are property owners in the district that have their solar license.
5. **CALL TO PUBLIC** - Jay DeWitt asked about hydrants once the system is built out? David explained that since the system is domestic and there are no commercial businesses or schools that will be on the system it is not required to have hydrants fed by 6" or 8" lines but there could be Fire Department access pipes (standpipes) for their use only. Melissa added that to get a lower insurance rate the standpipes would need to be within 1000' of the lots.
  6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 31, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Alpine Fire Station #2 in Nutrioso.
  7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None required.
  8. **ADJOURNMENT**- Pat Cruse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mike Draper seconded it. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Minutes approved at the 8-31-2024 Meeting  
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