



GAMERCO WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT MEETING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH, 2024 AT 6:00 PM
206 RAY AVE, GAMERCO, NEW MEXICO
MINUTES

Proof of posting: Website, Community Boards located at the Gamerco Water and Sanitation Office and the Gamerco Post Office Community Board.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Neal called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. **Invocation:**

3. **Director roll call:**

- **Neal Eastridge** **President- Present**
- **Jacob Day** **Vice President -Present**
- **Antonia Estrada** **Director -Present**
- **Mayna Benally** **Director –Present**
- **Rosa Garcia** **Director -Present**

4. **Approval of last meetings minutes (11/20/24)-** Daneal read the minutes. Neal motioned to approve the minutes as read. Mayna seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Financial Reports: Anna Bond –**

Total Income- \$65,960.47	Bank Balance- \$124,370.35
Cost of Goods- \$35,465.92	Payroll- \$7,900.53
Total Expense- \$35,649.85	Tax- \$701.69
Net Income- \$-5,155.30	Total- \$8,602.22

- Anna stated that there are three customer accounts that do not currently have water or sewer. These accounts have been charged a \$23 base fee for months. Anna asked the board to allow for the reimbursement of charges of \$480 for each account. Neal motioned to approve the reimbursement to each account. Antonia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Amber stated that the funding for payment assistance is currently unavailable. They will update the board when funding becomes available.
- Anna informed the board about another account with discrepancies. Maher Khankan at 809 Portal was charged a membership fee as well as water charges. 809 is a vacant lot. The overcharged amount is \$516.88. Account was not charged a deposit fee. Anna suggested deducting \$150.00 for deposit fee and refunding the balance. Jacob motioned to approve the balance to the customer. Rosa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dewayne Atkinson at 203 Ray Ave approached the board for an extension on his water bill. Mr. Atkinson’s account is past due as of November’s bill due to being laid off. He is currently seeking unemployment and is set to start a new job in January. This customer has

never had a late payment. Neal motioned to approve an extension on Mr. Atkinson account with the stipulation that the account does not reach \$500.00. Mayna seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Thomas Clark at 511 Santa Rita addressed the board seeking an extension on his past due bill of \$371.91 until 12/20/24. Mr. Clark stated he would pay the complete balance on his account. Neal motioned to allow Mr. Clark a one-time extension stipulating that the account balance must be paid in full by 12/20/24. Jacob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Anna stated the office is having difficulty distinguishing between renters and property owners. Accounts from renters are not being paid after the renter leaves. Anna requested policies for renters and landlords to prevent bills being unpaid.
- Anna informed the board that there are several accounts that have been receiving water without being charged for the water. Anna asked the board for recommendations on how to proceed. Antonia motioned to forgive past due amounts and to fix charges for future billings. Mayna seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- Anna and Amber expressed difficulty communicating with Spanish speaking customers. Rosa volunteered to translate for the office if customers call and need assistance.
- Update on Audits- 2022 Audit is set to be complete in January. 2023 Audit will be started as soon as 2022 is complete.
- Anna informed the board that the amount of past due accounts has been cut in half compared to last year's numbers. Neal would like to create policies for customers that are habitually late payers.

6. Report by Water Operator: Teresa Garcia-

Report has been sent to Angelina Grey. Teresa suggests continuing with the funding route to complete the valve locating project. The tablet for meter reading has been ordered and should be in Albuquerque this week. If the tablet does not arrive in time for this month's meter reading Clint can use Yatahey's tablet. Teresa shared that the governor has shifted focus to the state's water and wastewater, she hopes this shift will open funding in this area. Teresa stated that she is reaching out to the company to clean the tank. If GWSD waits until the company comes to clean Yatahey's tank the fee will be reduced. GWSD still needs 3 quotes for resurfacing the tank.

7. Field Foreman Report: Clint Slaughter-

Clint worked several valves, hydrants, and cleaned out the pump house. Clint requested more stop signs to be ordered. Clint and Anna have discussed changing the trash pick-up days to allow for more time at the beginning of the week for work orders. Trash days will be Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning after the Christmas holiday.

8. Old Business:

A. Status of New Well Project Funding

Money should be allocated this month.

B. GWSD Community Clean and Lien Program, Vehicle Parking Violation status (Neal)

Neal is waiting on a letter from the towing business to place on vehicles. The board is working on ordinances that the sheriff's department can enforce.

C. Resurfacing of water tank.

Teresa is reaching out to company for a proposal.

D. Installation of light poles on Chino Loop.

The board discussed the cons of having a light bill for streetlights. Neal suggested looking into solar streetlights. During the discussion of lights community members asked about the possibility of installing speed bumps. The board will be discussing the installation of speed bumps.

E. Report properties to the NMED

Neal reached out to NMED during the NNMUA meeting about houses that need to be reported.

9. New Business:

A. Discuss City of Gallup Water Service Agreement

The board discussed the terms of the proposed agreement. Neal informed the board that the City Attorney has given GWSD until the 10th of January to agree to the agreement. GWSD's lawyer is filing an injunction with the district court to review the need for the removal of Jason Sanchez. The proposed contract has a 87% increase from the last contract. The lawyer will also be requesting reimbursement for overcharges to the GWSD's account for wastewater from August 2023 to now. Neal explained to the board that the proposed contract will increase water bills by 13%, which would be about \$10 more a month to individuals. The changes in the sewer charges would be \$30-\$40 more a month. Jason is set to have a teleconference with a water rights lawyer on 12/20/24.

B. Marquee at Church of God for community information.

Jacob shared that he is looking into options for a marquee outside the church. The marquee would be used for church announcements as well as GWSD community information. Jacob will take the next few weeks to compile different options. He will report to the board at the next meeting.

C. Resolution to change water rates.

Board discussed the need for changes to the water rates with the upcoming water service agreement. Neal motioned to make a resolution to change water rates but table the signing of resolution until the water service agreement is settled. Jacob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Discuss letter to residents about animals and charges for not complying.

Letter to residents about conditions in which dogs are kept, dogs on chains, free roaming dogs, vaccinations, and pet licenses was overviewed. Rosa and Neal spoke to McKinley County Animal Control. MCAC shared that one of the main ways Gamercos can combat animal control is by issuing fines to residents who do not comply with the ordinances. Board needs to set prices for fines.

E. Recap December Workday Meeting.

10. Board member comments:

A workday meeting needs to be scheduled for making policies and procedures for landlords and renters, fines for animal control, and habitual late paying customers. Workday with board and office personnel will be scheduled in January after the holidays.

11. Adjournment: Neal motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Rosa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.