

Tularosa Community Ditch Corporation  
PO Box 925 Tularosa, NM 88352  
Quarterly Commissioners Meeting  
March 30, 2015  
Tularosa Municipal Building  
609 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa, NM

7PM

A. Call to Order 7:00 PM

Those present were Mr. Steve Lightle, Mr. Joseph Penn, Mayordomo Robert Baca, Accountant Danielle Roberts, Commissioners Bookout, Hobson and Lerner.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Comments-No attendee had any comments

D. Approval of Minutes from September 2014 Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Hobson made the motion to accept the minutes as read.

Commissioner Bookout seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

E. Financial Report December 2014 through February 2015

Mr. Hobson asked Mrs. Roberts about the payment to Interstate Stream Commission. She informed the group that it is the next to final payment and we are through with that pass-through accounting. This is the payment on the loan for the North Lateral Ditch.

The payments for the phone for Mayordomo Baca have decreased from over \$200 a month to only \$88. The account was put on a contract with unlimited texting and minutes though it has gone up in the last month so it was to be checked into by Mr. Baca and Mrs. Roberts.

Mr. Hobson asked about the unrealized gain on the Edward Jones account. Mrs. Roberts explained that it has to do with the unsold stocks in the portfolio.

Mr. Lightle asked about the North Lateral Ditch expense. Mr. Bookout told him that it was from an improvement load that came from the ISC and we were the fiscal agents only. The ditch owners on the North Lateral were making the payments. He explained that we are going to carry another 90/10 grant loan for the current Pipeline Project under way in Tularosa.

Mrs. Roberts said we still have some debt from water users who owe maintenance fees but it is so much better because Mayordomo Baca has the list and lets those people know that their water will be turn off if payment is not received.

The Ditch had some added expenses due to advertising the Pipeline Project in the legal section of the newspaper.

Commissioner Lerner asked whether the Village of Tularosa has paid their over usage of water for the year. Mrs. Roberts said she has not billed them but will do it this coming quarter. Mr. Hobson wants the Mayordomo to double check the meter on the same day the Village collects the information. The time has arrived to review the amount per 1,000 gallons over we charge

the Village. Years ago we went up from 5 cents per 1,000 to 8 cents per 1,000 gallons over their allotted amount and the Village was not happy. Mr. Hobson told the group that in Las Cruces is it 13 cents per 1,000. Commissioner Hobson wants this to be introduced on the December agenda. Before then, it is important to be well informed on the usage and data. At this time, the Village of Tularosa uses 21,000,000 gallons.

Commissioner Hobson made the motion to accept the Financial Statement as presented

Mr. Lightle seconded the motion

Motion carried

#### F. Old Business

1. Gate Repair on 7<sup>th</sup> and Fresno- This project is done and the bill will be submitted when the builder confirms the integrity after the first run of water.
2. Cleaning Lateral in 49 Blocks- Mr. Baca reported that after having spoken with several residents about their laterals, cleaning was done and is in good shape this year. The lateral where Roy Lee Gilland is still in need of cleaning but Robert will deal with that problem. Joel Marr was flooded because the ditch he uses is too shallow and needs digging out again. There was a bottleneck on Sixth Street and Bosque. It needs cement work due to the large tree in that location.
3. Pipeline Project-Commissioner Lerner reported that we had been delayed in starting as we were forced to let the first contractor, Sierra Valley Contractors go because they were not able to acquire the 30" pvc pipe for the project. We ended the contract on a no harm, no foul status. Mr. Mike Pittman was the second bid and was still within the financial window therefore he was hired and has sub-contracted to Lancon here in Tularosa. He ordered the materials and will begin with the smaller items while he waits for the delivery of the 30" pvc pipe. During the waiting time, the contractor will put in a set of by-pass pipes at the beginning and end of the design in order to avoid shutting off the water more than two days. Also, Robert reported that a gas line exists near the area of excavation and for that reason the contractor must proceed with great care.
4. Future commissioners and mayordomo – At this point, there are no people expressing interest in taking on these positions. Mr. Penn asked Mayordomo Baca what consists of his job. Mr. Baca told him that the only way to understand his job is to get in the truck with him and be present throughout the day to see as there are not solid guidelines. It is very elaborate and would need a least a week to learn the ropes. The summers are the hardest to balance water amounts with people's needs.  
Andy Salazar is still the water boss for the Bent area water users since the other person, Joseph, couldn't get the required signatures to get appointed. There was one person interested, Kenny Nowell, but he is an older gentleman and the job requirements are tough for even a young man. At this point, Norval Bookout and Robert go up to Bent to check on things. The one person to be a major factor in Bent, Kelsey Smith, continues to steal, pond and misuse water. Our Ditch still has pending legal actions against Smith.

#### G. New Business

Maurice reported that there are three problems that are being addressed in Santa Fe by the New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA):

1. The amount of water available for the state is calculated sufficient for the population of 1964. 2. The Atrisco Land Grant being taken for the Santolina development with no water in existence for its support. 3. The firing of the State Engineer for having transferred 600 million water acres from the Upper Hondo Valley to the Village of Ruidoso without public input. As this was an illegal procedure, the transfer should be null and void, but has not been stopped as yet. Jackie Powell is leading the legal battle with the help of David Benavides, the lawyer for NMAA.

Joseph Penn questioned the priority of water allocation. In the case of the Village of Tularosa, the list starts with municipal use (people), farmers, last are stock.

Maurice Hobson wants us to reaffirm our standing as an acequia with the Office of the State Engineer.

- H. Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Lerner made the motion to adjourn  
Maurice Hobson seconded the motion  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm