

## **Regular Meetings Minutes**

**Date:** April 11, 2023  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M.  
**Location:** AWSO Conference Room

Meeting Type	X Regular	Special
Minutes Type	Draft	X Approved

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Board Member Attendance:

Mike Reynolds	President	X Present	Absent
Alan Rohde	Vice President	X Present	Absent
Tom Osborne	Director (via phone)	X Present	Absent
Roger Nummerdor	Director	X Present	Absent
Betsy Steffanich	Director	X Present	Absent

Other Attendees: Jason Wallace, Camille Weier

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Roger moved to accept the agenda and Betsy seconded.

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Absent: 1**

**APPROVED**

### **3. Approval of Minutes – Regular**

**Motion:** Roger moved to accept the March Meeting Minutes and Alan seconded.

**Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1                      APPROVED**

### **4. Financials**

- Camille and Jason brought up the need for using auto pay services at Nemont and Northwestern Energy. Paying for these utilities in this way will allow the payments to be made in a timely manner and eliminate the need for using Board Member signed checks.

**Motion:** Alan Moved to pay Nemont and Northwestern Energy by auto pay and Betsy seconded.

**Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1                      APPROVED**

**Motion:** Betsy moved to accept the March Financials and Payroll report and Roger seconded.

**Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0                      Absent: 1                      APPROVED**

### **5. Manager's Report**

- Jason presented The Board with the Manager's Report for their review (copy attached).
- All monthly water samples tested good, and the results are on file in the office.

**Motion:** Roger moved to accept the Manager's Report and Alan seconded.

**Ayes:4                      Nays:0                      Absent:1                      APPROVED**

**6. Public Comment:** None

**7. Old Business:**

- Tom Osbourne joined the meeting via phone.
- The Board held a discussion on raising the water rates. It was a unanimous decision to raise the water rates to account for inflationary operational costs and to be in line with the state's community rate. This will qualify us for state funding and allow us to move forward on the Hawkins Park Project. The State of Montana believes, based on average town income, we currently do not pay enough for water to qualify for state funded grants.
- A discussion was held on increasing late fees to encourage customers to pay on time and to match other utilities' late fees more closely.

**Motion:** Betsy moved, and Roger seconded that pursuant to MCA 7-13-2275 (5) which allows water districts up to a 5% rate increase without a public hearing. Absarokee Water District shall raise base rates a total of 3.5%. This increase shall take effect during the July billing cycle which gives users over 60 days of notice. See attached Absarokee Water Service Connection Charge/Fees (Effective July 1, 2023).

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**APPROVED**

**Motion:** Alan moved to increase the late fee to \$10.00 effective on the July billing cycle, Tom seconded.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**APPROVED**

**8. New Business:**

- Jason presented the Board with the LCRR proposal from 120 water. After discussion the board decided to table until next month. This will allow Jason to find out more information on other municipalities that may have used them and whether they were happy with their services.

**9.    Board Comments:** None

## **Adjournment**

**Motion:**        Roger moved, and Alan seconded that the meeting be adjourned at  
5:07 p.m.

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Absent: 1**

**APPROVED**

**Minutes Certification:**

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary / Recording Secretary

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

Date: