

FORT GRIFFIN SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

1180 C.R. 109
Albany, TX 76430

FORT GRIFFIN SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT Board of Directors met in a Called Meeting Wednesday March 7, 2024 at 12 PM, at 609 Railroad Street, Albany, Texas.

President McKelvain presided and called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. Board members present: Ben Hale, Robert Montgomery, Sid Collinsworth and Sam Snyder. General Manager Mark Gardenhire and Office Administrator Carrie Holson were also present. (Sug Roller arrived at 12:45)

Visitor Comments: No visitors present.

Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Motion seconded by Montgomery; motion carried.

Due to the timing of the meeting financials were not presented.

McKelvain asked Holson to update the board on election cost and availability of contracting with other entities. Holson reported she has obtained cost initially per Gardenhire's request under the assumption FGSUD had to carry the entire cost of the hosting voting locations in Albany, Stephens County, Moran and Throckmorton. Cost for machines, poll workers and programming of machines estimated at \$100,440. Holson then reported cost could be reduced some because Albany ISD and Throckmorton ISD were open to holding joint elections and the City of Moran has machines that can be used for the Moran location as well- leaving only a need for machines for the Stephens County location. Albany ISD would be utilizing City of Albany machines. Holson stated both Albany and Moran machines are older versions and as of 2026 will no longer be usable due to new legislation requiring machines to print daily 'tapes'. McKelvain stated the board needs to take this information and cost into consideration and for budgeting and planning of future elections.

*Board Member Sug Roller joined the meeting at 12:45.

Holson concluded that if FGSUD holds the joint elections (as stated above) she has estimated a minimum cost of \$45,000 to hold the May 6, 2024 election. Board members discussed despite cost it was only fair to provide the 4 voting locations for voters due to the size of the district.

McKelvain stated he had additional information that could alter the course of the election and read a letter of resignation from Board Member Gary Roan. Roan stated in his letter, "I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a board member. However, at this time feel I must resign from my seat."

McKelvain expressed he hated to see Roan resign but understood upon speaking with him. McKelvain informed the board that the resignation of Roan created a vacancy on the board. Furthermore, if Mr. Bartock (who as applied to run against incumbents Snyder and himself) would accept an appointment to fill the vacancy, Bartock could then withdraw his application for candidacy, thus resulting in an uncontested election which could be cancelled.

Holson stated Albany ISD had requested a decision on the joint election by March 8th.

It was reported by Collinsworth that Bartock is on vacation and may not be reachable at this time (except possible text) to have him give the board a decision. Board members requested Holson send a text to Bartock explaining the situation and requesting he contact Gardenhire or McKelvain as soon as possible.

McKelvain requested while waiting to see if Bartock responded that Gardenhire give an update on the projects. Gardenhire reported the boring was being done across the highway for the standpipe in Hwy 6.

He stated there had been some issues with routing of lines due to gas lines, however the issues had been addressed. Collinsworth asked if the standpipe was as far as FGSUD lines went and Gardenhire stated lines were still as presented previously, going beyond the standpipe to serve more customers. McKelvain confirmed that once the standpipe is complete, if lines are ever extended to the north side of Lake Cisco, pressure would be adequate to do so. Collinsworth stated the board is spending too much money and needs to think about decisions such as the truck that was replaced in February. Hale responded he felt the board had discussed issues in depth and that sometimes the board has no choice in spending money. Collinsworth continued to raise his voice and make accusations at fellow board members and management and Montgomery and McKelvain requested he contain himself. Collinsworth got up from table after an exchange of words and said he was leaving and would see everyone next month. He came back to the table and continued to express his concerns for mismanagement, walked away and said he would "maybe be back and may not" as he left at 1:30 pm.

Montgomery asked McKelvain for the floor and expressed his displeasure in the misconduct of Collinsworth. Montgomery stated he does not expect the board to agree at all times and that he values opinions of fellow board members, as well as opinions from Gardenhire and Holson. He expressed he feels the board takes very seriously the business of FGSUD and that Collinsworth is out of line to disrupt the meetings month after month.

Board returned to the discussion of the Manager's Report with Gardenhire reporting a major leak on Sunday March 3rd on one of the bridges on Hwy 180 near the lake. Gardenhire stated the line on one of the 3 bridges had been re-ran, however the remaining two sill have the lines running along the bridge. He drew a diagram of how the line runs and issues, presenting his suggestion for repairs that would be compliant with any future TXDOT bridge repairs. He stated Fabmro Construction had met him and gave a bid of approximately \$54K for one bridge and \$28K for the other. He included that Stark and Raydon estimated higher cost.

Snyder stated he was surprised the lines had lasted as long as they had. Mark said reworking the line on the second bridge could wait, but there would not be availability for a temporary fix like was available for the emergency issue on Sunday. Montgomery suggested do all at once and be done with it.

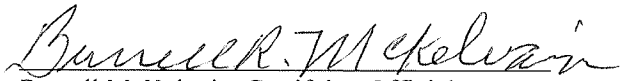
Gardenhire requested board approval to obtain a loan for a max of \$150,000 in lieu of the approval at the February meeting so that he could do the bridge repairs as well as the already approved repairs to the riser at the Breckenridge tower. Montgomery made a motion allowing Gardenhire to obtain a loan at Clear Fork Bank (based on prior quoted best rates) for a maximum of \$150,000 for term limit of 3-5 years (to be determined based on rates) for replacing water lines across two bridges on Hwy 180 and to make repairs to the riser on the Breckenridge tower. Motion seconded by Roller; all voting for; motion carried.

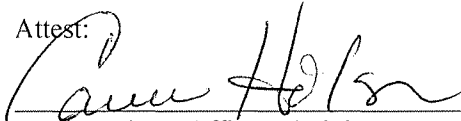
Snyder stated the "elephant in the room" referring to the election still needed to be addressed. Holson stepped away and called Hart Intercivic regarding the deadline for ordering ballots. Holson reported back that the school is needing to order due to spring break next week, however FGSUD could wait until next week before finalizing ballots. She suggested FGSUD continue at this point as if there would still be an election since we have not heard from Bartock at this point.

McKelvain stated that due to the cost of elections he would like to consider putting an article in the newspaper in the future informing customer of the cost of elections and continued increases in other operating expenses and including that the revenue from the water rates is the only source of income for the SUD. McKelvain expressed his appreciation to employees and board members. He stated he hated to see good board members such as Roan resign. McKelvain read a selection from the TRWA handbook, outlining board member responsibilities, reiterating board members should not be going to the job sites trying to run things. McKelvain said as president, he welcomes discussion on issues but wants it to be handled properly and professionally. Roller stated she feels it a privilege to serve on the board and she has always tried to be open-minded. McKelvain said he had spoken with Bartock and has only had positive encounters and thinks he would be an asset to the board, and open-minded as well.

McKelvain stated the minutes should reflect no action was taken regarding the resignation of Gary Roan or regarding the election. He requested Holson update the board on anything needed for the election. He added he will call a meeting for next week if necessary.

There was no further business and Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 PM. Motion seconded by Roller; the motion carried.


Burrell McKelvain, Certifying Official
Fort Griffin Special Utility District

Attest:

Carrie Holson, Office Administrator