**Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company, Inc.**

**Regular meeting of the Board of Directors**

**October 14th, 2023**

**The meeting was held at the Water Co. office building.**

**Directors Present:** Jim Marugg, John Lesac, Charles Black, Brett Michael Hauser, Diana Forero-Cook and Sandra Cugusi-Tristan.

**Directors Absent:** Mary Ellen Harshberger

**Staff Present:** Mike Probert [Operator], Linda Thorne [Office Manager], Renee Forero-Cook [OM assistant]

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved without corrections. Brett moved, Chuck seconded, and the Board approved.

**Operator’s Report: Mike Probert**

*See the Operator’s written report as part of these minutes.*

**The Well Levels:** Well #3 is at 14 feet vs 16 ft in September and well #5 remains unchanged at 18 feet from last month.

**Water Usage:** Water usage is down averaging 6k-7k gallons/day.

**Testing:** Water sampling and testing continues as required by the State with all results falling within acceptable limits.

**Meter Readings:**  Location #112 meter was read.

**Electric Usage:** Brett brought to the Board’s attention the increased electric bills since July 2023. Mike worked with a tech from SDGE to identify the cause. It was discovered several leaks from cabins in the Birch Hill area from July 2023 to September 2023 were triggering the cycling of the pressure tanks and increasing electric usage to over 4kW per day during an active leak. The usual usage is 1-2kW per day. Daily electric consumption goes back to normal after a leak is repaired in this area. Overall water usage was within normal limits during these periods despite the leaks.

**Secretary’s Report: John Lesac**

*See the new share transfers spreadsheet as part of these minutes.*

John reported 2 shares were returned and 1 is in escrow. 38 shares have been returned since 2006.

Despite the return of shares, Mike stated that er are unable to sell more shares as we are at our storage limit.

**Treasurer’s Report: Brett Michael Hauser**

*See financials for July 2023*

Brett discussed how we are starting the new fiscal year on a positive note. In July 2022 we had over a $7,000 deficit that month, largely from legal fees, vs July 2023 we have a $3,134 positive balance. We are seeing a year-over-year increase in operating expenses such as electric rates, propane, payroll taxes, outside help, water testing, etc. with decreasing revenue.

Per concerns brought up by shareholders during the Annual Meeting over our Money Market account having such seemingly poor returns given the current market rates, Linda inquired with Union Bank on the status and returns of the account. Union Bank does not appear to currently have competitive rates related to Money Market accounts or CDs that we could access.

Jim investigated if accessing a California CLASS account would be an option for us, but the legal team for CLASS currently interprets mutual water companies such as us as ineligible under State law.

The Board briefly discussed our continued general financial challenges and trends with the new members.

**Future Business and Bylaw Change Updates**

Our FCC telemetry license expires in March 2024. That needs to be completed and filed for the FCC to approve for another 10 years.

We are still short the votes needed to update the bylaws. The Board will continue to discuss and determine the best path forward for addressing the needed Bylaw update.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Renee Forero-Cook*

*Assistant Office Manager*