

ASHLEY VALLEY WATER
& SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
609 WEST MAIN
VERNAL UTAH

Minutes of the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District Board Meeting held on Tuesday January 21, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the conference room of the District Office located at 609 West Main, Vernal Utah.

IN ATTENDANCE

Boyd Workman	Chairperson
Brownie Tomlinson	Vice Chairperson
Max Haslem	Trustee
Dean Baker	Trustee excused
Dave Hatch	Trustee
Ryan Goodrich	District Manager
Nora Garcia	District Clerk
Allen Hacking	Crew Supervisor
Ryan Wolfinjer	Assistant Manager

Chairperson Workman opened the meeting at 12:01 p.m. and welcomed all that were present.

See attendee list.

Statement of Conflict None were stated.

Amber Toler for Via Ferrata

Amber asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Via Ferrata.

Please see the attached unofficial proposal that Amber submitted, she clearly states that she is not associated with Uintah County in any capacity. Amber's main goal is for AVWSID and Uintah County to work together to build the Via Ferrata.

Comments from the public

Curt Smuin commented that AVWSID was formed to provide water, not a recreation area for Uintah County. He expressed his appreciation of the board of trustee's efforts in protecting our water source.

James Honert, a retired Geologist, commented that he has been following the development of the Via Ferrata with great interest, and the potential risk to Ashley Springs. He stated that everyone should know the magnitude, importance, and value of this natural resource. Any development other than what is necessary to get the water from the spring to our homes is a risk, in his opinion. Mr. Honert believes that any of the proposed security and permitting systems are unenforceable, and the emergency response would be virtually impossible. There are a group of concerned citizens that are very much in favor of Amber's core principles. Recreation, health benefits, and exercise are all supported, just not around Ashley Springs. In his opinion there are many other locations that the VIA Ferrata could be built but are not convenient for Uintah County.

Quentin Johnson stated that he was representing the neighboring property owner and that they, the Johnson Family trust, are not interested at all in the VIA Ferrata being built on or near their property.

Brad Grammer with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and concerned citizen stated that Utah State code 309 400-1 states that public water systems are responsible for protecting drinking water sources. Brad appreciates Amber's effort to come up with a plan that will allow for protecting the spring. Brad's question is why is the county not talking to the 6 water districts?

Dan Dilsaver, concerned citizen, stated that he is frustrated with the lack of leadership from our County Government, turning a blind eye and deaf ear, not following processes. Had the County Government done their homework, these concerns would have been addressed before the project got this far. Dan's not in favor of mitigation. Dan would like AVWSID to limit or stop access into Ashley Gorge near our water source and appreciates what this board is doing to not allow it.

Approval of December 19, 2024, and December 27, 2024, meeting minutes.

Max made the motion to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Brownie, passed unanimously.

Election of Board Positions, (Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Treasurer).

Max made the motion for Boyd Workman, Brownie Tomlinson, and Dean Baker to retain their current positions, the second was made by Dave, passed unanimously.

Sewer Management Board Appointment (Chairman)

Chairperson Boyd Workman appointed Trustee Max Haslem and Trustee Dave Hatch to be appointed to the Sewer Management Board.

Conflict of Interest Policy Adoption

Brownie made the motion to adopt the Conflict-of-Interest Policy prepared by The Utah Association of Special Districts, seconded by Max, those voting yes to the above motion, Max, Brownie, Boyd, and Dave. If an entity's budget is 10 million dollars, or over, (Utah State law passed in 2024), your conflict-of-interest policy must be posted on our website.

Project Update

The Desert Sage water line is live, and all properties have been connected. The operating permit has been submitted to the state and once that is approved Desert Sage will be removed as their own public water system, and AVWSID will be placed as the water provider. The paving and concrete work will be

completed in the spring. There is currently \$65,000 and the \$100,000 loan, (to be closed on) remaining in this project account.

Building RFQ/SOQ and contract award

The district advertised for an RFP/SOQ, one response was received from Nancy Birchell.

Dean, Dave, and Ryan met with her on January 8th, to discuss costs, approach, and strategy to sell the district office building. Nancy will get it listed as soon as possible. Her price of the sale is 3%. Buyer's agent may ask for consideration (percentage) for bringing a buyer that can be negotiated with the board. Brownie made the motion to accept this contract from Nancy Birchell, seconded by Dave, those voting yes to the above motion, Max, Brownie, Boyd, and Dave.

Equipment Purchase

In the 2025 budget an amount of \$125,000 was included for equipment. A mini excavator lease from Century Equipment in the amount of \$10,000 for a one (1) year lease, \$19,385.00 Cat Backhoe buy out, (plus a \$7500.00 lease payment), a manhole cutter \$30,150.00, which includes \$2,500.00 of on-site training, and a tilt-deck trailer from B&D RV Center in the amount of \$13,690.00. Max made the motion to approve the equipment purchases and leases that were budgeted for, seconded by Brownie. Those voting yes to the above motion; Max, Brownie, Boyd, and Dave.

January 2025 Expenditures.

Nora reported on the January 2025 expenditures. On January 8, the total is \$20,509.02, January 17, \$140,743.45, today \$191,350.28, for a total of \$352,556.06. Today's total includes \$170,000 for the property located next to the shop on 1500 south. Max made the motion to approve and pay these expenditures, seconded by Brownie. Those voting yes to the above motion, Max, Brownie, Boyd, and Dave.

RWAU Annual Conference.

The annual RWAU conference will be held February 24-28. Ryan is wanting to know who will be attending. Dave, Brownie will attend. Max and Boyd are undecided, they will let Ryan know. Dean is undecided also.

Sunset Provision Extension for active subdivisions discussion

Ryan has had several requests from subdivision owners that are in the middle of construction and are wanting extensions on their Sunset Provisions. The Sunset Provision due date is this year; November 2025, their connections fees will need to be paid by this date. Ryan would like this to be something the board of trustees would consider, but a good policy would need to be created.

Brownie made a motion to enter closed session at 1:29 p.m.

Brownie made the motion to return to open meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Exchange agreement with Vernal City

Max made the motion to enter into an agreement with Vernal City that allows Vernal City to supply water to The Sand Mine, which will free up 200-acre feet of water for the district, possibly allowing

connections to be sold on this water. Brownie made a second to this motion, those voting yes, Max, Brownie, Boyd and Dave.

Irrigation Assessments

Max made the motion to send the check to Ashley Water Users as discussed. Brownie made the second to this motion, those voting yes, Max, Brownie, Boyd and Dave.

Central Canal Proposed Contract Terms

Max made the motion to decline the terms that were proposed by Central Canal. The proposed terms were for the district to pay 5 times the normal shareholder assessment, accept annual assessment increases based on the published CIP, and other stipulations. The motion was seconded by Dave. Those voting yes to the above motion, Max, Brownie, Boyd and Dave.

District Manager Evaluation

The board of trustees all agree that Manager Ryan Goodrich is doing a great job, especially with the stressful and controversial items, such as purchasing water and the Via Ferrata. It was determined that the managers' contract will be extended 3 years, he will receive the 2.5% COLA, and a \$4,000.00 bonus.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.