MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING FOR MOAB IRRIGATION DISTRICT #20

The Board of Directors of Moab Irrigation District #20 met in special session at the District Office, 25805 E. Trent, Newman Lake, Washington, on December 3, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Neff.

## ROLL CALL

Chairman Neff and Board Directors Ayles, Phelps, Peplinski and Rasmussen were in attendance. Others in attendance included District Manager Inch and Board Secretary Radmer.

## VISITORS

## There were many visitors, although not all visitors recorded their names on the sign-in sheet available at the entryway. A reporter from the Spokesman Review was also present.

### ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Aaron Dunham presented Resolution 24-003 to the Board Directors which communicated the Dissolution of the 2024 Moab Irrigation Election following a candidate’s withdrawal from the election; whereby it dissolved the 2024 Election Board and declared the 2025 candidates for Director, Seat 2: Deanna Ervin and Seat 3: Robert Snow.

Resolution 24-003 was signed by the Directors.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

During the November 19,2024 Board of Directors Regular Meeting the Board of Directors instructed Secretary Radmer to provide the budget results using a scenario that applies a 76% rate increase to all parcels and applying a 20-45% rate to the per acre irrigation assessment from the 2024 rates. The information was provided in advance of the meeting via email, whereby she shared the budget deficit or impairment of each scenario at each 5% interval. The information was also printed out and provided as supporting materials in alignment with the stated purposes of the Special Meeting. This information was provided to support the Board in passing a balanced 2025 Budget and for setting the commensurate 2025 Rate structure in support of the 2025 Budget.

Chairman Neff opened the meeting discussing the pressures and challenges the District is facing and shared some of the contributing factors. He reminded the visitors that Board Directors are customers too.

Chairman Neff allowed the visitors to share their feedback and provide impact statements regarding the proposed budget and the proposed rate structure that aligned with the proposed budget.

Chairman Neff deliberated with his fellow Board Directors to discuss the 2025 Proposed Budget, in consideration of the some of the feedback that visitors had shared. He fielded additional questions and listened to the ideas and the feedback provided by the visitors.

Some of the feedback and ideas that were brought forward included: more communication, utilizing one of the area’s universities for a rate study, utilizing students as interns, pressuring neighbors to pay their water bills, submitting grant applications, sending regular newsletters, and revisiting the existing rate structures because they are archaic. Other ideas centered around the distinctions between irrigation and domestic water and expressed concern over where there may be inequities in the cost allocations. Other suggestions included: incentivizing those that invest in their own conservation and suggesting the Board divide up into subcommittees to tackle the challenges faced by the District.

Additional discussion amongst the Board’s directors took place discussing revisiting the ERU calculation, adjusting the water allotments down, or potentially increasing the rate for excess water.

Chairman Neff queried the Board and Secretary Radmer about the Contingency line item in the 2025 proposed budget. Secretary Radmer explained what that line item represented, that it was not simply Reserves, as mentioned earlier when a visitor presented *“Fund Balance and Reserve Policies”* from the Municipal Research and Service Center’s Financial Policies Tool Kit. She further explained the funds were earmarked for the upcoming Department of Health required System Plan, with a portion allocated to offset the DOH required Strong Lane booster station, which will take two budget years to pay for. Additionally, the proceeds will assist the district to ensure there is adequate operating capital in between injections of assessment revenues, which are disbursed twice a year.

**CHAIRMAN AND/OR DIRECTOR REPORT**

Chairman Neff suggested the removal of $200,000 from the Contingency Line item to advance the Board toward approving a budget for FY 2025.

Director Ayles motioned to approve the 2025 proposed budget contingent upon the removal of $200,000 from the Contingency line item with the caveat that a decrease in allotment be revisited. Director Michael Peplinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Neff proposed a Special Meeting on December 6th at 3 p.m. to establish the 2025 Rates following their approval to strike the Contingency line item, in the amount of $200,000. Secretary Radmer will provide the Board with an amended 2025 Budget with the corresponding rate that supports their budget decision on December 6th. Chairman Neff adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Jack Neff

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary to the Board, Jeanette Radmer