Holt Ayles

Special meeting called to order at **6:40 01/09/2025**

In Attendance from WHS Attorney’s Office

 Joe Carroll, Aaron Dunham

District BOD Members

Holt Ayles, Robert Snow, Teresa Phelps, Mike Peplinski,

District manager, Scott Inch

Discussion opened by Holt Ayles, spoke to Cost, Rates, Water allotments. Spoke about reducing water allotment from 1300 cuft to 1000 cuft, spoke about removing $200 per domestic meter assessment. Opened meeting to public comments.

Teresa Phelps spoke to raising excess water charge and a 25% rate increase, discussion followed, no action taken

Holt Ayles spoke to defensible space with customers. Spoke about the cost involved of delivering water service. Spoke about lack of growth in the district. Elderly assistance, a payment program, water conservation measures were discussed. Discussion was held about lowering the allotment and was not favored by the public. Customer stated that a 45% increase and a $200 meter assessment would be over $1300 per year and that and objected to an allotment reduction.

Holt Ayles spoke to having a private CPA look at Moab Irrigations budget and Moab Irrigation will look for more budget cost saving solutions. Holt spoke to the increase of rates being attributed to lack of growth in the district.

Public asked why not read meters every month, why cant they pay with credit cards, how to address people that don’t pay and what is causing the rate increase.

Customer said Moab had a deficit of $133000 and that a one time payment of $177 should be assessed to all customers to balance the budget. Customer stated the McCoy property should be sold to make up revenues. Hold explained to customers the property is for future growth and would cost substantially more to replace in the future. Bulk water was asked to be reinstated, It was explained that bulk water was not on the agenda and would not be discussed at this meeting and to bring the issue to a regular scheduled board meeting. Customer brought up Grants were available to pay for electronic read meters, Customer was told that was a regular board meeting subject. Another customer brought up grants were available to build the Idaho Rd booster station and to contact Suzanne Schmidt. Customer asked why Moab needed so much money in reserves? It was explained that a minimum of 6 months operating expenses were required for the district. Customer asked if rates in the district would continue to climb, It was explained Moab has to adjust rates to the current economy. Customer was ok with 25% increase but not lowering 1300 cuft allotment. Bod was asked why the original budget started at 76% then 62% then 45% . Customer asked if a CPA was required to make the district budget, Holt answered that it wasn’t required.

Robert Snow spoke about a rate study, rate structure study being needed to be fair and equitable for irrigation and domestic water users.

Holt Ayles-asked for board action to remove the 45% rate increase and the $200 domestic meter assessment

Customer asked how many irrigators were in the district and if it was fair to raise rates across the board. Another customer asked for a motion to approve the $177 assessment, no action taken.

Teresa Phelps- motion to resend $200 and 45% rate increase. Mike Peplinski seconded. No vote taken. Tabled

Robert Snow- point of order. New budget must be approved before old budget rescinded. Board discussion followed.

Holt Ayles- asked for motion to remove 45% and $200 meter assessment and add 25% increase to new budget.

Robert Snow- point of order to review motion and rescind prior budget.

Teresa Phelps- moved to reduce operating budget by $30,000 after budget review.

Operating Budget deductions from special meeting on 01/09/2025

From Medical benefits, Moab portion remove $10,000.00

From Paid family leave/ WA family cares act $5000.00

From office Maintenance/ equipment/repairs $5000.00

From water planning services $5000.00

From facility maintenance $5000.00

Mike Peplinski seconded the motion. Theresa Phelps, Mike Peplinski, Holt Ayles yes votes, Robert Snow abstained.

Motion By Teresa Phelps to resend 45% and $200 meter assessment, also to add a $308.76 to amended budget on 703 parcels.

Mike Peplinski seconded

Holt Ayles, Mike Peplinski, Teresa Phelps yes votes, Robert Snow abstained

New budget passed

Holt Ayles moved to close meeting at 9:30 P.M

Mike Peplinski seconded, vote passed

Directors received a letter from Julie Jernigan and it will be added to the record. *(Amended 01.21.25)*

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Chairman, Holt Ayles

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Acting Secretary to the Board, Scott Inch