

ESCUD Meeting Minutes- 9.5.2023

Called to order-

**ESCUD Board and guests-** Jerry Hayes, Dan Barnett, Eddie Crosby

ESCUD Atty: Doug Overby

ESCUD employees: Bert-waste treatment

Jeff-water

Witt Utilities: Board members- Terry Sellers, Michael Fagen, Joe Harris

Kelsey and Vickie-neither took minutes, Vickie recorded meeting

Jerry: commented here to discuss agreement between ESCUD and Witt to STOP all rumors.

Witt released General Manager

Eddie: He had been in contact with Michael Fagen on leaks, One major leak on Alpine.

Dan: Primary intent we have water

Jerry: disappointed in Witt-things told to another board member that were not true. Major leak reported and Witt did not do what contract said. Ben had always come and taken care of issues. This major leak cost ESCUD roughly 15,000.00+- to repair pumps etc. Witt should have called for and asked where shut off valves were but didn't.

55 gallon barrels of chemicals dropped off and set outside of building. Joe said it wasn't his job to put inside.

Chlorine samples have not been being done

Terry Sellers: chairman resigned after general manager removed, had dealt with Ben, trying to learn and help us. Trying to figure things out, Michael Fagen will be leaving soon, new board to be placed. Will try to fulfill contract.

Jerry asked about Chlorine samples- response from Joe Harris he had pics of chlorine samples and he had been doing them.

Ben did not let them know where shutoff valves were. Did not know about prints in Witt office.

Legal issues about placing chemicals in building.

Jerry asked Mr. Fagen about prints of shutoffs for ESCUD, response he did not know about them until Eddie told him they were there and he found them and made copies.

Joe Harris recommended process that would check chemicals electronically; daily. Approximate cost 12-13 hundred for setup.

Jerry told Joe his story did not add up from what he had been told from Knoxville. Jerry had been doing reports for past 5 days, Well A&B.

Terry Sellers again said they would try to fulfill contract, they are struggling as well from no general manager. They are waiting on County Mayor to provide them a general manager.

Jerry said they have an obligation to ESCUD:

Terry said Ben was a genius at water

Dan: met with Witt board and we are desperate. Witt only one willing to help ESCUD in state of TN. Questioned about use of license, had been said they did not want us to use their license. Joe is good with use of his

license for ESCUD. Joe did not have access to office for prints of shut off valves.

Billing: Mr Fagen said meters have been read a second time and one more step then bills to be mailed. Had to do route sheet for meter readings. This had been made a priority. Bills should come out in next 2-3 days.

Dan asked about sewer billing, Mr. Fagen said he did not know, had only focused on water.

A&B pumps we now have 2 (have a back-up) We have never had a back-up, Joe said now we do. Joe said now that Jeff is with ESCUD they would have better knowledge oof shut offs.

Jerry said hoses for chemicals were put in empty tanks.

Dan asked about how much ESCUD owes Witt. Mr. Fagen said now was not a good time

Eddie mentioned misunderstandings going on. Mr. Fagen said contract will be stood behind until new board is appointed. Then don't know what will happen.

Atty Doug Overby said 90 day contract is till Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, then renews every 30 days until 10 day notice is given. Can give notice @ Oct meeting if Witt is not fulfilling contract.

Jerry said hats off to Witt for helping us this far.

Dan asked about filtration system for mountain. TDEC requires design before doing and can't do this at this time. Jerry asked about filtration system from Baneberry, if Witt would sell it to ESCUD. Mr Fagen response, it would need to be presented to Witt board for consideration and that would be under new board. Terry said they would look into it.

Eddie mention sewer offsites were crucial to ESCUD income and billing needs to be handled soon. Also asked about letter that was to be sent to ESCUD customers (Kelsey had imaged a copy via text) Mr. Fagen said it would need to be reviewed and it would be a separate mailing to customers.

Jerry said we would honor contract with Witt, need to be better about major leaks, unless Witt didn't want to.

By next weeks board meeting need job duties for Bert and Jeff so all is clear. Jeff will do chemical readings as long as we have licensed operator to do chlorine samples, turn pumps on and off. Jeff to do blowoffs or Bert and flushing goes to TDEC. Dan said if something major happens he would like to use Ben for help.

Joe said using his license to help ESCUD was putting his license on the line for no gain on his end. Joe's license is for water treatment only.

**Customer comments-concerns:**

Louie Fromm-3<sup>rd</sup> party were still relying on them, 6 months into this and still no employees, Eddie blowing off lines not good. Dan response we are working day to day, have to have money to pay employees. Conversation got heated.

Heather Cartier- funding is major problem, suggestions and help she has offered, she would work for free, 50 yrs experience. Jerrys response to taking monies was a liability

Heather Fromm-dirty water, change filters? Jerry said filters were changed in March, should last a year. Pipes in ground are over 60 yrs old. Until new infrastructure is done you will have dirty water periodically. Eddie said he was not made aware but when he does

know he's been there to flush the lines. When problems are posted on website TDEC gets those as well

Leslie Cooley-Separate billing notices sent out?, post on website to save postage.

Sherry Gilland- have gone w/o water more before Witt started helping. When water was out she called got answering service then got a call back that they would be there in the am to address the problem. Commended the board for what they have accomplished.

Lee Morgan- dirty water, had been out of water a month or so when Alliance was here.

Water-\$50.00

New-\$90.00

He can help us, liability and license, emergency help till ESCUD can get on their feet. No charge to ESCUD. Can provide equipment and man power just need supplies.

Mac with Fire Dept.-Section of property to be deeded to fire department. This was agreed through Alliance but noting has been done, other fires to deal with. Fire Dept to get surveyed  
2. How are hydrants?-no change, can use one at condo's and clingmans view but can not open all the way-only in an emergency. Can not use your pump.

Ron Cooley- Reason for not hiring anyone? Is Witt going to take over? Jerry said NO. we pay 30,000.00 a month which is 24,000.00 less than what Alliance was charging through contract. Employees

would cost more than when 2 men and a truck is called for in emergency. Alliance wiped out the system. Nov 2022 was last time meters were read. He claimed Jerry and Dan had prints of where all valves were. Red Maple and Alpine hydrant had been removed, Ron stated.

Cindy Mitchell-How long has well D been a problem with dirty water? Problem is infrastructure so old. Since Witt took over only certain people are complaining about dirty water.

Norm- 1989 been apart of this mountain, stated 1968 water put in, no codes then. Doesn't want Ben back on the mountain. Why having to read meters now when we had electronic.

John Kirkbride- thanked Witt for their help. Have only been out of water 2 days. Alliance did damage and why aren't they being held accountable? Per removal agreement of Alliance ESCUD can not go after Alliance.

Dan- God's greatest gift is grace, we need to stay friends and give grace.

Lee Morgan-why can't Louie help with billing? Luie said Ben told new board Louie couldn't be trusted.

Adjourned Dan 1<sup>st</sup>, Eddie 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Norm ended with a prayer