



# VILLA GRANDE

Domestic Water Improvement District

**Note: All meeting minutes are posted for informational purposes only. The board of directors does not ratify meeting minutes until the next scheduled board meeting.**

## Minutes

September 12, 2024 • Regular Meeting

**Call to Order:** Bernie Vargas called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

**Directors Roll Call:** Present were Bernie Vargas, Allen Grant (telephonically), Cauy Washburn, and Terry Eickstaedt. Ray Roerdink was absent.

**Discussion/Action Minutes: The Regular Meeting Minutes of 8/8/24.** A motion was made by Terry Eickstaedt to approve and ratify the minutes for the Regular Meeting Minutes held on 8/8/24 as written and seconded by Cauy Washburn. Vote unanimous 4-0. Motion carried.

**Call to the audience:** None present to address the board.

**Discussion/Action: ADEQ/Nitrate Treatment System.** ADEQ was here today. It did not go well. Dina is going to work on the specifics and get them changed. There are a few issues that they are disputing. Those issues include New Source Water Analysis for well #2, additional parameter testing from well #1. ADEQ stated they would pay for all the New Source Water Analysis testing because Joni told ADEQ several times throughout the meeting, VGDWID doesn't have additional funding available for the testing they are now requiring. Linda Taunt is looking for funding grant money. Jason Bobko stated we didn't have to worry about it. They didn't want to accept what we've already provided per the previous engineer from the engineer's desk at ADEQ. There were also specific items that we followed outlined by the previous engineer but the new engineer won't accept. AdEdge had left the previous week before the ADEQ engineer showed up. ADEQ didn't respond when they were provided with the dates AdEdge was here. The engineer for ADEQ is going to call AdEdge and have a meeting with them. The ADEQ engineer didn't like the training provided or the marking of the system.

The system is on and we will be testing every week taking additional nitrate tests over the next 30 days. It does take about a week for us to get each of the test results back. We were also required to take one sample prior to start up. Jack also spent 6 days at the well site where he was supposed to be training with AdEdge. Instead, he did other jobs working around the well site because the media delivery was delayed for four days. The delay was due to AdEdge. AdEdge hadn't paid the freight, which was over \$10,000.00 and it sat in the Carrier's yard for three days. We weren't told until late the second day. Joni made some phone calls to find out where it was and that was when we were told it was in Phoenix at the carrier's yard and would not be released without payment of freight. She also asked the

amount. We told AdEdge their invoice to VGDWID showed the freight was included in our bill and it was on them to pay it. It was not delivered until everyone left on Wednesday night and Herchel from Ellison Mills waited until it was delivered after 4:00 pm. It couldn't be loaded until Thursday morning when AdEdge got back to the site. Jack could only be here one day after the media was delivered due to other obligations so he didn't get all the training he should have received. Joni was also told that AdEdge would be working across the street on another system the following week and if we had any issues, they would come back over and we wouldn't be billed for it.

**Discussion/Action: Well #1.** We didn't have any issues with Well #1.

**Discussion/Action: Well #2.** We didn't have any issues with Well #2 but it is still not pumping to full capacity. Joni spoke to Jack about it and he said short of pulling out the pipe to look for a split in the pipe, he can't tell what is wrong. Joni also asked Jack about the issues with sand. Jack confirmed that we had installed an inline sand separator that is self-cleaning. Allen hadn't heard of that before but Cauly had mentioned they had used them before. Cauly said he would get Allen some additional information regarding how the sand separator worked. The separator is not at the top like it used to be. No issues with the booster pumps.

**Discussion/Action: Generator Maintenance Update.** Terry Eickstaedt reported to Joni that the generator has 565.2 hours on it. The fuel tank was just below 5/8 full. All other levels look good. There were no bees at the site. The new control panel will show the information that Terry needs without opening up the actual generator panel.

**Discussion/Action: Managers Report.** Joni Roerdink reported the following:

- Water bills were sent out on 9/2/24. Final notices were sent on 9/2/24.
- Disconnects were scheduled for 9/12/24. Past Due Amount: \$2,835.32 with 23 past due customers. That was about a 75% increase over last month. No disconnects had to be done in September.

**Discussion/Action: Equipment & Site Report/Lab Tests.**

- Coliform sample came back absent.
- The nitrate sample Jack took prior to start up came back at 18.2 mg/L. We will also be taking additional samples over the next several weeks as required.
- There is also a screen on the system that will tell them approximately what the nitrate level is.

**Discussion/Action: Meters/Installations/Reinstallations/Leaks/Repairs.**

- There were no new leaks in August. There is a leak that Cauly found over by the canal that Cauly found yesterday. There was also a marker there where Danny had marked it years ago. There is a possibility that there could be two lines over there. When Cauly had built his fence, he had hit the line but the line he hit went due North toward the canal not to the West where the current leak was located and near the water line marker. The water loss went up drastically.
- There was an inquiry about another new service line. They didn't want to pay for a new service line claiming they had service before for their horses. There was a line to the lot that had leaked eight years ago and we didn't have a customer for the meter at the time.

The meter was pulled and capped. Joni researched how long ago the service was used and it was over 15 years ago. Joni had spoken to Cauby and Allen and it was suggested that we get advice from our attorney to see if we could deny service based on the fact it had been abandoned for over 15 years and we didn't know the condition of the service line. The attorney stated that if there was an old line that existed and hadn't been used in XXX number of years, we can require they put a new service line in. It is a health and safety issue and we don't know the condition of the line. The attorney suggested that maybe we should put in our written policy that if it is an old line that has been out of service for XXX number of years, we will require a new service line be put in at their expense. It is not fair to the rest of the community to pick up the cost of the repair if it wasn't a safe line or it broke or started leaking shortly after the customer started service with the old line. Joni was also asked if they could use their own contractor. Joni told the customer; service lines belong to the water company. The attorney also suggested that we check with ADEQ to see if there are any rules or plumbing code regulations that support our position. Jack checked and there weren't any.

**Discussion/Action: Approve and Ratify Expenditures & Purchases.** The Board reviewed the Expenditures and Purchases as submitted for August 2024. Cauby Washburn made a motion to approve and ratify the expenditures and purchases as written. Terry Eickstaedt seconded the motion. Vote unanimous 4-0. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** The agenda being completed; Bernie Vargas adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bernie Vargas

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Allen Grant

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Ray Roerdink

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Cauby Washburn

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Terry Eickstaedt