

*Resolution No: 17-02*

*A Resolution of the Board of Directors  
of Camrosa Water District*

***Establishing a Budget Policy***

*Whereas*, the budget is presented as a policy document, an operational tool, a financial planning tool and a link to the Strategic Plan and considered a communication tool to the District's community and stakeholders; and,

*Whereas*, the purpose of the budget policy is to provide guidelines that will influence and direct the financial management practice of the District; and,

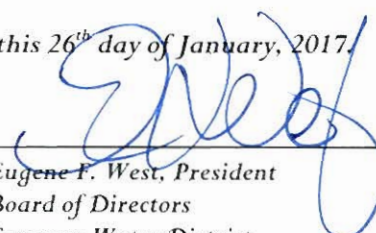
*Whereas*, the main reasons for establishing a budget policy is to:

- Ensure quality of existing core services;
- Establish organizational goals to guide decision making;
- Develop a budget to achieve goals;
- Incorporate a long-term perspective;
- Evaluate performance and make adjustments;
- Strengthen the financial position;
- Focus budget decisions on results and outcomes; and
- Involve and promote effective communication with stakeholders.


*Whereas*, the Camrosa Water District established a budget policy, memorializing as a formal policy and establishing best practices of financial management for the District;

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved* by the Camrosa Water District Board of Directors that the proposed Budget Policy is hereby approved and adopted, and the General Manager is authorized to implement the policy.

*Adopted, Signed, and Approved* this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

  
Eugene F. West, President  
Board of Directors  
Camrosa Water District

ATTEST:

  
Tony L. Stafford, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Camrosa Water District

# **CAMROSA WATER DISTRICT**

## **Budget Policy**

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**Adopted  
1/26/2017**



## **Budget Policy**

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## **Budget Policy**

The budget is presented as a policy document, an operational tool, a financial planning tool, and a link to the Strategic Plan. In addition, it is also considered a communication tool to the District's community and stakeholders.

The main reasons for establishing a budget policy is to:

- Ensure quality of existing core services;
- Establish organizational goals to guide decision making;
- Develop a budget to achieve goals;
- Incorporate a long-term perspective;
- Evaluate performance and make adjustments;
- Strengthen the financial position;
- Focus budget decisions on results and outcomes; and
- Involve and promote effective communication with stakeholders

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Camrosa Water District's Budget Policy is to provide guidelines that will influence and direct the financial management practice of the District. A financial policy that is adopted, adhered to, and regularly reviewed is recognized as the cornerstone of sound financial management. An effective financial policy: Provides principles and guidelines that minimize costs and reduce risk, maintains appropriate financial capacity for present and future needs, ensures legal compliance and maintains appropriate internal controls.

### **2.1 Budget Submittal and Adoption**

- In order to facilitate and implement the budget process, the General Manager will propose an annual budget calendar at the first regular Board meeting in January in every year.
- No later than two months before the end of each fiscal year, the General Manager shall prepare and submit to the Board of Directors a draft annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year.
- The Board of Directors will adopt by formal resolution an operating and capital budget every year by June 30.
- The fiscal period for the District is July 1 to June 30.

### **3.1 Balanced Budget**

- Adopted annual budgets shall ensure that operating revenues fully cover operating expenditures, including debt service within the Water and Wastewater enterprise.
- In the event of a shortfall, use of the rate stabilization fund or an inter-fund loan is allowable.
- One-time revenues shall only be used to cover one-time costs and ongoing revenues shall only be used to cover ongoing costs.

- Debt service funds shall not be utilized for operating expenses.

#### **4.1 Amendments to Adopted Budget**

- Initial appropriations (excluding carryovers and encumbrances for multi-year capital projects) will be made during the annual budget process when all District needs can be reviewed and prioritized in a comprehensive manner.
- The annual budget process will include multiple year projections.
- The General Manager has the authority to adjust the budget at the operational level within an enterprise and shall report budget performance to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis.
- Additional appropriations from reserves must go to the Board of Directors for approval.

#### **5.1 Budget Process**

- The budget preparation process is developed by the General Manager with input from the Board of Directors.
- The District will develop its annual budget in such a manner to incorporate historical trend analysis for revenues and expenditures with an adjustment for increasing import water costs, current water demand trends, and other considerations as appropriate.
- The budget process will include a review of the current and future utility rates to determine the necessity to set a public hearing to increase rates to offset operational costs.

#### **6.1 Form of Budget**

- The budget shall present an itemized statement of the appropriations recommended by the General Manager to include estimated expenses and permanent improvements for each enterprise and program.
- Comparative data of the appropriations and expenditures for the current and previous fiscal year, as well as the increases or decreases in the recommended budget, shall be provided.

#### **7.1 Capital Budget**

- The Capital Improvement Program and the Operating Budget will be reviewed at the same time to ensure that the District's capital and operating needs are balanced and that the Capital Improvement Program is aligned with the District's long-range plans.
- Capital expenditures shall meet the requirements of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
- The District will identify the estimated costs and potential funding sources for each capital project proposal.
- The District will develop a five-year plan for capital improvements including operations and maintenance costs to be updated each year.

- The District will utilize grant funding and other outside resources whenever possible.
- The District will utilize the least costly financing method for all new projects.

### **8.1 Long Term Financial Forecast**

- The District will develop a five-year financial forecast for operating and capital improvement projects; including operations and maintenance costs, and update it every year as part of the annual budget process.
- The financial forecast will identify the District's source of funds for which future capital improvement projects will necessitate.
- The financial forecast will include escalating operational cost index factor for ongoing routine operation expenditures.
- The financial forecast will identify the necessity of potential utility rate increases based upon imported water rates and operational costs.

### **9.1 Debt Service Ratios/Reserve Financial Position**

- The District will meet or exceed minimum debt service coverage ratios required by governing bond indentures.
- The District will ensure minimum reserve levels are met after appropriation of one-time capital appropriations.

### **10.1 Budgetary Control**

- The District shall prepare monthly reports on revenues and expenditures that compare budget-to-actual financial performance for Staff and reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors.
- The District will monitor revenues and expenditures on an ongoing basis and ensure that expenditures do not exceed appropriations within an enterprise fund and program for the annual fiscal period.
- Each Program Manager is responsible for ensuring expenditures remain within budget.
- Any deviation from the Budget Policy will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.