

Grievance #3 re TID Board Chair Ron Cochran

October 14, 2025 Board Chairman Ron Cochran asked the other board members to vote to “ratify” a decision regarding the 2022 Chevy trade-in. He had a written statement in front of him that he was referencing but did not clearly state what the entire motion was apparently supposed to be.

**** “I would like to read, make, the following statement. We thought, we the board thought, that we had declared the 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus to be traded in. Recently, Susie Hart mentioned that she did not see those votes reflected in our meeting minutes. It is my belief that the board already voted on this, but since it was not reflected in the minutes, I believe that we should now ratify that decision. Do I have a motion to ratify the decision to declare the Tahoe as surplus to be traded in for a new vehicle.*

October 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes that were approved by the entire Board state:

“Chairman Cochran addressed Patron Susie Hart’s concern from last month about there not being a motion to purchase the 2024 Dodge Ram last January, as required by the Bylaws. Cochran stated that it was the Board’s recollection that they had approved the purchase of the truck. Vice Chair Warbington made a motion ratifying their decision to declare the 2022 Chevy Tahoe surplus and purchase the 2024 Dodge Ram. Director Putnam seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran and Director Shull voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.”

This statement DOES NOT match the above transcription of the audio recording for that meeting and the statement written by Attorney Mark Reinecke. I can only conclude that the matter was discussed during an Executive Session because there were NO discussions of this nature in any prior public meeting minutes or at the October meeting when this motion was made. As stated in prior Grievances, the Board never discussed the approval of disposing of the Chevy Tahoe or the purchase of a new vehicle or using district funds to purchase a new vehicle from what they call the “Long Term Fund”. Oregon state law does not allow for any decisions to be made during an Executive session.

Board Chair Ron Cochran then contradicted the statement he read above (October 14,2025) at the December 9, 2025 Board Meeting when he read a new statement, as follows:

**** “I want to respond to a comment on a presentation or a leave behind that you gave us last month. And I’m going to read this because I want to make sure that I get my entire ideas out without losing my place somewhere. The Board would like to address Patron Susie Hart’s November 11 letter to the board. The Board agrees that the discussion about replacing the District vehicle occurred publicly. But the minutes do not reflect a formal motion or vote. When the board became aware of the issue, we consulted legal counsel. Under Oregon’s Public Meetings law the correct way to correct a procedural error is to take the necessary action in public which is what the Board did by holding a vote during it’s October 2025 public board meeting which approves the prior action. Approving the prior action after the action took place is not a way to avoid accountability. It is a required legal method to establish a complete record and to ensure transparency. No one benefited personally and the purpose of the trade in to cost efficiently maintain operational equipment to support the efficient management of the district and deliver water to its patrons. When we discussed this matter during the public meeting, myself, and I expect others, anticipated that an eventual vote prior to any action being taken would be done as we normally do. Going forward we will remain vigilant, so that votes like this one are timely and are reflected in the minutes. Thank you for your concern and we acknowledged that we corrected a mistake.”*

Clearly, the statement read never admits, nor does Chairman Ron Cochran or the Board accept accountability that there was never a public vote to purchase the 2024 Dodge Ram 2500

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Laramie (much less declare the Chevy Tahoe as surplus). The finagling of words to make it a “procedural error” and cover it up by a ratification of a vote that was never taken is the work of TID attorney Mark Reinecke, who must have written this statement and is clearly representing solely Chairman Cochran and the board but not the Patrons of the District who pay him. This is also evidence of this being discussed in Executive Session which is illegal as this topic is not exempted from public discussion per Public Meetings Law.

December 9, 2025 TID Board Chairman Ron Cochran read a statement responding to the Grievance that Patron Susie Hart submitted at the November 11, 2025 meeting. Again, discussions on this matter had to have been discussed during Executive Session, or outside of a Regular meeting because there is no record in the Public Meeting minutes of this type of discussion. Which leads to me to one of 3 conclusions.

1. The Board is discussing my Grievance during Executive session, which does not fall under any of the statutes listed for an Executive meeting.
2. The Board is discussing the matter outside of a Public meeting, which violates Public Meeting Law.
3. Board Chairman Ron Cochran is discussing the matter with Attorney Mark Reinecke outside of a meeting, acting alone without the rest of the Board, which is also a violation because no single board member can act alone.

Furthermore, TID’s attorney should be representing the entire district, which includes the patrons who pay his legal charges. The submitted Grievance was solely directed towards the TID Board, not TID as a district. Bryant Lovlien and Jarvis’ bills to TID clearly state that Attorney Mark Reinecke has regular communication directly with Board Chairman Ron Cochran which again implies that the Chairman is acting alone and not as a body, as required by law (unless the Board is meeting outside of a Public Meeting and directing the Chairman to communicate with the district’s attorney which is still another violation).

The discussions or instructions given during an Executive Board session cannot be anything other than the specific three exemptions from public meeting that are stated in Oregon public meeting laws as well as on the TID executive session agenda. Grievances submitted by patrons have nothing to do with litigation.

To further make this point, the patron that has been submitting the grievances, myself Susie Hart, has previously said in public board meetings this year, as well as in writing that was presented to Attorney Mark Reinecke in November 2025, and restated again at the December 9, 2025 meeting:

**** “We are a family. We will have disagreements and differences of opinions. But we are a family and we need to work together to address our differences. I have never indicated at any time that I am considering suing nor do I intend to sue or litigate. Therefore, you cannot discuss me during executive session.”*

After I made this restatement at the public board meeting on December 9, 2025 Chairman Ron Cochran picked up the written statement from which he had just read and said *** “What about this?” (Which also implies that he discussed the written statement in Executive)

I, Patron Susie Hart responded *** “That is a grievance, it is not litigation.”

Furthermore the statement (apparently prepared by Attorney Mark Reinecke and discussed during Executive session) that Chairman Ron Cochran read during the 9 December 2025 public Board Meeting (and that Chairman Ron Cochran refused to give me a copy of) listed 3 main

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points related to the 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie, all of which I contend do not reflect reality.

1. **No one personally benefited from the purchase of this truck.**

The reality is that District Manager Chris Schull drives this truck 50% or more of the time for personal use just by driving the truck from his home to work and back home again. Just this year so far (from January 15th to November 10th) he put 19,967 miles on the new truck. Miles round trip to the TID office and DM Schull's home is 39.2 miles. By my estimate of work days in a calendar year, that is 250 days times x 39.2 which totals 9,800 miles per year. *How much other personal use miles he puts on this truck is unknown. Furthermore, the TID logo has never been put on this truck which gives the impression to others that this truck is personally owned by DM Schull.*

2. **The truck's purpose is for TID water delivery.**

The truck's primary use is NOT for water delivery since 50% or more is for personal use. Furthermore, the majority of the TID miles that DM Schull uses it for is going to meetings. There has been no piping project going on this year and the 3 field crew are primarily responsible for water delivery to Patrons. The trucks the field crew uses are clearly adequate for ensuring water delivery. Those consist of a 2002 Ford Ranger, 2015 Chevy Silverado, a 2017 Dodge Ram, a 2018 Ford F-150, and a 2023 GMC 2500 Service Truck (All of which less miles are put on in a year than the vehicle that DM Schull's drives. Which makes it obvious that a brand new top of the line with bells and whistles Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie is **excessive** for the "delivery of water" Never before has TID needed such a truck for "water delivery" nor is it necessary now.

3. **The purchase of the truck was cost efficient.**

The reality is that DM Schull benefits personally from the purchase of the Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie and since the primary purpose of the truck is NOT for water delivery. And even if it was, such a fancy truck is unnecessary for that purpose, therefore the purchase of this truck at Patron's expense was NOT cost efficient but instead was excessive. Furthermore Patron's are paying for the 50% personal use of the Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie in the way of depreciation, fuel, tires, and all other maintenance costs. **The purchase of this truck was not cost efficient for the Patrons of TID. It was cost efficient only for District Manager Schull personally.**

It is time for Board Chairman Ron Cochran, the rest of the board, DM Schull, and attorney Mark Reinecke be accountable to the Patrons of Tumalo Irrigation District for their roles in the illegal purchase and ongoing cover up of the illegality of the purchase of the new Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie. **And Chairman Ron Cochran should reimburse TID for attorney expenses.**

Susie Hart
TID Patron 1/1/2026

Exhibit A: copy of the agenda for December 9, 2025 that shows what items are exempt from public meeting and can be discussed during executive session (which are on every monthly agenda).

Exhibit B: Copies of Invoices from attorney Mark Reinecke for the purpose of defending Board Chairman Ron Cochran, other board members, and DM Schull.

***** Indicates that this is a transcription from a recording of the Public Board Meeting.**