

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2021
DISTRICT OFFICE (and ZOOM)

ROLL CALL:

Meeting called to order at 5:05 P.M by Board President Rodriguez. Those in attendance in the office: Board President Rodriguez, Neal Costanzo, JoAnn Vierra. In attendance via ZOOM: Director Peranick, Director Mackey, Director Baroni, Frank Daniele, Jason Franklin. Also in attendance via ZOOM: Doug Dove & Michael DeGroot/Bartle Wells, Berkeley.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

April 6 meeting minutes & bills payable were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC ADDRESS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Michael DeGroot reviewed the revised draft of the Water Rate Study. Bartle Wells recommends that the District incorporate 1 year of mock billing prior to placing everyone on metered billing, once the meters have been installed. General discussion ensued regarding the change to billing customers based upon lot size in the interim between now and the time that meters are all installed. Director Mackey stated that, based upon the proposed rates, he's not seeing equity in, for instance, 1/8 acre lot vs. 1/2 acre lot and that the increase isn't enough. Director Peranick pointed out that, for instance, a 1/3 acre lot with a home with 2 occupants would use less water than perhaps a home on a 1/2-acre lot with 5 occupants. Director Rodriguez pointed out that there are many homes within Pinedale who have above-ground pools that are dumped and refilled throughout the year as a method of cleaning the pool water. This is not tracked by the District, as there's no way to know when it's being done unless the District receives a phone call regarding the pool draining. Michael DeGroot pointed out that the current proposed rate chart (based upon lot size for residential) is currently in use in the City of Modesto. Michael states that if the District chooses to not follow those guidelines, it could leave the District open to legal issues, and Neal reiterated that Michael's statement is correct. Discussion continued, with Director Mackey stating that as long as the proposed rate structure is defensible, then he will support it. Bartle Wells states that the District might consider taking out a loan in 2023/2024, with Jason Franklin stating that perhaps the District can obtain a loan for Engineering in 6-9 months and then apply for meter funding with the State. Jason is meeting with Provost & Pritchard tomorrow (May 5). Director Mackey stated he's prepared to support this if the District can be aggressive in seeking a loan and doing initial work to put this into play. Per Neal, the District will require Board Direction to go thru the Prop 218 process based upon this rate study. Director Rodriguez inquired as to whether the District could give an option for some customers to be mock-metered to allow for data tracking. Jason stated that we already have some meters installed & would only need another 20-30 meters installed to obtain sufficient info. Frank Daniele pointed out that the proposed rate structure shows that 5,000 sq. ft. & smaller lots will pay less than they're currently paying, and larger lots will be paying double what they're currently paying—and that does address the question of equity. Neal requested a word doc of the Proposed Rate Scenario 1, for use in composing the Prop 218 notification; JoAnn will send it to him. Director Peranick motioned to initiate the Proposition 218 process to adopt the Proposed Rate Scenario 1; Director Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Voting commenced, as follows:

Director Peranick: Yes

Director Rodriguez: Yes

Director Mackey: Yes

Director Baroni: Yes

The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed & none absent. Neal will prepare the Prop 218 notification and will email to JoAnn for distribution to District customers. Public Hearing will be held on June 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., at the District office.

DEFERRED BUSINESS: NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT: NONE

ENGINEER'S REPORT: NONE

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Nothing further to report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Rodriguez reports that he has been in contact with County Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, who wasn't aware that the District needed funding and is eager to assist us in any way he can. He suggested how to expedite the process with lobbying, and Director Rodriguez is working with Neal and Supervisor Borgeas' aide regarding this matter.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT (cont.): Director Mackey stated that he would like Jason to reaffirm the loan plan, the plan for where to begin with meter installation, and the plan to go about sample survey. General discussion commenced, with the statement being made that if the meters are installed in an existing right of way, the District can just install them with no landowner permission. The District needs to determine what needs to be done regarding the right of way to install meters.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Mackey motioned to adjourn; Director Peranick seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY :

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
BOARD PRESIDENT

JOANN VIERRA
DISTRICT SECRETARY