

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 2, 2021
DISTRICT OFFICE

ROLL CALL:

Board President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Those in attendance: Board President Rodriguez, Director Peranick, Director Mackey, Director Baroni, Frank Daniele, Neal Costanzo, Jason Franklin and JoAnn Vierra.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Director Peranick motioned & Director Mackey seconded to accept the October 5 minutes & bills payable as presented, and all voted in favor.

PUBLIC ADDRESS: NONE
PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Discussion took place regarding Ordinance 2021-01 Amending the Ordinance Code Relating to Customer Accounts, Billing & Water Meters. The Ordinance is presented to the Board for informational purposes, for their review. The Ordinance will be posted in the Fresno Bee’s Public Notices and at the District Office for public comment/response. The Board will vote on the passing of the Ordinance at the next meeting on December 7, 2021.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

7.1 Regarding the matter of additional staff Sensitivity Training, the Board discussed the matter further. There is not a chronic problem within the District’s staff and no documented incidents of problems. This being the case, the decision of the Board is that there is no justification in seeking additional staff training at this time.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

9.1 Jason discussed a salary increase for District staff, informing that the 2022 COLA increase is 5.7%. For the benefit of newer members of the Board, he explained that past Board members had voted for the District to match the annual COLA increase for the District employees. Jason noted that the 2021 Rate Study had included a 3% increase, which would be an annual cost of \$11,000. He also stated that he would forego an increase for himself if the Board would approve an increase for the rest of the staff. General discussion followed, with Director Rodriguez stating he has no issue with approving an increase that is at or below the Government standard. Directors Mackey & Baroni both stated they had no issue with a 5.7% increase, and Director Peranick deferred to the wishes of the rest of the Board, and added that any increase should be given to GM Jason as well. Director Mackey then motioned to approve a 5.7% salary increase for all District employees; Director Baroni seconded. All voted in favor of a 5.7% salary increase for all District employees, including GM Jason.

9.2 Jason also informed that he met with Provost & Pritchard & they’ll have a draft of the funding application for the District. Jason states that he believes P & P is doing a good job & that we should hear something back from the State at the beginning of 2022.

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Nothing to report

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Question was raised regarding Board of Directors’ stipend. Neal will investigate into the matter and whether it can be increased. He will inform at the next meeting.

Neal received a call from Dirk Poeschel regarding the 5’-0 easement at the R. Smith property. The original agreement allowed for a 5’-0 easement on the District’s property side, and recent examination indicates that there was no easement left & it is now covered by landscaping (which is not in compliance with the agreement). Mr. Poeschel stated that initially the Fresno Fire Department had required the easement & that they were no longer requiring the easement, so R. Smith took back the easement. The Board states that R. Smith should have honored the original agreement that was accepted by both parties, R. Smith should be held to said agreement, and that the 5’-0 easement should be there as per the original recorded agreement. Neal will take it up with Dirk Poeschel.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS: NONE
ADJOURNMENT: 5:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY : RESPECTFULLY,

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
BOARD PRESIDENT
JOANN VIERRA
DISTRICT SECRETARY