

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 3, 2024
DISTRICT OFFICE

ROLL CALL:

Board President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M. Those in attendance: Director Rodriguez, Director Valdez, Director Gonzales, Director Baroni, Mike Slater, Jason Franklin, Mark Gutierrez (Interim for JoAnn Vierra). Also present: Harrison Hughes/Provost & Pritchard.

Director Rodriguez informed that they need to add an item to the New Business on the Agenda, as follows:

Approval of Partial Payment Estimate 03 from Haydon Construction, for the Water Main Replacement Project
Director Baroni motioned & Director Peranick seconded to add the item to the Agenda under New Business.
Vote was cast, with all voting in favor to add the item to the Agenda as noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

3.1 Minutes of the regular meeting of August 6 were accepted as presented.

PUBLIC ADDRESS: Ernestine Martinez, resident of 425 W. Alluvial, Pinedale addressed the Board. Ms. Martinez inquired regarding the State requirements on the meter installation. Ms. Martinez asked for clarification as to why the installation of meters is not being done right away. Director Rodriguez clarified that the State of California has delayed the deadline for meter installation until 2032.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Approval of Partial Payment Estimate 03 from Haydon Construction for the Water Main Replacement Project. Jason informed that this is a monthly billing that Haydon will submit, based upon the work that's been done on the project. Director Peranick inquired and Jason confirmed that the project is on schedule. Director Peranick inquired whether the District has received any complaints from customers about the work being done. Jason stated that the District received one complaint from a customer who said that he had not received notification of work being done in his area. Jason stated that the District is going door to door and providing written notification to all residents that might be affected by the project, and it's being done in advance of the work commencing in each area. Director Baroni motioned to approve the Partial Payment Estimate 03; Director Valdez seconded. A vote was cast, with all voting in favor and Partial Payment Estimate 03 was approved.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

7.1 Harrison Hughes/Provost & Pritchard reported regarding the Water Main Replacement Project, stating that the Birch Ave. phase is completed, the Clark St. phase is nearly completed and the next phase will be on Los Altos. The project is on schedule and still on target for completion on November 14, 2024. Regarding the Water Meter Project, Harrison states that the 100% plans & specifications & the last Technical deliverables went to the State. They'll also be submitting the Project Completion Report for this phase of the project. Provost & Pritchard will send an invoice to the District in October for the September work, and the District will submit to the State for reimbursement. Harrison states that the cost estimate for the project is \$10.8 million. Estimated approximately 7400 lineal feet of pipe and approximately 1900 meters to be installed, with meters & backflow devices on the apartment complexes and other larger services. General discussion followed regarding the project and how the District will proceed, when the time comes. Mike Slater stated it appears a lot of single-family residences are being replaced with multiple-family units, and suggested that the District update its building standards to require submetering on new construction or remodels, to prepare for future needs. The Board requested that Mike provide the correct wording for the update, and for this item to be placed on the agenda for follow-up at the October board meeting. Harrison reported to the Board regarding the State's approach to whether or not another entity would be able to receive funding ahead of the District if there was a need. If there was an imminent need that had to be addressed, the answer is yes, another entity could jump in and receive funding ahead of the District. It was noted that when the time comes, the District will be able to update the cost of the project, along with having to update funding applications.

7.2 Update on incentives for Solar for the District office:

Per Jason, Killua Solar offered an incentive of \$15,500, which would come in the form of a check made payable to the District. Killua Solar's bid came in around \$62,000 & they are located in southern California. Energy Concepts said that their incentive would come in the form of a tax writeoff. Energy Concepts bid came in around \$60,000. Neither bid includes maintenance of the panels. General discussion followed, with no formal conclusion regarding this matter, and it is tabled for future discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS:

9.1 Manager’s Report:

- 9.1.1 Jason informed that we have been having issues with vandalism at Well #7. The site has been broken into approximately 5 times in the last year. The fence has been cut and items have been stolen, including extension cords. The Board requested that Jason investigate replacing the extension cords with underground hardwiring and report back. Jason states he’s investigating replacing the fence with wrought iron, he has an estimate of \$22,000 from Curb Appeal and \$51,000 from Ace Fence Company. Jason called Valley Fence as well, but did not receive a callback from them. Currently there are 3 rows of barbed wire at the top of the fence, but the perpetrators are cutting through the cyclone fencing on the bottom. Jason will follow up with Valley Fence to obtain an estimate and explore alternate types of fencing & their costs and will report back.
- 9.1.2 2024-2025 District Proposed Budget was not approved at the last meeting. Discussion followed regarding certain increases in utility fees & the anticipated costs of water purchase for recharge, which the District is required to do. Per Mike, if the Board doesn’t actually approve the budget at this meeting, it would be prudent to authorize Jason to continue spending at last fiscal year’s levels until there is a new budget approved. In lieu of that, the Board can also choose to approve the 2024-2025 District Proposed Budget as presented, and amend it if needed as the fiscal year progresses. Discussion followed regarding which option was preferred. Director Peranick motioned to approve the 2024-2025 District Proposed Budget as submitted, with the option to amend as needed. Director Baroni seconded. A vote was cast, with all 5 Directors voting in favor to approve the 2024-2025 Budget as submitted, with option to amend.
- Jason informed that he obtained a proposal from Provost & Pritchard for a Sewer System Boundary Mapping and Description to provide the Fresno County Elections Department with information so that the District’s customers who reside in sewer-only service areas will be recognized. Provost & Pritchard will put together the information on a time/materials basis over the next 3 months, with an estimated cost of \$4,000. General discussion followed regarding the issue with the disenfranchisement of the District’s sewer-only customers by the Fresno County Department of Elections. It has come to the attention of the District that the Fresno County Department of Elections does not recognize residents of the District’s sewer-only service areas as being eligible to vote and/or to become a candidate for service on the District’s Board of Directors. The Board directed Jason to follow-up with Provost & Pritchard to obtain the mapping, and District’s legal counsel will continue to work on resolving this issue with the Fresno County Elections Department and/or LAFCO.

- 9.2 **Engineer’s Report:** None
- 9.3 **Attorney’s Report:** No further report.
- 9.4 **Board President’s Report:** None
- 9.5 **Director’s Report(s):** None.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 5:46 p.m.

APPROVED BY	:	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
DAVID RODRIGUEZ		MARK GUTIERREZ
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT		INTERIM DISTRICT SECRETARY