

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 08, 2020

501 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

I. Call to order

President Cliff Kennedy called to order the regular meeting of the Rand Community Water district at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Roll call

Present were President Cliff Kennedy, Director Tom Williams, Vice-president Ernest Napolis, Director Ghulam Din, and Director Will Liebscher.

III. Adopt Agenda

Vice-President Napolis made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with all ayes.

IV. Communications from the Public

There was no public attending the meeting.

V. Auditor's Report

Chris from Fedak and Brown went over the 2018-19 audit they performed. It was performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. General Manager Thompson and Office Manager Jones were thanked for their hard work getting everything cleared to audit due to the turnover in September 2018. The auditors provided an unmodified opinion for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

VI. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

VII. Approve Minutes:

Vice-President Napolis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2020. Director Williams seconded it. Motion passed with all ayes.

VIII. Bills Paid

Office Manager Debbie Jones presented the bills to be paid along with the checks to be signed to the Board. All checks presented were signed.

IX. General Manager's Report

The General Manager gave his report from both June and July 2020. A new vertical turbine booster pump and 25 hp motor were purchased for about \$27,000. RCWD now has on hand a well pump and bowls, a new booster pump and motor, and a rebuilt booster motor. Two old boosters were sent out to be rebuilt, but the company was not able to open the boosters. FedEx had quoted a shipping price of \$565.00, so they were shipped

out. Then FedEx send a bill for a shipping cost of \$2700.00. After arguments from Office Manager Jones, she was able to get the shipping cost down to \$603.00. The General Manager went to Santa Fe Springs to retrieve them.

A 4" band aid blew out below Lexington in Randsburg and the town was out of water for a few hours. A semi-truck hit a hydrant on the corner of St Elmo and Goler Rd. Residents along Highway 395 were without water for a few hours two days in a row. About six leaks were fixed along the transmission line over the past four months.

A cement 14 x 24 ft slab was installed in the back yard along with an overhead canopy. Total cost was around \$600.00.

He attempted to install a differential backflow preventer device at the top of the hill on Sunset and Rand, but there was not enough water pressure for the device to work properly, so it was uninstalled.

A couple of joints in the transmission line slipped due to the last earthquake. The time to turn on the system used to take two hours, but now only takes 13 minutes.

The accusations from the previous Board Secretary have been turned over to the insurance company, who will handle it from here. They suggest there be no further discussions about that matter.

He eliminated the broken 6" valve on the main line in Director Liebscher's yard and replaced it with a section of pipe and compression coupler.

GM Thompson believes that the new system is tied into the old system in places and people are getting free water, causing the excessive water loss in the towns.

X. Closed Session Under California Code 54957 To Discuss Board Officer Performance

President Kennedy questioned why it had to be a closed session because the directors are elected officials, not employees. Director Liebscher did not see how GM Thompson could put off the board secretary to the insurance company. Director Napolis cut him off to say he could not discuss that. Director Napolis reminded Director Liebscher that he had said he wanted to shift the officers of the District, and that he had stated he wanted a closed session to rearrange that part.

Director Liebscher wanted the board to know about the laws it broke, and that it involved him in its illegal behavior, and he did not want any part of it. Nobody understood what Director Liebscher was talking about. GM Thompson and Vice-President Napolis said the closed session was about appointing a different President of the Board. President Kennedy stated that his term would be up in December, and they could elect a new president then. There was argument about whether a new board president could be elected before that with no resolution.

Director Liebscher stated he did not think the board members knew what a special district was, and that the board was not going by the rules of the special district. He said it had been called a year ago and it digressed to a lawsuit that it could not be passed off to some insurance company and that they and the lawyers needed to talk to him.

GM Thompson told Director Liebscher to keep it to appointing a new board president, and that he did not want to talk about the board secretary. President Kennedy asked Director Liebscher what his and Director Napolis' behavior was. Director Liebscher said he was not going to say unless they go into closed session. GM Thompson said he would say it. He said the GM had to work with the board president and he had been trying to get straight if the board secretary was an employee or contract labor. Director Napolis called time out and asked if they should be in closed session.

Director Liebscher made a motion they go into closed session. (The recording cut off at this point and they went into closed session)

XI. Open Session Resumes

No action was taken during the closed session. GM Thompson announced in open session that he was going to retire in exactly two weeks and that the board could have the mess. He stated he was not going to work with a board president he could not work with.

XII. Future Agenda Items

Director Napolis stated that he wanted to call a special meeting to get to the bottom of the officer issue. He said he would call with a date to set up the meeting. He wanted time to look up the laws before holding the meeting.

XIII. Future Agenda Items

Item 14 Discuss New Board Secretary and item 15 Review Minutes for Nov 2019, Dec 2019, Jan 2020, and Feb 2020 were tabled until the next meeting. Director Napolis made a motion to bring these items forward, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with all ayes.

XIV. Adjournment

Director Napolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by director Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Debbie Jones, Recorder