

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

27804 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, August 11, 2021 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Roll Call

Present were President Cliff Kennedy, Director Tom Williams, Director Brent Brown, and Director Ghulam Din. Vice-President Ernest Napolis was absent.

III. Adopt Agenda

Director Din made a motion to adopt the agenda as is. Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with all ayes.

IV. Communications from the Public

Mr. Stanton made a comment about the new rate increase and how it has been approved for the first year only.

V. Correspondence

GM Jones received two letters from the Friels requesting documents. All the documents that are releasable have been gathered and are just waiting on them to come pay and pick them up. The lawyer drafted a response for each letter to send to them and looked over the paperwork to be sent to make sure they were all public documents.

VI. Approve Minutes

Director Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from July 7 and July 14, 2021. Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

VII. James Owens and NV5 Progress on Grant

Mr. Owens attended the meeting via Zoom to give an update on what was going on with the grant, the well, and other things. Mr. Owens said there was quite a bit of progress to report. They have completed the Geotechnical investigation and the report is done, structural designs were complete, they have the stormwater documentation underway, and they are working on tidying up the specifications on the drawings for mechanical improvements.

President Kennedy asked what is up with Kern County wanting us to bore the one waterline. Mr. Owens said they were concerned about the paved areas along Redrock Randsburg road, but NV5 planned to stay on the shoulder for 95 percent of the pipeline. They want to sneak under the pavement where the washes are to be better protected in case of a washout. When the drawings were sent to Kern County, they came back with

wanting the paved areas to be bored. Mr. Owens said they are pushing back on that and have made some progress with the County. They want to encase the pipe going across the wash in concrete for protection from a washout, and it isn't feasible for a pipe this large.

Mr. Owens said he had the expenditure report just about knocked out that Self-help was looking for concerning the bridge loan.

President Kennedy asked if he was getting stuff ready to send out to bid and how much longer would it be. Mr. Owens said they would have that to us the first part of September.

GM Jones told Mr. Owens that BLM told her that the EPA report would be expiring soon. Mr. Owens said he would look into it.

VIII. General Managers Report (Copied from original report)

The tank divers inspected the tanks on July 19, 2021. Their report should be here in the next couple of weeks. The tanks aren't in dire condition, but they will have to be attended to once we know the extent of their deterioration.

I have been talking to CoBank about the bridge loan and supplying them with the requested information. I have also been talking to a self-help bank, but they are limited in their funds. They also keep blocking my emails for some reason, though not on purpose.

On July 20, the transmission line developed a significant leak between boosters 1 and 2 at about 3:00 in the morning while the system was running. It was not discovered until the workers went to shut off the system in the morning and saw that the water tanks weren't as full as they should have been. From July 26 thru the 30th, several leaks were fixed in Johannesburg and Randsburg at various locations.

The auditors came to audit our books the week of August 2. They also got my books in order so that my accounts matched theirs to make their job easier. Their report should be out in a couple of months, but they didn't find any major issues with anything.

The water levels in the aquifer are remaining constant with no drop in the water level. USGS came out on Monday, August 9 to test the water at Well 2. The water temperature was a constant 77 degrees, and the depth was 382. He said all the readings have been remaining constant over the years.

BLM approached us wanting to know if we still owned Airport Well and the associated tank. I looked through the minutes and found that we sold Airport Well to William Frost for \$1500 during the regular board meeting on June 5, 1980.

(End of report)

IX. Attorney Response to Public Correspondence

GM Jones talked to the attorney about the nasty letters that had been distributed around town calling the board members unflattering names and such. The attorney said that because the board members were public figures, the public could say whatever they wanted to about them, and there was nothing they could do.

X. Pay Bills

All the bills presented were signed. GM Jones requested that \$29,423.24 be transferred from a savings to the grant fund to pay Southern California Edison to put power to Prather Well 3. The money can be put back when the State reimburses the District.

Director Din made a motion to transfer \$29,423.24 from the savings account to the draft grant account to pay the Edison bill. Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

XI. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

XII. Adjournment

Director Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Debbie R Jones, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors