

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 11, 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, November 11, 2020 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Roll call

Present were President Cliff Kennedy, Director Tom Williams, Director Ghulam Din and Director William Liebscher. Absent was Vice-President Ernest Napolis.

III. Adopt Agenda

Item number 9, Incoming Board Members and Breaking Tie. This item was removed as the election vote count was not yet finalized by either Kern or San Bernardino County. Director Din made a motion: to adopt the agenda without number 9, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent.

IV. Communications from the Public

No comments from the public were given.

V. Approve Minutes

Director Williams made a motion that they approve the Minutes for the October 7, 2020 meeting. Director Din seconded the motion. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent.

VI. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

VII. Office Manager's Report

(Copied from original report)

We bought front bearings and rotors for the front wheels of the work truck, along with new brakes for both front and rear. The bearings and rotors are to fix a shimmy in the front end that has steadily been getting worse. Tiger is working on getting them installed. The radiator also developed a leak, and a new one has been installed.

A new starter was installed in the SUV and the old one was starting to make noise and the SUV would not always start the first time. The new starter has helped, but the flywheel is worn and will need to be replaced sometime in the future.

The required smog tests were done on both vehicles and the report submitted to the State.

The new front door of the office has been installed. The old door is being refurbished to be put on in place of the other front door by the board room.

New Service installed on Piute Ave one block down from water district building on vacant lot between a couple of houses. Another new service has been installed for a parcel adjacent to the Texaco station on Johannesburg Ave. The new owner of the parcel, which comprises three lots, is planning on building a house there.

I gave an estimate for a housing project on the hill across Hwy 395 from us. The estimate came to approximately \$10,000 for parts. In order to bring water to that parcel, we would have to lay pipe all around it in a U shape. This estimate did not include backhoe hours or labor. He is planning to build between 8 and 16 houses depending on Kern County's codes. I have not heard back. Many people find that the cost to run water and electricity to their empty lots that they either own or are thinking of buying is extremely expensive and abandon their plans.

Tiger took apart the old totalizer and discovered the blades were restricted. Hopefully, the totalizer he replaced it with will be more accurate.

Oversaw fixing of leak by Martin Gomez home on October 24. Tiger was unavailable, so I supervised as Martin fixed the leak. I had to be present as he does not yet have a water distribution license. According to the State Water Board, no one can touch the system unless they have a license or is supervised by someone who does.

Tiger and Martin fixed a leak that developed in an elbow on the transmission line just after booster 3 on October 26. Quite a bit of water was lost due to this break which accounts for some of the water loss in the transmission line loss.

Tiger and Martin fixed a major break in Randsburg on 2" pipe on October 28. This occurred on Redrock Randsburg road just before the intersection with Butte Ave. Tiger discovered that the pipe there is sewer line pipe and very thin. We lost about 2 ½ feet in the water tank before the valves were able to be shut off. The leak was fixed by the next morning.

The new meter, installed for the customer who was purposely bypassing the old meter and letting the water run on the ground to cause water loss, has reduced the total water loss for the District by approximately 7%.

(End of report)

VIII. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Gov't Code Section 54956.9: 1 potential case.

The board went into closed session at 7:20 PM.

IX. Open Session

The board reconvened into open session at 7:34 pm. No reportable action was taken during the closed session.

X. NV5 and California Water Board Grant

The grant has been approved. James Owens of NV5 gave suggestions to President Kennedy on how to go forward. He is going to update the needed permits. A line of credit would need to be taken out to fund the grant. Office Manager Jones was asked to call the banks concerning getting a line of credit. NV5 was still owed approximately \$52,000 from the preliminary work they did for the grant.

Mr. Owens asked via email if we have a backhoe and operator that could excavate about six test pits at the sites of the proposed storage tank, booster station, and pipeline between Well Nos. 2 and 3. A test pit is a trench about 10 feet long that an NV5 geologist would walk into to obtain samples of dirt/soil for examination and testing at a laboratory. The pits' depths would vary between 6 to 12 feet below the surface. The work could be undertaken around December, January, or February. The District's backhoe is capable as it has an extension, but the ground by the wells is sandy and unstable and will have to be shored up and benched.

A motion was made by Director Williams: that we approve Debbie to sign documentation as temporary board secretary along with Cliff's signature. Motion seconded by Director Din. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent.

President Kennedy signed the required papers for NV5 to submit to the California Water Board Grant for reimbursement of past invoices.

XI. Attorney Services Proposal

The attorney Steve Kennedy submitted a proposal via email for consideration by the Board to replace David Mann as the District's attorney. Director Williams made a motion: that we approve Brunick, McElhaney and Kennedy as our new legal counsel for the water district. Motion was seconded by Director Din. Motion passed with three ayes and one absent. Director Liebscher abstained.

XII. Electricity Bills Payment Options

Office Manager Jones requested that the electricity bills be put on automatic payment instead of writing checks every month as the checks are being recorded late. The bills average the same every month, between \$2000 and \$2400. Director Din made a motion: that we pay the electric bills automatically. Motion was seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent.

XIII. Bills Paid

All checks were signed.

XIV. Future Agenda Items

Office Manager Jones mentioned that at the next board meeting the new board members would be in place with Brent Brown replacing William Liebscher. Ernest Napolis will retain his seat.

XV. Adjournment

Director Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Williams.
Motion passed with four ayes and one absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Debbie Jones, Recorder