

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

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, May 12, 2021 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Adopt Agenda

Vice-President Napolis made a motion to add an application for bulk water to the agenda between Pay Bills and Future Agenda Items. Seconded by Director Williams. Passed with four ayes and one absent.

IV. Communications from the Public

No public comments.

V. Approve Minutes

Director Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from April 14, 2021. Director Napolis seconded the motion. Motion passed with three ayes, one abstaining, and one absent.

VI. Announcements

After some discussion, President Kennedy read a paragraph he was required to read by Ms. Hoerauf as a condition of her settlement. The paragraph read was as follows: "Carrie Hoerauf was employed by the District from September 2017 through January 2020. She submitted accurate time records and has been properly compensated. On June 10, 2020, Ms. Hoerauf's attorney presented a claim of wrongful termination and other related claims. All matters regarding her employment have been resolved and the parties have reached a mutually agreeable settlement in which Ms. Hoerauf will be paid \$5,000 and her attorney will be paid \$5,000. A copy of the settlement agreement can be obtained from the Board Secretary upon request". President Kennedy asked how the settlement was paid. GM Jones said the settlement money was paid for through the District's insurance, and did not come out of any District accounts.

VII. General Managers Report

(Copied from original report)

Newmont started taking water from Well 1 on April 26, 2021. They decided to only get water from the well, so will not be taking any water from the meter in Randsburg. Their first billing will be sent out in June for the May usage.

C2 Drilling started boring test holes in preparation for construction on May 11, 2021. They started one day late because they decided to substitute a truck mounted drilling rig for a track-rig due to the loose sands in the project area. The bores done between Booster 1 and Booster 2 were drilled along the shoulder of the road.

On April 27 there was a leak that we fixed on the corner of Oompaul St and Johannesburg Ave. We have not had many leaks, which is a good thing. Tiger adjusted a valve to be partly closed by the Randsburg water tank, so it is not being fed quite as fast. This is to enable the Red Mountain Tanks to fill up faster.

We have been going through files in the storage room and getting them sorted properly. The previous board secretary who was supposed to sort the files did not do so properly, as we found records in shred boxes that should not be destroyed, such as historical documents pertaining to the district's beginnings. Thus, we must go through every box to make sure nothing important was put in there. We have also been going through the minute books and getting them properly sorted out. We found in a file cabinet labeled meeting notes many original documents with corporate seals that should have been put in the minute books instead of the copies of them that were.

I have looked into DWP, but there are no current active permits for them to be doing anything in the Fremont Valley.

I have put in your packet a picture from Google Earth of the District boundaries. The small area with a black boarder is the Improvement District. It encompasses Randsburg, Johannesburg, Red Mountain and Atolia. The blue bordered area is the district boundaries. The district encompasses 314 square miles.

(End of report)

VIII. Update on Rate Study

The letters announcing the hearing for the rate study proposal were sent out by SUSP to all water customers. The hearing was set for June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm. All objections must be in writing to be counted. Having the hearing at the community center was discussed but was discounted due to no internet access. The 15% raise in rates was the one approved at the last meeting to enable the district to acquire a gap loan to be able to pay contractors while waiting for the State Water Board to reimburse for invoices.

IX. Mountain Well Security

GM Jones reported that she has been unable to find a company to come out to repair the fence. She suggested to have Garrison Clair fix it. Director Napolis wanted her to look into fence companies again before having him fix it.

X. Well RMC 4 Access

John Cruz attended the meeting and explained the circumstances behind the well and how he came to be the caretaker. He had been taking care of it for over 20 years, and most of its parts are worn out. Someone had come out a few days ago and used a chain to pull down it's fence. Mr. Cruz repaired it enough to be functional.

Vice-President Napolis made a motion to table the discussion on RMC 4 until a date of their choosing to continue the discussion of the well. Motioned seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent. Mr. Cruz would continue to caretake the well as he has been for now.

XI. Special Assessments

A resolution was presented to the board members by GM Jones to add delinquent accounts to the tax rolls. A motion was made by Vice-President to pass the resolution to set a public hearing on the report and statement of delinquent water service charges as of July 1, 2021, and to hold the hearing on July 7. Seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with three ayes and two absent.

XII. Contract for Auditors

Director Williams made a motion to accept the agreement from Fedak and Brown for the audit not to exceed 11,585.00 without the consent of the Board. Seconded by Vice-President Napolis. Motion passed with three ayes and two absent.

XIII. Diver Proposal

The proposal to have the water tanks inspected was discussed. It was decided that it would be best to have all three tanks inspected rather than just the two in Red Mountain. Vice-President Napolis made a motion to direct CSI Tank Services to do all three tanks as stated in their estimate and to report back to us when complete. Seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with three ayes and two absent.

XIV. D1 and T1 Classes

Garrison Clair needs classes to renew his D1 certification and to take the T1 test. Director Williams made a motion to pay for the Distribution System Review and Water Treatment Exam Review cost of \$129.95 and \$149.99 and a renewal fee of \$70.00 for Tiger's license and that we have Debbie as well to these, so we have backup. Seconded by Director Napolis. Motion passed with three ayes and two absent.

XV. Bulk Water Application

There was discussion on how this applicant would be using too much water and putting too much stress on Prather Well 1's pump. Director Napolis made a motion to deny the application to sell water to Keith Roberts. Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with three ayes and two absent.

XVI. Pay Bills

All the bills presented were signed.

XVII. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

XVIII. Adjournment

Vice-President Napolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with four ayes and one absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

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