

**RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

Thursday, March 30, 2023  
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-President Ghulam Din called to order the special meeting at 5:00 PM.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call**

Present: President Jay Friel, Vice-President Ghulam Din, Director Will Liebscher, and Director Greg Thompson.

**4. Adopt Agenda**

President Friel made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Director Thompson seconded, and the motion was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

**5. Communications from the Public**

An individual from the public made a comment about a handicapped customer having difficulty accessing the office to pay his bill. The issue was brought to the attention of the board, and suggestions were made to rectify the issue. It was determined that the office already has handicapped access, but due to there not being a sign, it may have appeared confusing to the customer. The board suggested that the handicapped access should be made more conspicuous to avoid confusion, which will be implemented in the near future.

**6. Closed Session, per §54957.6–Conference with Labor Negotiation**

It was planned that a closed-session discussion take place with a prospective contractor to negotiate a labor contract, but upon entering the closed-session, the prospective contractor requested that the discussion take place in an open session. A motion was made by Director Thompson to have the discussion in an open session, to which the board unanimously agreed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

**7. Public Session–Conference with Labor Negotiation**

A discussion was initiated with the prospective contractor to hire him as a temporary operator for our water system. Negotiations began with the prospective contractor enumerating some terms, the first of which was the suggestion that a former employee be rehired. Upon this suggestion, President Friel explained his contentions to such a possibility. The former employee, he explained, abruptly walked off his job in a way to sabotage the operations of our district by leaving our district lacking a licensed operator to supervise our water system in accordance with State Waterboard's standards. President Friel argued that such action demonstrated disloyalty and carelessness to the continued

well-being of our water district and provided enough of a reason not to re-employ him. Following this, the prospective contractor then proceeded to mention his other terms, which included addressing various logistical matters relating to the operation of our district. After a thorough back and forth on these operational concerns, the prospective contractor determined that there was too big of an ideological gap between him and the board to consider being hired by the district. He declined to be further considered for hire, and this concluded the labor negotiation.

**8. Discuss Financial Matters**

Director Din made a comment on the lack of financial reports provided by the previous office management, and emphasized the need to produce such reports so that the board can have an accurate picture of the district's operations. Director Din brought up the idea that the district should invest some of its savings into a bank CD (certificate-of-deposit), to accrue interest for additional income. However, the board needs a better idea about the finances before this idea can be further considered.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

- Appoint Board Member
- Hire Temporary D-1 Contractor

**10. Adjournment**

President Friel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Liebscher. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maaz Tahir, Secretary  
RCWD Board of Directors