

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, April 13, 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, and Director Robert Baum.

Absent: Director Will Liebscher

4. Communications from the Public

No comments were made from the public.

5. Adopt Agenda

President Friel made a motion to move item 11 of the agenda (Adopt New Board Member) after item 5 of the agenda (Adopt Agenda). Vice-President Din seconded, and the motion was passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

6. Appoint New Board Member

With Gregory Thompson having resigned from the Board of Directors in the last meeting, the Board sought to appoint a new board member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of Thompson's term. After reviewing the candidate applications, the Board resolved to appoint Mark Jones for the position. Director Baum made the motion to appoint Mark Jones as a director on the board of directors. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Din, and was passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays. Mark Jones was sworn in and the oath was administered by the Board Secretary.

7. Discuss/Take Action on Board Member Obligation to be Customer of Water District

With the water district's Board Member policy having been clarified in the last meeting, a director of the board was found to be in violation of this requirement. A letter was drafted to inform the director of their violation and actions that must be taken to come into compliance. However, the letter could not be presented to the director due to his absence from the meeting. Notification will be given to the board member.

8. Accept Resignation of Board Member if Applicable

The absence of the director in question prevented any action being taken in this regard. Proper notification of the violation and steps to rectify this will occur before further action is taken.

9. Edit Letter of Notification to Customers in Cross-Connection Violation

RCWD is continuing to work on bringing certain high-altitude properties into compliance with the State Water Board's cross-connection control standards. Customers for whom it is required to install backflow cross-connection control devices will be given a 60-day notice prior to the date when compliance is required. President Jay had drafted a letter to notify both the State Waterboard, and the residents affected by this issue, on the plan to bring the residents into compliance. After the board reviewed the letter, Vice President Din made a motion to accept the letter as written. The motion was seconded by President Jay, and the motion was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. Notification and work will occur on this issue.

10. Report on Well #2 Test; Funding by Self Help Enterprises

President Friel reported on the status of the planned testing for our main water well, Well #2. The plan was to test the well at its full depth to potentially resolve the high arsenic levels. The district has been coordinating with Self Help Enterprises to fund and carry out this test, and plans have been submitted. Some obstacles came up in the execution of this plan, which the district is working on to resolve.

11. Consider 2 Catastrophic Water Loss Claims

Two catastrophic water loss claims were considered.

The first was a case of a customer who had a broken pipe which leaked for several months while it could not be located. After the leak was discovered under the deck of the customer's house, the customer fixed the pipe. Due to the long time-period of the leak being left unattended, the board ruled that negligence played a big factor and thus the bill will only be slightly reduced. The board decided the customer should be charged half of charges incurred during the leak, minus the payments made. Vice-President Din made the motion to accept this resolution, which was seconded by Jay Friel, and was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

The second case was a customer who had a leak at her property and passed away before being able to tend to it. As a result, she had several months of unpaid water bills with high usage. Her son contacted the water district to inquire if any money is owed. After the board discussed this issue, a motion was made by Vice-President Din to waive the customer's entire bill. The motion was seconded by President Friel, and was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

12. General Manager Report

A report on the achievements for the month of March was produced by the general manager. A summary is given below:

- The park restrooms had leaks, making them inaccessible. Repair is ongoing.
- Training is ongoing for new maintenance worker.
- Fixed two transmission line leaks in Johannesburg and Red Mountain.
- Over 30 shut-off notices were sent to unpaying customers. The majority of these customers ended up coming in to pay their bills or initiate a payment contract. By the end of the month, 6 customers had their water shut-off.
- Completed exercising all the valves of our water system.
- Began moving meter boxes outside of fenced areas and disconnected unmetered water connections.

13. Pay Bills

No bills needed to be paid.

14. Adjournment

Vice-President Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Director Baum. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Maaz Tahir, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors