

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the
SUNNYSLOPE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
July 20, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by President Buzzetta, as authorized by the State of California Executive Order N-25-20 via teleconference, at the Sunnyslope County Water District office, 3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, California.

ROLL CALL: Present in Person: President Jerry Buzzetta (JB), Vice President James Parker (JP), Director Alcorn (MA) and Director Judi Johnson (JJ).

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Barry Kelly led Directors and staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Upon a motion made to approve the agenda by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Parker, for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), yes; (JJ) yes, and (JB); the motion carried 4-0.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS: The Board welcomed members of the public and opened the meeting to public comments regarding matters not itemized on the agenda. No comments.

Staff Present for Open Session: In Person: General Manager/Secretary Drew Lander, Finance and HR Manager Barry Kelly, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jose Rodriguez, Associate Engineer Rob Hillebrecht.

Via Teleconference: Attorney Michael Laredo.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2021.
2. Allowance of Claims for Disbursements from May 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021.
3. Allowance of Claims for Disbursements from June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.
4. Receive Associate Engineer Monthly Status Report.
5. Receive Superintendent Monthly Status Reports: a. Maintenance, b. City Meter Reading, and c. Groundwater Level Measurement.
6. Receive General Manager Monthly Status Report.

General Manager Lander explained that the Allowance of Claims not presented last month are included in this month's consent agenda and the newly hired Finance Manager was not asked to prepare the regular staff report for June but next month it should return.

Director Buzzetta asked for public comment and receiving none requested a motion to approve. Upon a motion made by Director Parker to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Director Alcorn, for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), yes; (JJ) yes; and (JB) yes; the motion carried 4-0.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Interview Board Member Applicants:** President Buzzetta directed interviews allowing all Board members to ask organized questions of the two applicants in attendance; Dorothy "Dee" Brown and David Pulido, who submitted complete applications. After interviews were conducted separately both applicants were excused while the Board deliberated. After deliberation concluded, Director Buzzetta asked for any public comment. Upon receiving no public comment, Director Alcorn made a motion to appoint Dee Brown to complete the remaining term of office vacated by Ann Ross. This motion was seconded by Director Johnson for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), no; (JJ) yes; and (JB) yes ; the motion carried 3-1.

The applicants were both asked to return to the Board room and Dee Brown was appointed on July 20, 2021 by President Buzzetta to the Board of Directors for a term expiring November 30th, 2022. General Manager, Drew Lander administered the oath of office and Dee Brown was seated as a Director of the Board. Director Buzzetta advised that Director Brown would continue in place of Ann Ross on appointed committees.

2. **Consider Approval and Authorize the President to Sign an Agreement for Water Facilities and Service for the West of Fairview Phase 1B Development:** Associate Engineer, Rob Hillebrecht explained that Phase 1B of the West of Fairview development is ready for construction. The plan involves the creation of 133 new single-family residences. Sunnyslope County Water District will provide potable domestic water and fire protection water service to the development. District staff have reviewed the Improvement Plans to ensure that they meet all District standards and requirements.

This phase will connect the existing Landscape Irrigation System piping from Roberts Ranch with the portion of irrigation pipeline already installed in Phase 1A. The agreement attached to the staff report was described as the standard agreement for water facilities and service to a new development, and it has been used for prior projects with only minor adjustments. The District currently has the capacity and ability to serve this development with potable water.

President Buzzetta commented that the District standard warranty should be strengthened providing homeowners with specific recourse in the event that the developers actions cause damage to existing customers. President Buzzetta solicited public comment. No public comment was provided and upon a motion made by Director Alcorn to authorize the President to sign the agreement as presented, the motion was seconded by Director Parker for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), yes; (JJ) yes; Director Dee Brown (DB); and (JB) yes ; the motion carried 5-0.

3. **Consider Approval and Authorize the Board President to Execute an Agreement with the the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Local 820 Amending Wages and Benefits for Represented Employees Through June 30, 2024:** General Manager Lander presented the negotiations with the Utility Workers Union of America, Local 820, Union staff has concluded. The Personnel Committee has been informed throughout this process during regular meetings. President Buzzetta attended many of the negotiation meetings as an observer and he helped to document proceedings during personnel committee meetings.

The prior three-year contract ended on June 30, 2021, and a new contract agreement was successfully negotiated and ratified by Union membership by June 28, 2021. As a result of the contract ratification by the union members occurring after the June Board Meeting the contract has been presented in July and only after approval by the Board shall benefits become effective as of July 1, 2021. Backpay will be adjusted in the soonest practical pay period with an effective date of July 1, 2021. The new agreement will also span a three-year contract term. The Personnel Committee is recommending the following adjustments to be made:

- Year 1 - 3% cost of living adjustment for all Union Staff members with an off-salary payment of \$1500 effective as of July 1, 2021. All employees within the Classic CalPERS retirement formula will increase the Employee contribution from 2% to 3.5%.
- Year 2 - 3% cost of living adjustment for all Union Staff members with an off-salary payment of \$1000 effective as of July 1, 2022. All employees within the Classic CalPERS retirement formula will increase the Employee contribution from 3.5% to 5%.
- Year 3 - 3% cost of living adjustment for all Union Staff members with an off-salary payment of \$500 effective as of July 1, 2023. All employees within the Classic CalPERS retirement formula will increase the Employee contribution from 5% to 6%.

There are other recommended adjustments to stipends pertaining to skills and certifications qualifying for a stipend, however the stipend payment value remains unchanged. This Agreement is the second negotiated union contract for the district. President Buzzetta asked if his name should be added to the signatory page. District Council agreed that the approval should include the President's signature.

President Buzzetta solicited public comment. No public comment was provided and upon a motion made by Director Alcorn to authorize the President to sign the agreement as presented, the motion was seconded by Director Johnson for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), yes; (JJ) yes; Director Dee Brown (DB); and (JB) yes ; the motion carried 5-0.

4. **Consider Approval or Resolution 557 adopting the District Management Organization Chart, the Designation of Management Classification Titles and Salary Scales:** General Manager Lander presented that the Personnel Committee had discussed and recommended that the \$1500 off schedule payment presented in the Union Contract be provided to all Managers. Also Mr. Lander presented recommendations to increase the District Water/Wastewater Superintendent salary scale by 5% for compensation for additional responsibilities accepted by the Superintendent job description relating to the IWTP and to add an additional compensation step to the Crew Chief Position resulting in steps A-F.

President Buzzetta solicited public comment. No public comment was provided and upon a motion made by Director Johnson to authorize the \$1,500 off schedule payment to all Managers; to increase the Superintendent Salary Scale by 5% and add a step F to the Crew Chief compensation scale, the motion was seconded by Director Alcorn for which President Buzzetta then took a roll call vote as follows: (MA), yes; (JP), yes; (JJ) yes; (DB), yes; and (JB) yes ; the motion carried 5-0.

G. BOARD COMMITTEE and STATUS REPORTS

1. **Finance Manager Monthly Status Report:** General Manager/Secretary Lander reported that Barry Kelly is making good progress understanding the district finances and preparing for the coming audit. There are no significant changes to report, and he will attempt to have the usual reporting method back for the August board meeting depending on staffing.
2. **Allowance of Claims for Disbursement from May 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021:** General Manager/Secretary Lander reported that the full disbursement report for May 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 will be presented at the July board meeting.
3. **Governance Committee:** No meeting held.
4. **Water/Wastewater Committee:** No meeting held.
5. **Finance Committee:** No meeting held.
6. **Policy and Procedure Committee:** No meeting held.
7. **Personnel Committee:** Meetings held: (July 1, Closed Session, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release) and (July 19, Review proposed organization chart and Management Compensation)
8. **Water Resources Association of San Benito County (WRA):** Next meeting scheduled August 5th, 2021

H. BOARD and STAFF REPORTS

1. **Directors:** Director Alcorn conveyed some public concerns he has heard recently about rate increases, water quality and water softeners. No report.
 2. **District Counsel:** Michael Laredo welcomed the new board member and advised all present about the new mask recommendations for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in California.
 3. **General Manager:** General Manager/Secretary Lander gave an update on the COVID-19 activities, reporting that the office remains closed and investigation into feasibility of a partition at the front desk is being conducted. He also reported that he has filed with the State of California requesting compensation for COVID related expenses although no confirmation for reimbursement has been received.
- I. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Mike Alcorn asked for an update in the future on what kind of water conditioner people can use during times when water hardness increases.
- J. **ADJOURNMENT:** President Buzzetta adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

Jerry T. Buzzetta, President

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Drew A. Lander, Secretary