

CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

July 11, 2023

Regular Meeting

3:00 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Richard Blood  
Brady McCartney  
J.W. Dell'Orto  
Jack Tressler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve McDermed

STAFF PRESENT: Travis Small, General Manager  
Adam Brown, District Legal Counsel  
Carissa Bear, Clerk of the Board  
Mathew Roberts, Water System Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: The regular meeting was called to order by President Blood at 3:02 P.M.
2. ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS: Directors Blood, McCartney, Dell'Orto, and Tessler were present. Director McDermed was absent.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per person/15 minutes per subject): None.
5. CONSENT ITEMS
  - a. June 8,2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
  - b. June 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - c. Claim Summary

President Blood asked for item #9 on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting Minutes to be updated with some more context. It was decided to add the following to the minutes: add meter replacement project to the end of radio survey, add that President Blood requested that this topic to be brought back to the Engineering Committee to be discussed further, and add that the District plans to move forward with the project regardless of the grant covering the costs or not. Travis Small, General Manager, informed the Board Secretary that in the same agenda item #9 that the word "carburetor" was used instead of carb when discussing the 10-wheel CARB (California Air Resources Board) compliant dump truck. Carissa Bear, Board Secretary, made notes of all the changes. Director Tressler asked if information left off the minutes could prevent the District from moving forward on items. Adam Brown, District Legal Counsel clarified. Mr. Small pointed out the DSOD permit fee was in this claim summary. A motion was made by Director Dell'Orto, seconded by Director Tressler, to approve the consent items a & c. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Tressler, McCartney, and Blood voted yes; none opposed.

Motion carried 4-0. A motion was made by Director Dell'Orto, seconded by Director Tressler, to approve the consent item b as amended. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Tressler, McCartney, and Blood voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

#### 6. BOARD DISCUSSION OF REFERRAL OF DELINQUENT WATER SERVICE CHARGES FOR COLLECTION ON THE CALAVERAS COUNTY TAX ROLL

Mr. Small explained that the District is placing the past due accounts on the Calaveras County Tax Roll to recoup funds. The Board had already previously adopted a resolution authorizing the District to enter the program with Calaveras County. The District will need to hold a special meeting for a public hearing. The Board and staff agreed to schedule the special meeting for August 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.

#### 7. ESTABLISHING DATE AND TIME OF REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Small explained that this resolution is to change the regular Board Meetings to the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. President Blood asked if the Board Meeting Policy will be amended. Mr. Brown informed him that Policy #4235 will be amended as it states that in this resolution. A motion was made by Director Tressler, seconded by Director McCartney, to approve Resolution 2023-11 Establishing Date and Time of Regular Board Meetings. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Tressler, McCartney, and Blood voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

#### 8. UPDATE POLICY REGARDING ABANDONED SERVICES

Mr. Small read his memorandum to the Board. The Board and staff discussed current procedure and the procedure the previously updated policy was proposing. Mr. Small explained that the updated policy left a lot of confusion for staff and that he would like to see it cleaned up for clarity for all. It was explained that customers are required to pay regardless of if the meter is on or off. Director Tressler expressed his disagreement with that policy. The Board and staff discussed further. Director Tressler stated that he thinks the policy should reflect the District promoting water service in the area. He believes the current policy deters potential customers from getting water service with the District. Mr. Small will work with Mr. Brown on getting some changes drafted which will be brought back to the Board. He also informed the Board that this policy references an ordinance, he believes that some of the ordinances will need to be reviewed and updated in the future.

#### 9. UPDATE POLICY REGARDING BOARD OF DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Mr. Small informed the Board that just before he came on as the General Manager, a meeting was held regarding Board compensation and benefits. It never moved forward so he is bringing it back to clean up and see what the Board is looking for in terms of health benefits. The District will need to draft a new policy and resolution. This is just a discussion item at this point. Director Dell'Orto brought this up previously, that he liked the idea of being able to buy into the District's health plan as offered to the employees. He didn't necessarily want the District to pay, he just wanted the opportunity to have access to the same health plan. Director Tressler expressed that he would like to get his family covered under good health insurance. He understands that the cost is considerable. Director Dell'Orto expressed that he is not comfortable with the cost the District

would be responsible for paying if it absorbed the entire cost. Director McCartney conveyed that he is very interested but only when the District is healthy financially, until then he is not comfortable with the cost. President Blood stated that as a rate payer, he would be questioning how many hours the Board puts into their position on the Board and the attendance at Board meetings to justify the cost of health insurance. Director Dell'Orto does not feel he dedicates enough hours to justify full health benefits for him and his family. Director Tressler reminded the Board that this isn't unheard of, that other Districts already implement this type of benefit. He believes having more benefits available for the Board will entice more people to want to join the Board. Director Tressler asked Mr. Brown what his other special districts provide. Mr. Brown explained that each district is different, but they all provide a stipend for Board members for health coverage. Mr. Small recommended having another meeting where the Board could discuss this item further. President Blood asked if dental and vision were through ACWA/JPIA instead of CalPERS. Mr. Small informed the Board that currently the District's health insurance is through CalPERS and the dental, vision, and life are through ACWA/JPIA. He explained that the District has been looking into switching over to ACWA/JPIA but is running into some issues with their retiree health. He recommends the District stay put with their current health plans for now. Director Tressler asked the Board if they had thought of a stipend amount. Director Dell'Orto replied that he had not thought of a stipend and that he was only looking into being able to buy into the District's existing plans. He's not opposed to a stipend and the District covering dental and vision. President Blood asked if it was possible for the Board to buy in separately from staff. Mr. Small explained that ACWA/JPIA requires all or nothing. All staff currently must take dental, vision, and life through ACWA/JPIA. President Blood does not believe the Board currently puts enough hours into their positions to warrant full benefits. Director Dell'Orto believes that the Board would need to devote more hours to Board duties, not just one meeting a month but also acting on other boards for the District and attending outside meetings. Mr. Small recommended bringing this to the Negotiations Committee and then bringing it back to the Board. The Board agreed.

## 10. REPORTS

### a. Legal Counsel's Report

Mr. Brown stated that his report was covered.

### b. Water System Superintendent's Report

Mathew Roberts, Water System Superintendent, reported that the water system is looking really good. It has been a great year for water. The Water Treatment plant treated 34 million gallons of water which is higher than the 28 million reported for last month. Jeff Davis reservoir is three feet below spill but he expects that to start going down now that the District is not pumping as much. The South Fork Pump Station is 12" over spill at the time of the preparation of this report but has since gone down quite a bit. San Andreas had a 1" leak repair at Spring Hills subdivision. The Golden Hills pressure reducing station has a PRV rebuild. Mokelumne Hill had a 1" service line renew that had been abandoned for a long time. The Mokelumne Hill fire station PRV was rebuilt. The BIT inspection has been completed in house. The quarterly tank inspections are complete. Mr. Roberts met with the JPIA insurance representative and gave him a tour of the District. He complemented the changes and cleanliness from the last time he visited the District.

c. District Engineer Report

Mr. Small informed the Board that the engineers will be providing a final punch list for the Clearwell Tank Project. The District rejected the first paint due to drips and missed spots. The contractor came out and repainted. The electrical is all wrapped up. The final change order looks like it will be an estimated \$42,000 back to the District.

d. General Manager's Report

Mr. Small provided a grant status report. Director Tressler asked if there's something the District can add to the FEMA grants to help with future storm access to District facilities. Like possibly adding a snow vehicle. Mr. Small explained that currently there is not. He might be able to add it to future applications. Director Dell'Orto informed Mr. Small that the State has reached out to his family, they want to cut the bank back on the turn below Rich Gulch. Mr. Small asked Director Dell'Orto to forward him the contact information so he can look into it further. Mr. Small informed the Board that the 2023 Master Plan site visits have been completed. Mr. Small informed the Board that Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District has decided to go independent. They will be placing all of their charges onto the Calaveras County Tax Roll. Director Tressler asked Mr. Small if there was an update on the floating solar. Mr. Small said due to schedule conflicts he has not be able to meet up with the vendor. Mr. Small reported that the Wildfire FEMA Recovery meeting was earlier today in Murphys. He and Mathew Roberts attended. Mr. Small is very impressed with Calaveras County's Cal OES.

e. Director's Comments:

Director Tressler complimented staff and the General Manager for what they have accomplished in the last two years. Mr. Small informed the Board of the EBMUD annual BBQ. To RSVP please reach out to Carissa Bear.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Blood adjourned the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carissa Bear, Secretary/Clerk of the Board