

Chester Public Utility District
PO Box 503
251 Chester Airport Rd.
Chester, Ca. 96020
530-258-2171

Minutes of Regular Meeting: March 15, 2022 at 3:00pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Steve Voboril, Steve Graffweg, Elizabeth Steffen, Royce Raker, and Blake Mathews

Directors Absent: none

Conference Call: 4 public called in.

Guests Present: 4

Staff Present: 9 CPUD/CFD employees and volunteers.

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Raker made a motion to accept agenda. Director Mathews seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Pace Engineering: Drinking water planning grant proposal by Paul Reuter (present by phone).**

Lead Supervisor Allan Homme began by pointing out the following:

- 70-Year-old, 20-mile water distribution system
 - Can't miss out on any CPI water rate annual increases
 - Scada antenna repair just costed \$9000.00
 - Feels the Pace proposal is best chance in getting some infrastructure fixed, Examples: Radio Meters, Scada upgrade, backup power to wells, water tanks. Pace Rep. Paul Reuter stated the following:
 - The state was told to spend funding faster.
 - Realigned guidelines to increase grant allocations
 - Per connection amount is 45K and 45 million per project. Lots of funds available.
 - Projects graded ABC were grant funded 100%. DEF was less, now also funding at 100%.
 - The Pace fees of 35K could be worked into the grant for reimbursement, if said grants are approved.
 - Pace would first do all the paperwork, then secondly follow up, (hold the states hand) and issues clarifications etc. when needed.
 - Environmental right-a-way, designs, studies etc. are all inclusive.
- GM Cox stated that the fees to Pace would be paid out over the next several months and recommends to the board to accept the proposal.
- Director Voboril stated that the tank maintenance alone could cost 100K. Homme stated that the system barely made it through the Dixie fire, as generators, pumps etc. are in shaky shape.
- GM Cox asked Homme to get a capital improvements list together.
- Director Mathews made a motion to accept the Pace proposal and to begin moving forward. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion

carried. Paul Reuter stated he will be in the area soon to begin system evaluations.

3. **Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:** Joe Cadelago, a Waste Management rep., stated he will be doing a public outreach with posters, decals, and postcards on what to and what not to recycle. He handed out a flyer relating to the recycling rights and wrongs. He explained that the state has shut down most CRV redemption centers.
4. **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. February 03, 2022 Special Meeting minutes: Director Raker made a motion to accept the minutes. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. Ayes: Raker, Graffweg and Voboril. Abstain: Steffen and Mathews. Motion carried.
 - b. February 15, 2002 Regular Meeting minutes: Director Graffweg wants to see complaints that are made at board meetings typed in minutes in verbatim format. Director Voboril stated that the report out on closed session's intent was that the board appointed Prentice/Long as labor negotiator and not Margaret Long specifically. He stated that this is on today's agenda as item (#15, a.) Director Mathews made a motion to accept the minutes. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. Ayes: Voboril, Steffen, Graffweg and Mathews. Abstain: Raker. Motion carried.
 - c. February 22, 2022 Special Meeting minutes: Director Voboril stated that within (#3. a) it was mentioned that the GM needs to live in district per policy. He said this is not law so it didn't matter. This will be addressed today on agenda item (#14, b.) He also stated that in (#4. a) that the vote for the tax measure in fact did not pass. He had the minutes with the vote not meeting the 2/3 voting requirements back in 5-18-2021 and confirmed by legal counsel. He also mentioned that in (#4.b) that he meant to say to give the "public" notification, not "PG&E" if we are going to stop paying for streetlights. Director Steffen made a motion to table the 2-22-2022 minutes in light of all the changes that may need to be made. Director Mathews seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes tabled.
5. **Financials:**
 - a. February 2022: Director Steffen would like a meeting to learn more about the financials. GM Cox stated that he would like to meet with the Finance Committee soon for a study session and to start budget talks, as he is still learning as well. Director Raker made a motion to approve Financials. Director Graffweg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** none
7. **Board Chair Report:** Director Voboril reiterated his conversation with legal counsel regarding the tax measure originally not passing vote in May of 2021. He also stated that for the streetlight measure that the amount that may go to the voters should be changed to \$25.00 per parcel. He also re-stated that waiving the residency clause will be dealt with later in today's agenda.
8. **General Manager Report:** GM Cox stated he will begin focusing on the budget. He wants to get the MOU negotiations closed up with council. He will be looking at funding avenues. He will be sending the board weekly updates.
9. **Emergency Services Report (Exhibit A):** Chief Layne stated the following:
 - 7222 still in Redding for repairs

- Working with legal regarding the Balbiani litigation. 5 full time staff will be deposed between 3-21-2022 and 4-18-2022. Balbiani's attorney will be doing a walkthrough of the premises on 3-21-2022.
- PG& E land use agreement ended. We were issued a check for \$13000.00.
- USFS communications continue regarding the rental of bay space.
- New district legal counsel Margaret Long has been given the Fire Tax Measure information and the requested changes needed by request of Plumas County. Director Voboril thought she already had this information. Chief Layne said she hadn't at that point.
- 7204 Tahoe being outfitted 3-21-2022.
- Kyle Araiza was hired as a fulltime Fire Fighter EMT
- Hanger space being rented to Digital Path for \$120.00 per month.
- Zero mandatory holdover days in January.

10. Local Union Representatives:

- a. **Local 5317/Chester Professional Firefighter's Association (CFD Safety)**
no comments
- b. **Local 39/ Stationary Engineers (CPUD Misc.)**
no comments.

11. Finance Committee Update: Director Voboril stated there was no update, other than scheduling a meeting soon.

12. Personnel Committee Update:

- a. **Payroll Issues:** Director Steffen stated that she was waiting for the information, but nothing has been submitted. So, they have not met.

13. Ad Hoc Committee:

- a. **Ambulance Revenue:** Nothing to report

14. Ad Hoc Committee:

a. **GM Job Posting:** GM Cox stated that he melded the 2 last ones that were posted. He said we could have this posted by tomorrow if approved today. Director Steffen made a motion to accept the GM Job posting as presented. Director Mathews seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

b. **GM Job Description:** Director Voboril stated that per district council the residency clause within the job description should be formally waived for the interim. Director Raker made a motion to waive the residency clause. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

15. Appointment of Labor Negotiator: GM Cox stated that the district needs to formally identify the lead negotiator. Director Voboril stated that technically we hired Prentice/Long, but they have given the lead negotiating duties to Sophia Meyers. GM Cox stated she will be the lead negotiator for the Local #5317 and, if needed, for Local #39. Director Mathews made a motion to recognize Sophia Meyer, with Prentice Long as the district's lead negotiator. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

16. Correspondence: none

17. Comments:

Directors: Director Voboril has scheduled a Special Meeting on March 29th with District Council to be present. GM Cox stated there will be some closed session agenda items and then some time for questions in open session as well. He asked the board members to email him the questions and then he would get them to district council so they have time to prepare responses before the meeting. Director Steffen stated that she will be attending by zoom that day.

Staff: none

- 18. Adjournment:** Director Mathews made motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:54pm. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Cheryl E Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Approval of Minutes 