

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

DRAFT

Minutes of Regular Meeting: May 24, 2022 at 5:30pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Steve Voboril, Steve Graffweg, and Royce Raker.

Directors Absent: 2 vacancies

Conference Call: unk amount on phone.

Guests Present: unk, many.

Staff Present: 5+

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Raker made a motion to accept agenda. Director Graffweg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:** A public member explained her findings regarding fire fighters pay for 2021. Another public member had similar comments and said many hours worked, many at Overtime was the reason for the large pay for 2021.

3. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** None at this time.

4. **CPUD Board Member Vacancy Interviews, Appointment, and Oath of Office:**

The Board of Directors read interview questions to the 3 interested parties, Kimberly Green, Arnold Bustamante, and Arthur Tharpe, in a random fashion. Based on their responses, Director Raker nominated Kim Green for Director. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries. Director Voboril nominated Art Tharpe for Director. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. General Manager Adam Cox swore them both in by reciting with them the Oath of Office, which was then signed and the new board members took their seats at the board table. Mr. Bustamante was thanked for his interest.

A public member stressed the importance of Brown Act training, and fiscal responsibility of elected positions.

5. **Meeting Minutes:** Director Raker made a motion to accept both the April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 21, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as written. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. Ayes: Raker, Graffweg and Voboril. Abstain: Green and Tharpe. Minutes approved.

6. Financials:

- a. Revised FY 21-22 Budget
- b. April 2022 Financials:

GM Cox stated that each line item was gone through within the budget, and adjusted and predicted to June 30th which is reflected in the financials. He walked through the statement of activity.

Director Green asked that last year's year to date figures be added to the financial reports.

Director Raker made a motion to accept the April 2022 financials with the revised FY 21-22 budget figures. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

7. General Manager's Report: by Adam Cox

- Thanked the new board members and existing board members for the interview process.
- CPUD 101 public meeting had approximately 30 people attend. Discussed how CPUD is funded, and other operational basics. Felt it had a positive impact. Would like to do more public education forums, ex: how fire employees are paid etc.
- Developed an IT Committee to handle website maintenance, develop a computer replacement cycle, upgrades to conference room, the billing systems, radio meters and software, and get everyone on .org CPUD email addresses.
- Working with Baron and Budd on recouping funds from Dixie, agenda item #10.
- Fire Revenue and Ambulance Annexation, deadline is June 22 to get on ballot. 2/3 votes needed to pass, there may be other options.
- Have water and sewer rates looked at soon, by survey.
- Local 5317 and 39 negotiations still in works
- A public member, The West Almanor District Manager, stated that smart meters have helped on detecting leak issues early.
- A Retired CPUD member mentioned that a several studies on meters have been done fairly recently.

8. EMS Report: Joe Waterman absent. Captain Dean read the report

- All fire engines are back in service
- ISO rating likely to stay a 3.
- USFS leasing a CFD Facility still a potential, talks continue.
- Completed Salary Survey and Resolution.
- Finalized ambulance service fees update, board approval needed.
- GEMT program getting back up after COVID
- PG&E settlement first check, 15K received. 35K final in July.
- Tax Assessment and Annexation, working with Adam and LAFCo
- AFG and KBK Grants applied for, breathing apparatus needed.

- Stopped the local agreement with USFS, does not favor local government. We will still participate in initial attack assistance, and if needed longer, use the CFAA Agreement for reimbursement.
- GM Cox explained how the affordable care act changed how ambulance services were reimbursed, not for the better.

9. Local Union Representatives:

a. Local 5317/Chester Professional Firefighter's Association (CFD Safety)

no comments

b. Local 39/ Stationary Engineers (CPUD Misc.)

no comments.

10. Baron& Budd PC: Dixie Fire Reimbursements: GM Cox stated that this company was referred by our legal counsel. We would be in a claim with surrounding counties against PG&E to recover some damages. Their fee would be 20% of whatever settlement we receive. We pay zero if we don't get anything from the settlement. Director Green stated that it is our responsibility to the community to commit. Director Green then made a motion to accept the agreement. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

11. Water Rate CPI Increase: Resolution #407: Public Hearing: GM Cox stated that public notices were mailed out with 3% CPI. We only received 2 letters of protest. He explained that portions of the increase will go to reserves and some to current operations. After more brief discussion, Director Voboril opened the Public Hearing at 6:53pm. There was discussion that the 3% would be placed only on the base rates, not on the usage. After hearing no other discussion, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:55pm. Director Raker made a motion to accept Resolution #407 to increase the water base rates by 3%. Director Tharpe seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

12. Streetlight Service Charges: Set Public Hearing: GM Cox stated that we currently pay 25K to 30K per year with receiving no revenue. This has been being paid from the Water Fund's ad valorem property taxes. The resolution will be for approximately \$30.00 per year per parcel. He explained that the lights themselves are owned by PG&E. To report an issue of a streetlight, call the office staff, as it is up to us, and the citizens, to report the issue/outage. Director Voboril thought maybe the brightness could be turned down to help on costs. Director Raker made a motion to set a Public Hearing for June 28th, during the CPUD regular board meeting. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

13. Waste Management Franchise Agreement: 2022-2023 Rates: GM Cox stated this is informational only. We have no control on how they raise the rates.

14. **Bartel and Associates: OPEB Study Agreement:** GM Cox stated that they would contact to do actuarial help on Pension and Retiree Health. They would help plan for the future expenses and give us realistic options. The cost would be a maximum of 24K, and it will be added in to the 22-23 Budget. The cost would be amortized across all funds. Other firms were similar in fees. After some more brief discussion, Director Tharpe made a motion to accept the Bartel & Assoc. Agreement. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
15. **Closed Session: A, B and C:** read verbatim by Director Voboril.
16. **Reconvene: 08:05pm**
17. **Report on Closed Session:** by Director Voboril
 - a. **Litigation:** information only, no action.
 - b. **Labor Negotiations:** information only, no action
 - c. **Personnel:** information only, no action
18. **Correspondences:**
 - a. **PG&E payment:** GM Cox stated we will be getting 35K more in July.
 - b. **Nor-Cal Letter:** EMS week celebration
19. **Comments:**
 - a. **Directors:** New Board members were thanked for joining the board.
New Committee members will be nominated in June.
Finance Committee meeting, 5-31-2022
 - b. **Staff:** none
20. **Adjournment:** 08:12pm, Director Raker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Cheryl E Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Approval of Minutes _____