

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

**Minutes of Special Meeting:** June 29, 2021 at 1:00pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

**Directors Present:** Steve Trotter, Joe Waterman, Steve Graffweg, & Steve Voboril.

**Directors Absent:** Royce Raker

**Conference Call:** Unknown amount of Public called in.

**Guests Present:** none

**Staff Present:** 5 CPUD/CFD employees and volunteers.

1. **Call to Order:** Director Waterman called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
  - a. Director Waterman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - b. Agenda Approval: Director Trotter made a motion to accept the agenda. Director Voboril seconded the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** none
3. **Closed Session: read verbatim by Director Waterman:** Labor Negotiations (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)
  1. Safety Labor Negotiators Update
  2. Possible Direction from the Board
4. **Reconvene:** 2:08pm
5. **Report on Closed Session:** by Director Waterman
  - a. updated the board as to what rank and file would like. Up to number 11 within the proposal.
  - b. received direction from the board regarding last load number 4 and 5 each rank and file union proposal.
6. **2021 OES Salary Survey: Resolution #419**

Director Waterman stated that this is time sensitive and that he worked on it over the weekend. He has salary rates to what he thinks they should be by going through the salary survey directions. 6.2% Social Security is a billable item. Received the employee's current hourly rates from Cheryl to do the averaging by position. In the past a differential was paid to our local fire folks. Our attorneys have been back and forth on that topic. Einhorn doesn't see anything wrong, by labor law, with how we have been paying our full time Firefighters. Director Waterman's proposal is that we give them a \$5.00 per hour increase called "Hazard Premium/Differential" but possibly not PERS-able. The differential we have been paying them is almost double their salary, which we would not be able to survive an audit in that regard. They say that they are going to be auditing more this year. He reiterated that he has come up with some rates through his methodology including Unemployment, Workers Compensation and Social Security as appropriate: Captain = \$39.49 /hr. Officer/Engineer = \$36.46 /hr. Firefighter = \$25.45 /hr. Chief rate is highest he has seen, so may want to do something differently. Alter the Battalion Chief to get our 6.2% for Social Security. Administration was left off of the salary survey at this time. He proposed the above.

Director Voboril stated that the above-mentioned figures Director Waterman proposed are close to what he was coming up with, without using the cheat sheet and then commented that it seems like Director Waterman has it figured out. Director Waterman feels that the rates are defensible in an audit, and the ones Chief Layne proposed at the workshop, are not. He asked the board to authorize himself, Allan and Cheryl to work it out, but it is time sensitive. He

recommended that no one gets sent out, and that is a Chief thing. Director Trotter stated he didn't feel right approving something without back up documentation. Director Waterman stated that the Admin. rate is easily defensible. Cheryl asked for Battalion Chief rate clarification.

Director Waterman stated he had been waiting for 3 months to hear from the Chief in this regard, and didn't. Director Waterman is confident in his calculations. Director Trotter stated that there seems to be some heartache regarding these rates.

Director Voboril made a motion that the Chairman of the Board move on with Resolution #419 and salary survey based on Director Waterman's calculations. Director Waterman stated that he would be fine with someone double checking his figures. Director Trotter seconded the motion. Director Waterman added, to complete the salary survey with staffs help and that next year it will go better. All in favor, motion carried.

- 7. Correspondence: Letter from Brian Foos dated 6-25-2021:** Director Waterman said the letter was in reference to an extension with a rent increase to \$1500.00 per month. He said he believes that the board can authorize the General Manager to do some leg work. He then asked for the pleasure of the board. Director Voboril thought it was interesting that the letter implied that the Hospital was willing to take over the ambulance, which they might be able to make more off of it that we could. Director Waterman stated that he met with Sean McKenzie a few weeks ago and got more and got a lot out of that 30-minute conversation. Mr. McKenzie's take is that we would like his crew to meet there and just take transfers, but peninsula has to be involved in it. He is trying to get out of traveler nurses. He is hoping not to have rentals in the future. Director Waterman was also contacted by Sherri Thrall that asked him if this transfer business can still happen and keep the school in the building. Director Graffweg stated that the rent would be another 18K over the next year. Work on the building and negotiations will take months anyways. His opinion is to tell St. Andrews they can have it. He was against it at the lower rate. Maybe in 14 months we will be in a better place. Director Voboril said maybe we will have the tax assessment in place by then as well. Director Waterman doesn't want to walk all over the work that staff has done or jeopardize not being able to do a transfer, but it sounds like it will take some time anyways to put the program into place and take some more meetings with Sean and Brian. Allan's email was to start a process on the first, which takes time and would be political suicide. Brian has said we can do the transfer program out of this house and we could move on that. He would like to get together with Sean and Brian before the next meeting and figure it all out. Captain Dean expressed his concerns regarding the ISO rating going down if we don't get apparatus in that building as being another issue, not just the transfer program. Director Graffweg thanked Chris for the reminder. Director Waterman stated that we could request an ISO rerating at some point. Chris said that we are passed due to get rerated and usually only get a 2-month notice. Director Trotter reminded the board that we have already voted and have left the process in the hands of the General Manager to handle, now we are back stepping. Director Voboril said he didn't like sneaking around the back door either but, and then Director Graffweg stated he didn't like it on the agenda again and again. Director Trotter said it will be on the agenda again in 14 months. Director Waterman stated that he didn't think so. Director Trotter was concerned about all the alterations that have been made to that building by the current tenant. Director Waterman stated that maybe that they can work with them on some of those concerns, and that in past practice, the tenants have helped out financially with some of them, such as the lighting when he was GM here. GM Homme stated that there is a lot of potential to be had with that building and that he and the Chief want the chance to show the board. Director Waterman expressed that he wants to meet with the Chief, Allan and Sean before the next regular meeting and would like to see 198 Main St. as an agenda item again. Cheryl expressed her frustration with board members not asking good questions, board members acting alone representing CPUD, the process regarding taking the building over, and one board member saying don't start the eviction process and another saying do, when the last day for the tenant is "tomorrow" 6-30-2021. Director Trotter restated again that there can't be any action today. Director Voboril said that the eviction process will take 6 months and the Sheriff isn't going to want to get them out and that it needs to go through attorneys. Director Graffweg agreed whole-heartedly with the General Manager, let him do the process, we are done and he has full authority to handle this right now. It was agreed not to cash the rent check for July. Cheryl explained that now the tenant will occupy the building for

free, and that will not look good to the public and that is the political suicide. Director Trotter said the board took the action to take the building back and we need to keep on track and do what we said we were going to do. We need to start the process on getting that building back, despite what would be discussed at the next meeting. Based on board action, the ball is in Allan's court, and we put that ball in his court.

**8. Comments:**

**a. Directors: none**

**b. Staff: none**

- 9. Adjournment:** Director Voboril made motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45pm. Director Trotter seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Johnson

Approval of Minutes

