

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

Minutes of Special Meeting: September 12, 2023, at 5:30pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Kim Green, Steve Voboril, Arthur Tharpe, Royce Raker and Steve Graffweg,

Directors Absent: None

Guests Present: 6

Staff Present: 3

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Roll Call/Attendance: Director Voboril let it be known that all Directors were present.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Graffweg made a motion to accept agenda. Director Green seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** None

3. **Status of Seneca Negotiations and Authorization to Negotiate with Other Parties:**

GM Cox explained that since last spring there have been meetings between Seneca, the Peninsulas Fire Department and CPUD/CFD for Seneca to become the new ambulance biller as they can get reimbursed at a higher rate as they are a critical access hospital. Progress has been slow, and Seneca has asked for a pause in discussions. We have a specific deadline for the end of the calendar year before we need to start making some hard operations and fiscal changes. We should be looking at all critical care hospitals for the billing opportunity.

Director Voboril agreed to the idea of looking at all available options.

Director Green suggested an Ad Hoc committee to talk with the Peninsulas' Board and well as Senecas' board to keep thing moving and keep conversations happening. More like a fact finding and information sharing discussion.

Director Raker stated that the number 1 goal is to get peninsula on board.

Director Green stated that she was approached by a peninsula board member, and they want to have more discussions.

Director Raker made a motion to form the Ad Hoc Committee. Director Green seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Member, Seneca Hospital's CEO, Sean McKenzie announced his name and stated he would like a resolution from Peninsula Fire's Board as assurance that they want to proceed.

Director Tharpe stated that the Ad Hoc Committee should report to the board at the next regular meeting, Dept. 26th.

Public Member, Seneca Hospital's CEO, Sean McKenzie reiterated that he is looking for resolutions as assurance that both fire departments are willing to relinquish their ambulance services, and that has been the purpose of the pause.

GM Cox asked the board for direction to pursue other institutions in the meantime.

Director Tharpe stated that the General Manager should put feelers out. Director Voboril agreed that it is best for due diligence.

GM Cox explained that we are 2 million in the red and we also need assurance. This arrangement can be a win, win, win for Seneca, CFD and the community.

Mr. McKenzie stated he is having a finance feasibility study done.

Director Tharpe made a proposal that authorization be given to the General Manager to find other entities that may be interested, but not to begin any negotiations. Director Raker seconded the proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Board Protocols:** Moved to after Closed Session by Board Chair, Director Voboril. Director Green would like to see the board policies and Chain of Command. Director Raker would like the meetings dates and times change to be added to the next agenda. GM Cox will work on getting the meetings streamed for better community attendance.
5. **Closed Session: read verbatim by Director Voboril at 5:55pm:** Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9: one potential case.
6. **Reconvene:** 7:17pm
7. **Report on Closed:** Information only.
8. **Comments:**
 - Directors:** Director Raker commended the Chief regarding the professionalism shown by the current fire crew.
 - Staff:**
 - GM Cox would like a Special Meeting on October 17th for Measure D.
9. **Adjournment:** Director Raker made a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm. Director Green seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Johnson

Approval of Minutes

