

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

Minutes of Special Meeting: October 5, 2021 at 10:00am. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Steve Trotter, Steve Graffweg, & Steve Voboril.

Directors Absent: Royce Raker and vacancy

Conference Call: Unknown amount of public called in.

Guests Present: none

Staff Present: 2 CPUD/CFD employees and volunteers.

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Graffweg made a motion to accept the agenda as posted. Director Trotter seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** none
3. **Cure: Un-Agendized Action taken at 9-28-2021 Special Meeting Closed Session:** (Negotiators decided on for Professional Fire Fighters Local #5317. After a brief discussion, Director Trotter made a motion to replace Joe Waterman with Steve Graffweg in the negotiating group. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Potential Appointment of New Board Member:** Director Voboril stated that they had 5 interviews for the vacancy. Two applicants were related to employees and others were friends of employees. This could create conflict of interest and create quorum issues. Based on that, the recommendation is to appoint Blake Mathews. Director Trotter made a motion to accept the recommendation to appoint Blake Mathews. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **2021-2022 Miscellaneous MOU:** GM Homme stated that the increase is based on minimum wage increasing and making everyone within the MOU equal. Page 12, bringing 2 people up to \$100.00 from \$75.00 per month on the 457 Match. Director Trotter wants the language more defined regarding the "match". Director Graffweg doesn't like all the steps. Director Voboril stated that the 5% steps aren't sustainable. GM Homme stated that keeping up with the CPI is important, regarding employees, infrastructure, reserves, etc. Keeping quality employees here is important regarding system knowledge, hence the step increases. He continues that the clerical positions would be the same as the maintenance employees as far as the 5% steps, as referenced on page 6. Director Trotter asked if there were evaluations in place in order to justify moving to the next step. GM Homme stated that this is based on management's judgment regarding the employee's increased knowledge of the system, merit and productivity. Director Trotter would like to know the exact cost to the district, as

proposed. He then stated that when the lowest position is increased due to minimum wage going up, which is law and nothing can be done about it, then usually the other positions go up as well based on that percentage increase.

GM Homme explained that the \$15.71 in Step A was to keep up with minimum wage plus to make it the same at the Step A for the Secretary, both skilled positions with a lot of responsibility. He then mentioned the 18-year longevity and the Cesar Chavez day to be added as well as verbiage in the Medical Section to protect the District, should medical rates change without District consent or District controls. After more extensive conversation based on above, Director Voboril requested that management come back to the table with the following: Cost to the District, Salary Survey Comparable, County Holidays and Education and Certification Pay. No action was taken.

6. **General Manager's Back Hoe Purchase Recommendation:** GM Homme stated that he wants the Excavator (75K) and Trailer (14K). The price for the Excavator is going up the more we wait. He would finance the Excavator and pay cash for the Trailer. He believes this will save us from having someone to come in to keep up the levies which costed 400K last time. This would also help with weed abatement with that attachment, which we also pay an outside source to maintain. He explained that with a good maintenance program, that it would last 30 years. The current back hoe would be used for the larger jobs. Director Trotter suggested that the salesman come to the District to see what would best meet our needs. He also requested that the payments don't start until the delivery of the equipment and to make sure the interest rate is fixed. GM Homme then stated that when the current back hoe finally goes down, he would then look at purchasing a Loader. He would like to purchase from Bobcat and then the trailer from Grass Valley. It was agreed that this be put on the next regular agenda again. No action was taken.

7. **Comments:**

Directors: Cheryl was asked call Blake Mathews to make sure he attends the next meeting to get sworn in. Director Trotter stated that they need to complete GM Hommes Evaluation.

Staff: GM Homme stated they got the keys for 198 Main St. from the previous renter. They will be contacting an electrician to make sure everything is fire safe. They will be having the bay doors fixed. The creek is close to the building due to a plug up under Main St. They will be trying to rectify that issue as well. All question should be sent to Director Voboril, and they will be sent collaboratively to GM Homme.

8. **Adjournment:** Director Graffweg made motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:08pm. Director Trotter seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Johnson
Approval of Minutes 