

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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"Pride in Community Service"

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MINUTES Regular Meeting

April 2, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Stassi who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. ROLL CALL:** Directors, Brooks, Gonzales, Heuring and Stassi. Director Bumpass participated via ZOOM.

OTHERS PRESENT

General Manager Cynthia Allen, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Manager Mike Garner, Financial Services (FS) Manager Patricia LeCavalier, Service Person Jeff Cole, and Mission Hills CSD Administrative Services Manager Carol Reynolds.

- 3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - None**

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Vice President Stassi invited public comments and there were none.

5. OPERATIONS REPORT

O&M Manager Garner reported the District pumped 25.6 million gallons of water in March with an average daily demand of 827,000 gallons. This is 30 percent more than last year.

There was 3.75 inches of rain in March. The calendar year total is 13.78 inches.

The District's well levels for March were 1B-141', 3A-134', and 3B-135'.

The Well 1B installation will be completed and will be back online tomorrow. Jeff Cole and the field crew have installed the second analyzer in the lab which is connected to SCADA.

The Districts new SCADA integrator Eddie Bramasco has reviewed the existing program and is writing a new script. He will have Site 1 SCADA ready for testing in about two weeks.

O&M Manager Garner and the field crew were invited to attend the Miguelito Elementary School Science Fair. Customer Service Representative Brianna Jennings and Intern Eva Stoyos also went to participate. Staff showed students and parents where VVCS D gets water from and tested water samples while Jeff Cole showed a video of Well 3A.

The field crew had two service line repairs and installed six commercial meters in March. There were no sanitary sewer overflows to report.

To conclude his report, O&M Manager Garner said on March 14 Ben Quinlan celebrated his 2nd anniversary and on March 20 Steph Garner celebrated 23 years with the District. Staff hired Avery Griffith on March 27 as a permanent employee and next week applications will be reviewed to hire a temporary field crew service person. Lastly, the O&M Manager announced his last day of work as May 10th and Jeff Cole will be the new O&M Manager.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

FS Manager LeCavalier reported that \$2 million from the Santa Barbara County Treasury was transferred to the California CLASS (CLASS) investment accounts. There was also \$125,000 transferred from Mechanics Bank to the CLASS account for Water Conservation Funds.

The CLASS accounts are currently earning 5.4% interest and the Mechanics Bank Money Market account 4.3%. LAIF is earning about 4.1% and at the end of the quarter, we will see how much Santa Barbara County Treasury is earning.

The District received grant funds for the January 2023 storm damage and customer COVID arrearages.

Oak Hill Partners paid the capacity charges and conservation fees for two homes on Oak Hill Drive. There are three homes left to connect to the system.

To conclude her report FS Manager LeCavalier said O&M Manager Garner's last day with the District will be May 10 after 39½ years. He will retire from VVCSD and start May 13th with Mission Hills CSD as their new General Manager. Also, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary Garner gave her official notice this afternoon to retire on June 28 after 23 years with the District.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 5, 2024

Director Gonzales read an amendment from Board Secretary Garner to be added to Item 8. B of the minutes.

Motion by Director Gonzales, seconded by Director Brooks to accept the amended minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

B. Treasurer Report

1) Monthly Financials

2) Disbursements through March 31, 2024

C. Water Pumped vs. Sold, 12 Months

Motion by Director Gonzales, seconded by Director Heuring to accept the Treasurer Report and Water Pumped vs. Sold, 12 Months

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. ACTION ITEM

A. [Public Hearing] Capital Budgets Opened 7:25 p.m. Closed 8:00 p.m.

Director Gonzales said the Finance/Budget Committee met and was making tonight's recommendation from the information given at the meeting. The dollar amount presented in the board package is different from what was discussed at the committee meeting. During the Finance/Budget Committee meeting the total cost of the Floradale Bridge Project was \$1,750,000. General Manager Allen said it was changed to \$2,250,000 for transparency purposes. Director Gonzales requested another committee meeting to iron out the numbers. General Manager Allen clarified the increase for the carport project was a contingency to include batteries for the solar panels. General Manager Allen said the carport project was to be on the budget in 2021. The previous general manager pulled the project before the Finance/Budget Committee meeting.

Director Bumpass said with the rate increase and longevity pay he requested pulling the Ford F150. O&M Manager said no one will be eligible for longevity pay for at least three years and Jeff Cole said every person in the field needs a vehicle. If the District hires another field crew person, there will need to be another vehicle. Director Bumpass said he does not have enough information about the carport project.

Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Brooks to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Budget for the Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds amend to solar project \$100,000.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Gonzales, Heuring, Stassi

Noes: Director Bumpass

Abstain: None

Absent: None

B. [Public Hearing] Operating Budgets Opened 8:00 p.m. Closed 8:03 p.m.

Director Bumpass is concerned about the paragraph on page 48. GM Allen said that paragraph has been in the narrative since Director Rowland was on the board. His concern about the paragraph is the shift in not fully funding depreciation. General Manager Allen said that paragraph explains the negative number on page 49.

Motion by Director Brooks, seconded by Director Gonzales to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget for the Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds which includes a 4.3 percent cost of living salary increase for all employees effective July 1, 2024, longevity pay after 15 years, and an additional field employee temporarily.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Gonzales, Heuring, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion by Director Brooks, seconded by Director Heuring to approve the Fiscal year 2024-25 Administrative Overhead Fee of 20.11 percent.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

C. Parking Lot Rental Fees

Director Bumpass said the District could help the community by subsidizing the Village Hills Little League water bill. The funding would come from the small revenue source received from the parking lot rental fees from the Farmers Market. The Village Hills Little League is a 501c3 and we can legally offset their water bill using those funds.

There was a lot of discussion among the Directors before making the following motion:

Motion by Director Bumpass, seconded by Director Heuring to consider subsidizing the Village Hills Little League Water bill with revenues from parking lot rental fees not to exceed one year.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

D. APN 097-590-003

Motion by Director Brooks, seconded by Director Bumpass to issue an Intent to Serve Letter to Classic Installation to construct a showroom on Assessor's Parcel Number 097-590-003 at 164 Burton Mesa Blvd.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. REPORTS

A. Committees

The Finance/Budget Committee met and discussed items on this agenda. The Ad-hoc Committee met and the items discussed are made part of these minutes.

B. District Representatives to External Agencies – Nothing to report

C. President – Nothing to report

10. General Manager

General Manager Allen confirmed the \$2 million was transferred from the Santa Barbara County Treasury account into CLASS on March 19. The funds were split into subaccounts for Water Reserves, Wastewater Reserves, and LRWRP Reserves to make the interest accounting easier for staff. She also transferred \$125,000 in Water Conservation Fees from Mechanics Bank into CLASS, leaving \$80,000 in Mechanics Bank to fund the water conservation expenses.

The District received \$17,000 from FEMA and CalEMA for the 2023 Storm Damage projects. After the administrative costs have been reimbursed, staff will close the accounting for those projects.

A check for \$10,000 was received from the State Water Board for the extended COVID arrearages program. Of the 19 customer accounts, 16 were closed accounts. The grant zeroed out the balance on all but three.

On March 12, General Manager Allen met with representatives from the State Lands Commission and the California Fish and Wildlife Department and received guidance on the District's next steps for the lease application. She discovered that they are waiting for environmental documentation from us. The District's Notice of Exemption was not accepted because the area will need to be disturbed and mitigation will need to occur for any endangered vegetation removed. General Manager Allen also learned hybrids are also treated as endangered so that would not be a valid reason to avoid mitigation. VVCSD is not required to do an Environmental Impact Report. The agencies will accept a Mitigated

Negative Declaration (MND). The consultant who prepared the application offered their assistance in preparing the MND and the company has been contacted. There is money allocated in the water capital budget for consultation work.

The Water/Wastewater Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16 to discuss the water conservation policy, an emergency water system tie-in, and a future well site project.

To conclude her report, General Manager Allen said she would report tomorrow afternoon for jury duty. If selected the trial is scheduled to be in session on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday through the end of April.

11. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

A. US Drought Monitor: California, March 26, 2024

B. HR 7525 Fact Sheet

C. Santa Barbara County Monthly Water Rate Comparison 2024

12. DIRECTORS FORUM

Director Brooks is happy that Mike will still be close by and agrees that the District needs to take care of staff.

Director Bumpass thanked Mike for his knowledge and mentorship and wished him well at Mission Hills CSD.

Director Gonzales said he has been friends with Mike for 35 years and he has taught him a lot and wishes him the best.

Director Heuring recalled when the Vandenberg Village Association had the methadone clinic on their agenda and Mike helped to control the crowd and bring order to the meeting. He was the hero that night.

Director Stassi said he hears from a lot of residents that Mike is excellent at his job.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened into a closed session at 8:58 p.m.

14. OPEN SESSION

The Board convened into an open session at 9:21 p.m. and reported no action was taken.

15. ADJOURN

Vice President Stassi declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Attest:

Signed:

Stephanie Garner
Secretary, Board of Directors

Ronald Stassi
Vice President, Board of Directors