

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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"Pride in Community Service"

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MINUTES Regular Meeting

December 5, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

President Brooks asked for a moment of silence to remember the longest-sitting board member, Director Robert Wyckoff who passed away on Saturday, December 2.

2. ROLL CALL: Directors, Brooks, Bumpass, Gonzales, Heuring, and Stassi were present.

OTHERS PRESENT

General Manager Joe Barget, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Manager Mike Garner, Administrative Services (AS) Manager Cynthia Allen, Finance Administrator Patricia LeCavalier, and village resident Theresa Smith.

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

President Brooks invited public comments and there were none.

5. OPERATIONS REPORT

O&M Manager Garner reported the District pumped 33.2 million gallons of water in November with an average daily demand of 1,106,000 gallons. This is 17 percent more than last year.

There was 0.6" of rain in November bringing the calendar year total to 20.52 inches.

The District's well levels for October were 1B-142', 3A-136', and 3B-135'.

A power pole was struck on Highway 1 and knocked out power to Sites 1 and 3 for approximately 24 hours. The field crew shifted to backup power using the generator and monitored both sites until the power was restored.

The engineers from Pureflow are working on the final design of the new filter pipes and mixing flanges.

The new Blue and White analyzers are replacing the HACH and Prominent analyzers. The field crew is monitoring the Chlorine, PH, Turbidity, and temperature levels.

To conclude his report, O&M Manager Garner said the field crew repaired six service lines, and a 4-inch sewer lateral repair in November. There were no sanitary sewer overflows to report.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

AS Manager Allen reported that, in 2021, a moratorium was put in place during Covid regarding the discontinuance of water service. The State Water Resources Control Board provided funds to assist customers with unpaid bills accrued between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021. The District received \$8,631.40 for water charges and \$5,231.63 for wastewater charges.

This summer, Governor Newsom signed a bill expanding the program to allow the Covid Relief Period to extend through December 31, 2022. The application period opened on November 1 and the aged accounts were reevaluated. Nineteen accounts are still qualified, three are open and the rest have been closed, some of which have been sent to collections. The District's request, including a three percent administrative fee, is a little over \$10,000.

To conclude her report, AS Manager Allen gave all the board members a completed copy of the Reserve Study. She will coordinate a meeting with the Finance/Budget Committee after the first of the year.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 7, 2023

B. Treasurer Report

- 1) Monthly Financials
- 2) Disbursements through November 30, 2023

C. Water Pumped vs. Sold, 12 months

Motion by Director Gonzales, seconded by Director Heuring to accept the consent calendar as presented.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

8. ACTION ITEM

A. Water Rates and Charges [Public Hearing opened at 7:12 p.m.]

Board Secretary Garner reported two protest letters were received.

Theresa Smith asked when the last time a rate increase was done. General Manager Barget said eight years ago.

Motion by Director Bumpass, seconded by Director Gonzales to approve increases to water rate and charges to take effect January 4, 2024; January 1, 2025; and January 1, 2026, and adopt revised Ordinances 4.1 through 4.9 updating the water rates and charges.

Roll Call

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

[Public Hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.]

B. General Manager

Motion by Director Stassi, seconded by Director Heuring to extend the employment agreement with Joe Barget to December 30.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion by Director Heuring, seconded by Director Bumpass to approve the General Manager Employment Agreement with Cynthia Allen and appoint her as General Manager, effective December 31.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

C. Joe Barget

Motion by Director Bumpass, seconded by Director Stassi to adopt Resolution 228-23 commending and thanking Joe Barget for 19 years of service.

Roll Call

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

D. Board Officers

Motion by Director Gonzales, seconded by Director Heuring to elect Director Bumpass as President.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion by Director Brooks, seconded by Director Gonzales to elect Director Stassi as Vice President.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None

Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion by Director Bumpass, seconded by Director Stassi to elect Director Gonzales as Finance Officer.

Ayes: Directors Brooks, Bumpass, Heuring, Gonzales, Stassi
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

There was general discussion about next year's committee and external agency appointments.

9. REPORTS

A. Committees

There were no committee meetings.

B. District Representatives to External Agencies

Nothing to report.

C. President

President Brooks thanked the management team, Joe, Mike, and Cindy for their leadership. He said he appreciates the smoothness of the transition to the General Manager position.

D. General Manager

General Manager Barget attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference in Indian Wells in place of Director Heuring.

10. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

A. US Drought Monitor: California, November 28, 2023

11. DIRECTORS FORUM

Director Gonzales suggested the District look into solar panels to help reduce the PG&E expense. He would like to see the Water/Wastewater Committee discuss a water intertie with Mission Hills Community Services District or Lompoc, and lastly, he thanked AS Manager Allen for the Reserve Study.

Director Heuring thanked Joe for taking his place at the ACWA conference.

Director Bumpass asked AS Manager Allen when someone would be hired for her position, and she said after the first of the year. He thanked O&M Manager Garner and the field crew for repairing a lateral line brake at his home.

Director Stassi told Cindy to update the job description as she sees fit for her replacement. He requested to see the cost of operating the plant on a spreadsheet.

Director Brooks thanked everyone for bearing with him this year. He said for the past 19 years he has felt it necessary to take care of the employees at the District which has put the district in a good position.

12. ADJOURN

President Brooks declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attest:

Signed:

Stephanie Garner
Secretary, Board of Directors

Christopher Brooks
President, Board of Directors