

MINUTES

The Pixley Public Utility District held a Regular Board Meeting on the 2nd day of December, 2019 at the Pixley Public Utility District Office.

It was there determined that a quorum was present with the following Board Members present: Bob Chandler, Roger Ward and Ramon Cisneros. Board Members Ronnie Prine and David Terrel were absent. Also present were: Chad Lew, Attorney for the District; Charlotte Eanes, District Office Assistant; Blanca Escobedo of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; and District Customers; Elena Saldivar, Ruben Ornelas and Jose Ramos.

Meeting was called to order at: 6:30p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 4th Regular Board Meeting were submitted for review. On motion of Ramon Cisneros and second by Roger Ward and a unanimous vote the minutes were approved as submitted. Motion Carried.

Bills to be paid: On motion of Roger Ward and second by Ramon Cisneros and a unanimous vote the following bills were ordered paid. **See Exhibit "A"**. Motion Carried.

Public Comments: Blanca Escobedo who was present from Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability stated that she was available if the District needed any help with arsenic funding.

Erika A. Ornelas/Will Serve/270 West Court

- **Discussion, consideration and possible action on will serve for possible tri-plex apartment at 270 West Court**

Ruben Ornelas was present requesting a will serve letter for a possible tri-plex apartment at 270 West Court Avenue. The Board informed Mr. Ornelas that capacity was available. Mr. Ornelas had plans with him which he left to be forwarded to District Engineer; Michael Taylor. The Board directed District Engineer; Michael Taylor after reviewing plans to issue will serve letter.

Jose Ramos/762A, 762B and 762 ½ Main Street

- **Update on above noted addresses/separating out water lines**

Mr. Ramos asked if Blain and Randy could meet with him again at his property due to him trying to figure out where the new piping would need to run.

Chad Lew/Attorney for the District

- **Extraterritorial Agreement with Pixley Union School District**

Chad Lew; Attorney for the District submitted Extraterritorial Agreement with Pixley Union School District. On motion of Roger Ward and second by Ramon Cisneros and a unanimous vote the Board approved the Agreement. Motion Carried.

Provost & Pritchard/Development Update and Report Active Items

Remaining Available Water Units - 133 units

Will Serve Letters

Elm Street – Medrano (5-16-19) 1

1575 N. Park (5-28-19) 1

1224 E. Terra Bella Ave. (6-24-19) 1

Walnut – Romero (09-17-19) 2

521 Walnut – Coronel (10-8-19) 1

Mercado – Walnut (11-19-19) 1

Remaining Available Water Units 126 units

Tract 770

Construction has been initiated. Work is proceeding to determine the required Residential fire sprinklers configuration.

Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

Infrastructure Planning

A. Proposition 84 Project

The State has received a formal request for an extension on the Proposition 84 funds. The State has informed the District that the extension is being processed.

B. USDA – Funding Application

Updated Plans and Specifications are submitted to the District, the State, and USDA for review and approval

An updated Engineering Service Agreement is submitted to the USDA in response to comments.

The information associated with the new rates and associated budget forms are also submitted to the USDA for review and approval.

A Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan is required by the USDA for the proposed project. A Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan has been completed and is attached under separate cover. The USDA does not require the Plan itself, but does require a Certification that the Plan has been prepared and adopted by the Pixley Public Utility District. It is recommended that the District adopt the plan as prepared.

Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

No Formal Action. Tabled for January meeting.

C. IRWN – Funding Application

An application for planning grant has been submitted to the Tule River IRWN Group for the design of a new water main crossing at the north area of Pixley PUD near the Park Dr. alignment to improve water supply and pressure to the north portion of the community and to improve the potential of providing water services to residences and facilities (potentially the Tulare County Park) north of the District. The Tule River IRWM Group was in agreement with the application. The Pixley PUD will receive a portion of the requested funds, for the purpose of conceptual layout of the crossing and initial communications with Caltrans regarding the potential of a new crossing. The contract of said work is expected in the near future.

Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

WATER SYSTEM

VFD at Well 5

A contract from Tesco has been received and is available for execution pursuant to previous actions taken by the Board.

Recommended Action: Board's pleasure

Tools & Maintenance:

- **District Pickups/Discussion, consideration and possible action in regards to District Pickups**

Ramon Cisneros repaired pick-up.

Randy's Retirement

- **Discussion, consideration and possible action in regards to District Chief Operator; Randy Master's retirement.**

The Board discussed needing to hire a Grade 3 Operator or possible hiring a Grade 2 Operator who could possible use Randy's Grade 3. The Board also discussed whether or not the new employee would need to live in Pixley or not. Board also wanted to look at salaries for other Grade 3 Operators. No Formal Action.

Other Matters:

- **Ramon Cisneros/Tait Property/Possible Purchase**

- ✓ **Discussion, consideration and possible action in regards to Ramon Cisneros purchasing Tait Property.**

Board Member; Ramon Cisneros stated that he was interested in purchasing the Tait Property and wanted to know if it would be a conflict of interest due to him being a Board Member. Chad Lew; Attorney for the District stated that Ramon would need to get his own legal advisor if he wanted to proceed with purchase. No Formal Action. Tabled to January meeting.

- **Customer Fee Increase Notice**

- ✓ **Discussion, consideration and possible action on sending out a Customer Fee Increase notification.**

After some discussion on motion of Roger Ward and second by Ramon Cisneros and a unanimous vote the Board approved sending out a Customer Fee Increase notification. Motion Carried.

Board Member Communications: Board Member; Roger Ward commented as to some changes in farmer well regulations come the first of the year and weather it would impact the District or not.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on motion of Roger Ward and second by Roman Cisneros.

Respectively submitted

Jennifer Blevins

Secretary/Clerk