

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JULY 13, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Cordell at 6:14 p.m. via teleconference. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Zdeba. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS ATTENDING**

**ROLL CALL**

VIA TELECONFERENCE: President Charles F. Cordell  
Director Donald J. Cortichiato  
Director Ronald R. Kicinski  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

**STAFF ATTENDING VIA**

TELECONFERENCE: Jim Worth, Attorney;  
Don Zdeba, General Manager;  
Renee Morquecho, Chief Engineer;  
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer;  
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager;  
Lauren Duffy, Recording Secretary;

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

**AGENDA  
DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Lauren Duffy, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday July 9, 2020.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST**

None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

Mike Neel commented on the benefit of holding the Board meetings in City Council Chambers. He also explained his issues with the WaterSmart opt-out fee of \$25.

Donna Hocker also voiced her agreement with holding the Board meetings in City Council Chambers.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Cortichiato approving the Minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the July 1<sup>st</sup> Special Board Meeting, July 6<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting, and payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$695,530.23. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Cordell:	Aye
Director Cortichiato:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

**PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

**P&E: VARIANCE  
REQUEST:  
PROCTOR (1609  
ERWIN ST.)**

Renee Morquecho reviewed with the Board a letter written by Mr. Proctor requesting a variance to the requirement that each triplex unit be individually metered and to pay a \$5,086.00 Capital Facility Fee for each ¾" meter. Mr. Proctor claims that only a 1-inch meter is needed for the whole triplex and so he should only have to pay the Capital Facility Fee (and Distribution System Fee) for a 1-inch meter.

Mr. Proctor provided staff with calculations and data that show his triplex would only need a 1-inch meter and therefore should only have to pay a Capital Facility Fee and Distribution System Fee for a 1-inch meter, yet still install three ¾" meters.

The District's policy currently states that each unit must be individually metered and each meter charged a Capital Facility Fee. Additionally, the policy states if a property has previously been master metered and the customer desires to individual meter a multiple unit building, no additional Capital Facility Fee will be charged.

Staff recommends further review of the policy to ensure it is fair to all customers. Research and recommendations to be provided at the August Board meeting.

Per Mr. Proctor's letter, the project has paid a single ¾" Capital Facility and Distribution System Fee, as well as the material cost for the meters and manifold. The letter is requesting that the project at 1609 Erwin only be charged the remainder in Capital Facility and Distribution System for a 1-inch meter once the other two meters are installed.

After Board discussion and review of Mr. Proctor's letter for variance, the following motion was made:

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve the Variance Request: Christian Proctor for 1609 Erwin Street and provide further research of the current Capital Facility Fees policy. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Cordell:	Aye
Director Cortichiato:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

Ty Staheli provided an overview of three vehicles to be replaced: standby crew truck, staff/General Manager travel vehicle, and a 20-foot flatbed diesel truck.

**FY 2021  
VEHICLE AND  
EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASES**

Vendor	Make	Model	Year	Description	Price
AV Ford	Ford	F150	2020	XL Regular Cab 4x2	\$21,690.25
AV Ford	Ford	Explorer	2020	SUV	\$29,773.62
Reynolds Buick GMC Isuzu	Isuzu	NRR	2020	Diesel 20' flat bed, diamond plate floor	\$63,377.85
<b>TOTAL PRICE</b>					<b>\$114,841.72</b>

The budgeted amount for these vehicle replacements is \$120,000.00. The Committee recommends the Board approve the purchase of the three vehicles in the amount of \$114,841.72

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Director Kicinski to approve the FY 2021 Vehicle and Equipment Purchases as presented in the amount of \$114,841.72. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Cordell:	Aye
Director Cortichiato:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

#### INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

**IWVGA**

Director Kicinski clarified there are two separate fees, the Pumping Fee which would increase in order to pay bills accumulated while creating the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the Replenishment Fee which is associated with the Proposition 218 mailer recently sent out. Don Zdeba is currently working on spreadsheets outlining the possible impact to the IWVWD ratepayers if these fees are approved. Director Kicinski encouraged the public to virtually attend and participate in upcoming IWVGA Board meetings and the IWVWD Board Workshop on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Public comment will be accepted at the August 20<sup>th</sup> IWVGA Board meeting regarding the Proposition 218 Replenishment Fee, followed by the Public Hearing on August 21<sup>st</sup>, at which time public comments will be addressed, as well as accept further public comment.

Director Rajtora commented on the importance of physical public attendance at the Public Hearing and suggests postponing until such a time when public can attend. He further commented that he does not believe it is in the ratepayers' best interest to encourage more shallow wells and suggests more clarity be included in the Requirement for New Extraction Wells regarding de-minimis wells according to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Director Rajtora commented he has received a lot of public input stating that it is irresponsible to implement a fallowing program without also implementing a dust mitigation program.

Director Kicinski goes on record stating the most affordable water importation project for this valley needs to be selected and that is not the Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency project.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 26 consecutive days without a recordable injury. After reaching 1,982 days without a recordable injury, the District did unfortunately have a lost-time injury that occurred on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The District and its staff remain focused on safety and are committed to striving for an injury-free workplace.

**GENERAL  
MANAGER AND  
STAFF UPDATE  
SAFETY,  
PRODUCTION &  
NEW SERVICES**

Metered water production at the wells for the month of June was 244,002,600 gallons (748.8 acre-feet). The number the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is using for comparison is metered water through the distribution system, or consumption, and non-revenue water which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc.

For the month of June, the number is 176,312,400 gallons (541.1 acre-feet). The conservation results for June were reported to the SWRCB on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Consumption was down 30.9% compared to June 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Since that time, the cumulative result is 22.9%. For the month of June, the District's reported R-gpcd was 149.8, which is:

10.1% higher than	June 2019
11.3% lower than	June 2018
18.6% lower than	June 2017
12.5% lower than	June 2016
7.4% lower than	June 2015

There were seven new connections added during the month of June, one that was pre-paid, resulting in \$30,408 in Capital Facility Fees. There have been seventy-seven new connections since the fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, resulting in additional revenue of \$344,642.

Don Zdeba commented that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and required social isolation, recent Community Collaborative meetings have been conducted using the web. However, he was unable to participate due to conflicting IWVGA meetings. Mr. Zdeba did submit an article for publication in the Daily Independent and News Review last month entitled "Water Wise with WaterSmart". The article is also posted on the District's website.

**PUBLIC  
OUTREACH**

Mr. Zdeba reported at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Water Management Committee meeting Dave Scriven and Chuck Krieger, of Krieger and Stewart (K&S), provided a Technical Memorandum identifying potential projects should the City and District negotiate acquiring the water available from the City's new Recycled Water Treatment Facility. The Committee tasked K&S to gather cost estimates. Staff will have a discussion on this topic at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Workshop.

**ALTERNATE  
WATER SOURCE  
WORKSHOP**

The Board reviewed the draft Workshop agenda and was asked to provide any further items no later than Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zdeba commented that he reached out to Ron Strand requesting if City Council Chambers could be used to host the Board Workshop, Mr. Strand responded that it could be. The Board unanimously agreed to hold the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Workshop in City Council Chambers.

**MID-YEAR  
WORKSHOP**

Photos of the progress of the pumping plant for Well 35 were displayed. The underground electrical, floor, walls, and grouting of the walls has been completed. The contractor is working on the roof and will be pouring the roof this week. The next progress meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>. WELL 35  
UPDATES

All completed work has been submitted to California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and approved for reimbursement. The District received reimbursement for all items except Well 10. The remaining repairs are the Gateway boosters (pipeline and booster building) and the C-zone booster roof/seismic upgrades. The C-zone booster building is in the final approval of design/specifications. POST-EARTHQUAKE REPAIRS

Staff held a WebEx meeting with Bulk Haulers on July 8<sup>th</sup> and answered their questions about the new facility and ADA compliance. Staff will schedule the construction of the new station as soon as work load allows, likely in the fall when water use decreases. BULK WATER STATION

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of June 30, 2020 are \$11,048,821 and expenses are \$11,445,842. Expenses exceeded revenues by \$397,821, which exceeds budget by \$506,656 and will improve as June water sales are accrued. FINANCIAL STATUS

Ty Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2019 to June 2020 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$497,472.00 and actual savings was \$491,124.07. The total savings since July 2018 is \$3,607,951.69. SOLAR PRODUCTION

All AMI registers have been installed. WaterSmart went live in June 2020 and to date 807 customers have registered and 1,728 have visited the website. AMI PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION  
➤ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For 2020, there have been twenty-one water waste reports received with twenty-one contacts made. There have been two formal Second Notices and one penalty issued.

The District has requested the Factory Acceptance test to be pushed until early August instead of July 28<sup>th</sup> due to the delay in receiving the pumps for the arsenic plants. SCADA

Plant 2 was brought online today and Desert Research Institute (DRI) is running their aquifer testing on Well 10 and the surrounding wells. Plant 1 is expected online by July 20<sup>th</sup>. ARSENIC TREATMENT FACILITIES

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of June, sixteen services were repaired and thirty-seven were replaced. The NO-DES truck made six runs in June and filtered 45,630 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 6,613,865 gallons. 259 valves were exercised. 650' of mainline was installed and two fire hydrants replaced on Springside. OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** **BOARD COMMENTS**  
Director Kicinski thanked the public for their participation in tonight's meeting.

Director Rajtora shared his appreciation for holding the Workshop at City Hall. He further suggested holding future meetings at a large venue, such as the Kerr McGee Center.

President Cordell thanked the public for their input and staff for their hard work.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Cordell recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 8:48 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 9:01 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session.

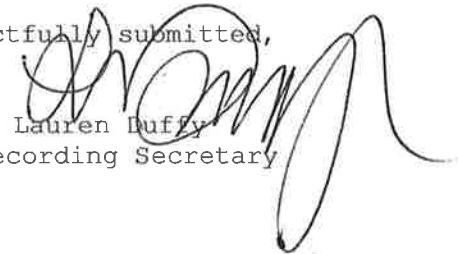
No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lauren Duffy  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: August 10, 2020