

**Linden County Water District
Public Hearing and
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2020
via Teleconference**

PUBLIC HEARING

Directors Present: President Paul Brennan, Vice President David Fletcher, Director Myron Blanton, Director Elaine Reed and Director Lawrence Knapp

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht, General Manager John Villierme, District Legal Counsel Dean Ruiz, District Engineer Matt Ospital and Rate Study Consultant Catherine Hansford were also in attendance

Directors Absent: None

Agenda Items:

Public Hearing: To receive public comments and protests regarding proposed water and sewer rate increases.

Introduction. President Paul Brennan advised the following, “Verbal comments are accepted but official protests must be submitted in writing as described in the Prop. 218 notice that you received and in accordance with Prop. 218 regulations.” President Brennan then introduced Catherine Hansford of Hansford Economic Consulting.

Hansford Economic Consulting Presentation – Cost of Service and Rate Adjustments for Water and Wastewater. Catherine Hansford provided a power point presentation. No questions were asked by the Board or public.

Public Comment. Lawrence Knapp moved to open up public comments, seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES:** 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0 Motion carried. President Paul Brennan asked for any public comments on the proposed water rates; none were voiced. President Brennan made a second request for any public comments on proposed water rates; again there were none. President Brennan then asked, “Are there any public comments on proposed sewer rates?” Hearing none, he made a second request for proposed sewer rate comments from the public; no comments were received. David Fletcher moved to close public comments, seconded by Lawrence Knapp. **AYES:** 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0 Motion carried.

At this time, President Paul Brennan directed General Manager John Villierme to lock the District office door.

Call for final submittal of written protests. President Paul Brennan made the final call for submittal of written protests. No additional protests were received.

Close of Public Hearing. Lawrence Knapp moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES:** 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0 Motion carried.

Counting and verification of all written protests. President Paul Brennan asked General Manager John Villierme and Board Secretary Barbara Kascht to count and verify all written protests for both the proposed water and proposed sewer rates. There were a total of six written protests. Of the six, five opposed both water and sewer, and there was one opposed to both water and sewer but only had standing for water.

- a. **Proposed Water Rates:** 6 water
- b. **Proposed Sewer Rates:** 5 sewer

Announcement of Outcome of Prop. 218 Process. President Paul Brennan codified there were six total letters of opposition. Breakdown and standing confirmed by District Legal Counsel Dean Ruiz.

Board shall consider approving the Proposed Water rates, with formal introduction and first reading, or waiver of first reading, of Ordinance No. 20-04. Lawrence Knapp moved to waive the first reading of Ordinance 20-04, pending a possible approval by the Board at the January meeting, seconded by David Fletcher. **AYES:** 0 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0 Motion carried.

Board shall consider approving the Proposed Sewer rates, with formal introduction and first reading, or waiver of first reading, of Ordinance No. 20-05. Lawrence Knapp moved to waive first reading of Ordinance 20-05, pending possible approval of the Board at the January meeting, seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES:** 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0 Motion carried.

In closing, President Paul Brennan thanked Hansford Economic Consulting for their outstanding work on this project, the Board for their patience and perseverance and also the customers for their support of this District and this Board.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Directors Present: President Paul Brennan, Vice President David Fletcher, Director Myron Blanton, Director Elaine Reed and Director Lawrence Knapp

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht, General Manager John Villierme, District Legal Counsel Dean Ruiz and District Engineer Matt Ospital were also in attendance

Directors Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Agenda Items:

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Water Storage Tank.** District Engineer Matt Ospital reported they are making good progress. Building plans are completed and need to be submitted to the Building Department for the permit. Project scheduled to be out to bid in January 2021.
- b. **2020 Capital Improvement Program.** District Engineer Matt Ospital advised they are waiting on San Joaquin County Public Works Department for the encroachment permit.

- c. **Solar Project.** General Manager John Villierme reported that the District has received an invoice from NC Solar for \$59,640. Waiting on a Permission to Operate (PTO) from PG&E before system can be powered up. A final walk-thru with Frank Neto also needs to take place. General Manager Villierme has contacted SDRMA regarding insurance.
- d. **Sustainable Groundwater Management.** Vice President David Fletcher reported the December meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is January 11, 2021.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2021 Election of Board Officers.** In light of President Paul Brennan stepping down, the Board considered a revision of officers. David Fletcher expressed willingness to become president and was approved by acclamation. Lawrence Knapp was willing to be Vice President, and was also approved by process of acclamation. President Paul Brennan stated, "I believe it's been an honor to represent the District. It's been a pleasure working with each of you and I want to thank you for your support. It's been most appreciated because a lot of this has been a learning process for me since day one back in 2015, so thank you." Vice President David Fletcher moved that the Board commend President Paul Brennan for his leadership over the past several years, seconded by Lawrence Knapp. **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The November minutes will be tabled until January. A change in the Warrant Listing was noted, removing payment to Director Knapp who did not attend the November meeting. Myron Blanton moved to approve the consent calendar as follows:

- a.
- b. Warrant Listing
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Operations Reports
- e. Compliance Log
- f. Correspondence
- g. Water Usage Reports

seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Elaine Reed moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lawrence Knapp. **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried.