

**Linden County Water District
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020
via Teleconference**

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 Rate Study Consultants Catherine Hansford and Schaelene Rollins were also in attendance

Directors Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Agenda Items:

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Prop 218 Water & Sewer Rate Study 2020.** Catherine Hansford showed a power point presentation regarding the cost of service and rate adjustments for water and wastewater. She also had provided final drafts of the Water and Wastewater Cost of Service and Rate Updates Study. David Fletcher moved to approve implementation of rates to take effect July 1, 2021, seconded by Lawrence Knapp. **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried. Schaelene Rollins will integrate suggested wording into the Public Hearing notice. Director Elaine Reed voiced concern about the reduction for residential customers from 10 units of water to 6 units included in the base rate. Catherine Hansford stated that current rates are available on the District website and not in the Prop 218 notice. Schaelene Rollins advised that protests must be hand delivered and cannot be received by email, text or voicemail. David Fletcher moved to approve the Prop 218 notice subject to revision and final approval by the Board by email on Monday, October 19th, seconded by Lawrence Knapp. **AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried. Catherine Hansford advised the Board of the standing with her budget. Initially the authorization was \$50,000, with a contingency of \$2,500 additional. Direct costs for advertising the workshop in the Linden Herald and Stockton Record, at approximately \$1,000, is not included in their budgeted costs, therefore the remaining budget is \$5,128.00. Both the Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting will be held on December 17, 2020. President Paul Brennan read the comment from David and Melanie Klasser, "When the drought came a few years ago you asked for a rate increase and as I remember at that time for increases for the next five years. We were also told that if the increase could be less you would consider taking a look at the increases. The increases went into place and since then it appears that things just keep going up. I also remember at the time we were told the way the water district makes money is to sell water and that is a good thing because we need water maybe not as hard as it is here but we still need it. We have lived out here since 2005 and do understand that the district needs to make money and things need to be fixed and kept repaired. Please just try to keep the cost where we can afford to live here in Linden. Also I would like to thank John and Joe and Barbara for their service and efforts toward the department and their customers, they do an outstanding job!!"

- b. **Water Storage Tank.** In his absence, District Engineer Matt Ospital had emailed President Paul Brennan that they are making good progress on the Tank Project and are on schedule for January or February 2021 bidding.
- c. **2020 Capital Improvement Program.** The Front & Mill Street Project is also on schedule for January or February 2021 bidding.
- d. **Solar Project.** General Manager John Villierme reported that everything is in including panels and transformers. The October 5th inspection had to be cancelled. Frank Neto with NC Solar advised Villierme that during the rescheduled inspection, the County Inspector discovered a design flaw concerning the electrical panel's transformer. A delta-delta transformer was installed but it should have been a delta-wye, per the original drawings. NC Solar needs to have the plans revised and recertified by their engineer and then resubmit to the County to get an inspection as soon as possible. Once it is passed, Frank Neto assured General Manager Villierme that the replacement transformer will be installed at no additional cost to the District. After the County's inspection, the District will have to go through a hardcopy confirmation for permission to change over from PG&E to solar power, which could take up to seven to 10 days.
- e. **Sustainable Groundwater Management.** Vice President David Fletcher explained that Stockton East and North San Joaquin are going ahead with some projects. Stockton East is already doing some recharge; diverting surface water to sell to the farmers. North San Joaquin also has a diversion plan that should take care of between 10 and 15% of the 20-year goal. The Department of Water Resources has between 18 months and two years to approve the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Budget Review Draft.** General Manager John Villierme advised that after receiving the past five years expenditures from Barbara Kascht, he will be finalizing figures to be reviewed by Vice President David Fletcher, with a draft 2021-22 budget to be presented at the November meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

The September and October minutes will be reviewed at the November meeting. It was clarified that Hansford Economic Consultants is working under and billed through Weber, Ghio and Associates. Absent of the minutes, 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 David Fletcher. AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0 Motion carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.