

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – President Johnson, Vice President Unger, Director Floen, Director Hund, and Director Reynolds are in attendance via teleconference.

STAFF PRESENT –Mark Ban, GM, Susan Greer, AGM, Sarah Johnson, Director of Administration, Anne Roman, Accountant, and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant are in attendance via teleconference.

CONSULTANTS PRESENT –Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, Jeff Hoskinson, Legal Counsel, and Michael Colantuono, Legal Counsel (Closed Session) are in attendance via teleconference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –.MSC¹ (Hund/Unger) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Agenda.

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT CALENDAR –

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –.MSC¹ (Floen/Unger) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Agenda.

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ACCEPT AND FILE PARCEL AUDIT REPORT – AGM Greer gave the staff report and reported that the District had contracted for a parcel audit more than a year ago. The purpose of a parcel audit is to ensure that the District is charging standbys in accordance with our own policies, which were established in 1997. With over 12,500 individual parcels in the District and multiple standby billing components for each one, including acreages, District Zone, and County Land Use Zone, it was a significant effort. While the audit showed discrepancies with some paying too much, others too little, the auditor noted that such discrepancies are expected, and that the accuracy of the district's standby charges was above average. In the next four to six weeks, the more than 200 property owners eligible for a refund will receive a postcard from the district with instructions on how to claim their refund which will be paid with interest. A brief Q&A with the Board of Directors followed.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 4/0/0 motion carried to accept and file the parcel audit.

Ayes: Floen, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Hund

CONSIDRE REFUNDS OF STANDBY FEES – GM Ban gave the staff report and reported with the current technology changes, since the inception of the standby fees established in 1997, time now allows for a steam-lined and more accurate determination of the multiple standby billing criteria applicable for each of the nearly 13,000 parcels in the District . Staff recommends the Board of Directors consider authorizing the following refunds of standby fees:

- (1) Refund three (3) years of applicable standby fees totaling approximately \$14,682.51 per year utilizing a claim submittal process.
- (2) Pay interest on the refunds at the same rate received by the District on our investments.
- (3) Authorize the GM to enter into a contract with consultant to process standby refunds.

This was followed by a brief Q&A period with the Board of Directors.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 4/0/0 motion carried to accept and file the parcel audit.

Ayes: Floen, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Hund

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – GM Ban informed the Board of Directors that he has had lengthy discussions with Mike Metts, Dudek Engineering, on the Wastewater Treatment Strategy. GM Ban plans to bring the Draft Wastewater Treatment Strategy before the CAC and then to the Board of Directors for review and any additional comments. GM Ban gave information on the remodel design for the Customer Service area and that we will soon be taking it to both Committees to review the design. The lobby remains closed to the public and we have had a few complaints on a phone tree system, which we are currently fixing. This was followed by a brief Q&A from the Board.

Administrator Sarah Johnson stated that the website has been updated to include DocuSign, which enables customers to submit their applications directly online. Along with a new form online to disconnect services. She went on to report on the JPIA Board of Directors meeting she attended.

DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant informed the Board of the following:

Tier Drop Newsletter, August Edition:

- a. Hospitality Industry: Long/Short Term Rental Water Saving Tips
- b. Are you drinking enough water? (ties in with our market booth theme)
- c. Board Candidacy Registrar of Voters Information
- d. Saving Water with Water Heaters on Demand
- e. C.I.R.P. Update
- f. August Gardening Tips & Plant of the Month
- g. Sneak Peak: on the Fall Native Plant Sale (Sunday, Sept. 27, 204PM)
- h. Return to the Farmers' Market

Virtual Leak Detection Class - Went well. Attendees were given the presentation in an email following. If there is anyone interested in seeing the digital presentation, they can directly contact me at kjradnich@jbwd.com.

AB 1672: (Bloom) Wipes Labelling - I just learned of this new bill today, which appears to have strong support from Water Agencies throughout California. It is in the preliminary stages, but the intent is to discourage, if not stop, the flushing of flushable baby wipes and other baby wipes into sewer systems/Package Treatment Systems, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jane Jarlsberg, Joshua Tree stated that she received her water bill and the Tier Drop Newsletter was not in with it and asked why it wasn't on the bill itself that it had gone virtual. Ms. Jarlsberg was told that it was mentioned in the June billing that June would be the last newsletter in with the billing, and also at the following Board meeting. She requested that in the message box on every billing it should say “go to the website to view the latest newsletter” or something to that affect.

Director Reynolds reported on the MWA Board meeting he attended on July 23, 2020. He thanked everyone for their patience with the Zoom meetings because of COVID extending longer into 2020. Respect is the key, wear your facemask, maintain distancing, and stay at home. He continued to inform the Board on “defensible space”.

Director Floen stated that he noticed that the Saddleback project had come much closer to the Highway and that the people of Joshua Tree can now witness where JBWD is spending the money.

Vice President Unger echoed the sentiments of Director Reynolds on “defensible space”, especially with Pioneer Town and Rim Rock receiving evacuation warnings. She went on to report on the Public Information Committee she attended earlier in the day.

President Johnson thanked the first line responders and the staff and asked everyone to remember pets, and the most vulnerable.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – President Johnson read off the list of meetings.

ADJOURNMENT – MSC¹ (Unger/Hund) 5/0/0 motion carried to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Barr, General Manager and Board Secretary