

Chester Public Utility District
PO Box 503
251 Chester Airport Rd.
Chester, Ca. 96020
530-258-2171

Minutes of Regular Meeting: April 19, 2022 at 3:00pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Steve Voboril, Steve Graffweg, and Royce Raker.

Directors Absent: 2 vacancies

Conference Call: unk amount on phone.

Guests Present: unk, many.

Staff Present: 3+

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 3:08pm.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Raker made a motion to accept agenda. Director Graffweg seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:** A public member asked about the conference room's PA system. Staff was unaware of a PA system being installed.
3. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** Public members had questions and comments during the agenda topics discussion period.
4. **CPUD Board Member Resignations:**
 - a. Steffen 3-26-2022:
 - b. Mathews 3-27-2022: Director Graffweg made a motion to accept both resignation letters. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Vacancies: GM Cox stated that the seats need to be filled within 60 days or the county steps in and appoints. All 5 seats are up for ballot in 2023. Director Graffweg made a motion to create an ad hoc committee to do the interviews. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. GM Cox stated that the board has ultimate authority to appoint. He will have this posted with an application on the website soon.
5. **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. February 22, 2022: Director Raker made a motion to accept the Special meeting minutes as written. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. March 15, 2022: Director Raker made a motion to accept the Regular meeting minutes as written. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. March 29, 2022: Director Raker made a motion to accept the Special meeting minutes as written. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Financials:**
 - a. Revised FY 21-22 Budget

b. March 2022 Financials: These two items were explained in one discussion. GM Cox explained the budget within the financials from the big screen. Adjustments to predict the year end were being made by staff and the CPA. This should be completed by May's regular meeting for the board to approve. The CFAA agreement and how the fire department revenue streams have changed was explained by Chief Waterman. He stated he is working with USFS on a potential space rental agreement. Director Raker asked about COVID relief funds. GM Cox stated that he learned that California didn't spend the Federal Funds fast enough, so he will be going through CSDA to request those funds, if we qualify. Public members had questions regarding some line items within the financials. Those questions were answered by GM Cox with no further discussion. Director Raker made a motion to accept the March 2022 Financials as presented. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

7. **Temporary Move of May and June Regular Meeting dates:** GM Cox asked that the next 2 Regular meetings be moved to the fourth Tuesday at 5:30pm. He has a CSDA Conference in May in Sacramento with state legislators and in June he has a General Manager Conference. He stated this would be an opportunity as a test pilot on whether to move the meetings to 5:30 going forward. Director Graffweg made a motion to move May and June regular meetings to the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm. All in favor, motion carried.

8. **General Manager Report:** GM Cox thanked the staff that worked on getting the liability insurance in place. We will continue to work on getting a more affordable, cohesive insurance plan. This may take years to show that we are less of a loss risk. He also thanked Enloe Flight Care, and the surrounding fire departments for helping to cover the Chester community, at zero cost, while we were out of service. The insurance for the fire department to date is 117K.
TA for the Local 5317 later on agenda: wages and benefits.
Long Term Liability like OPEB is a concern. Researching consultants to advise.
Streetlight expense to be added to property tax bill. Majority protest vote process with public hearing, and a mailer. The resolution will pass with -50% qualified protest votes.
Always working on policies and procedures.
Outside investigator to do the liability insurance non-renewal investigation.
LAFCo is the county watchdog when it comes to district boundaries, services within said boundaries. Streamlining Fire and EMS services are part of discussions.
Amounts of the cost of the litigation will be public knowledge when settled.
Combining fire districts around the basin was requested by a public member.

9. **Emergency Services Report: (Exhibit A)** Chief Waterman also thanked the surrounding fire departments and the folks that helped with housing during the fire dept. shut down. He is working to re-establish volunteers and drill trainings.
Monies from PG&E a possibility.
He stated he is a member of the Plumas County Chief's Assoc., the Plumas County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC), Plumas County coordinator for OES Fire and Rescue. He sent out a guy from Graeagle Fire Dept this morning.
Main airline issue with an engine, will need custom work by someone with that special certification.
Director Raker asked about the capabilities for IFT transfers. Joe explained that staffing issues and not much money is made from the ground transfers, due to the affordable care act.

10. Local Union Representatives:

a. Local 5317/Chester Professional Firefighter's Association (CFD Safety)

no comments

b. Local 39/ Stationary Engineers (CPUD Misc.)

no comments.

11. Finance Committee Update: GM Cox stated that there are 800K in CD's currently. Plumas Bank is cash heavy so a bump in a CD interest rate is not an option. We will not be rolling over the 200K CD that matures this month.

12. Out of State Training and Travel: GM Cox stated that 2 Employees are going to a California Rural Water Expo in Tahoe, on the Nevada side. They will return with a report on what they experienced. He asked for the board to approve the out of state travel expenses. Director Raker made a motion to accept the travel expenses to the Expo I Tahoe, NV. Director Graffweg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

13. Water Rate CPI Increase: Set Public Hearing: GM Cox said that we need to keep up with the CPI as operational costs go up each year. This way the public has small manageable increases rather than larger ones less often. He asked that the board set a public hearing for the May 24th, regular meeting. Director Graffweg made a motion to have a public hearing at the May 24th board meeting. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

14. Fire Chief Employment Posting: GM Cox stated that the Chief position will be flown locally. The general manager has the hiring authority. He will check with legal regarding how much involvement the board will have. He stated that because Joe Waterman is a PERS retired annuitant, that we are required to actively recruit. Director Graffweg made a motion to fly the position. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

15. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget: GM Cox stated that most of what he was going to present for this item, was discussed during agenda item #6, Financials. No further discussion needed.

16. Closed Session: A, B and C: read verbatim by director Voboril.

17. Reconvene: 6:05pm

18. Report on Closed Session: by Director Voboril

a. Litigation: Direction was given to staff

b. Local 5317 Labor Negotiations....

A public member caused a disturbance not allowing for board business to continue. The meeting was forced to end at 6:10pm.

19. N/A, 20. N/A, 21. N/A, 22. N/A

Cheryl E Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Approval of Minutes *Dr. Raker*