

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

January 27, 2021 / 4:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, in an effort to protect the public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19, this meeting was open to the public with limited seating due to social distancing restrictions in an effort to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Giannini called the Board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Those responding to roll call were Directors Michael Arthur, Bob Coghill, Suzi Horn, Carol Giannini, and Randy Leazer. Also present were General Manager Ray Kolisz, Maintenance Superintendent Matt Shragge, Financial Consultant Cindy Byerrum, District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes, and District Counsel Lutfi Kharuf. Treatment/Production Superintendent Mike Minatrea was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Cindy Byerrum led the pledge.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

1. Public Hearing on Proposed Miscellaneous Fees and Charges

General Manager, Ray Kolisz, advised the Board of the procedures for conducting a public hearing and the procedure for protest submittal. Mr. Lutfi Kharuf was introduced as District Counsel.

1.1 Board to Hear Public Testimony at This Time

Director Horn moved to open the Public Hearing at 4:03 p.m. , seconded by Director Leazer, and unanimously approved.

There being no public comments, Director Horn moved to close the public hearing at 4:03 p.m., seconded by Director Coghill, and unanimously approved.

2. Consider Resolution 21-01 Adopting Miscellaneous Fees and Charges and Taking other Actions Related thereto

After discussion, Director Coghill moved to approve Resolution 20-01 adopting miscellaneous fees and charges and taking related actions, seconded by Director Horn, and approved by the following roll call vote.

Ayes:	Directors Arthur, Coghill, Horn, Leazer, and Giannini
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

3. Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption of Resolution 20-02 Establishing a Schedule of Rates for Monthly Water Service Charges

District Counsel, Mr. Kharuf, explained the procedures for protesting the rate increase and adoption by the Board.

3.1 Board to Hear Public Testimony at This Time

Director Horn moved to open the Public Hearing at 4:08 p.m. , seconded by Director Arthur, and unanimously approved.

Natalie Zuk, renter in Twentynine Palms, spoke to water quality.

Director Coghill moved to close the public hearing at 4:12 p.m., seconded Director Arthur, and unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Resolution 21-02 Adopting a Schedule of Rates for Monthly Water Service Charges Commencing with Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Mr. Kolisz explained that notices were sent out in accordance to Prop 218 to property owners and tenants responsible for payment of water services. Rate payers had 45 days to review the proposed rate increase and submit a written protest. The District received a total of 14 written protests, not constituting a majority of ratepayers.

Director Horn moved to adopt Resolution 21-02 establishing rates for monthly water service, seconded by Director Arthur, and approved by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Coghill, Horn, Leazer, and Giannini
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5. Consideration to Acknowledge the Well TP-2 Project as a Class 3 Categorical Exemption

Staff recommends the Board finds that the proposed TP-2 project falls within the scope of the Class 3 Categorical Exemption adopted in 2019.

Director Leazer moved to acknowledge the Well TP-2 project as a class 3 categorical exemption, seconded by Director Horn, and approved by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Coghill, Horn, Leazer, and Giannini
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6. Review Bid Results and Approve Selection of Contractor for Well TP-2

After discussion, Director Arthur moved to award the contract to M. Brey Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$1,002,873, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Coghill, Horn, Leazer, and Giannini
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

7. Consent Calendar

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on December 16, 2020
- Audit List

Director Coghill, moved to approve the Minutes and Audit List, seconded by Director Arthur, and unanimously approved.

8. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar for Discussion or Separate Action
None

9. Management Reports

9.1 Maintenance

Matt Shragge reported that the District responded to 152 Underground Service Alerts, had 1 water main leak, 1 water meter leak, 0 service line leaks, 2 fire hydrant repairs/maintenance, installed 14 new services, replaced 2 customer gate valves, performed 4 leak audits, painted 0 fire hydrants, performed 2 customer pressure checks, replaced 1 meter, Tested and exercised emergency generators and sounded wells for December. 0 water waste inquiries were received. 240 work orders were generated and performed during the month. There were no shut offs due to COVID-19. 0 AMI/AMR meters were installed. Employee, Tim Gomieo, was acknowledged for his outstanding customer service. An elderly ratepayer asked he be acknowledged in front of the Board of Directors for going above and beyond in helping find a leak at her residence. Director Horn thanked employees, Tim Gomieo and Matt Shragge, for helping the ratepayer.

9.2 Water Quality

Ray Kolisz reported Water production was up 16.34% as compared to the same month in 2013. 38 routine and 9 special water samples were taken. All samples tested negative for Colilert. The fluoride variance of 3.0 mg/L will expire in 2023. All current wells meet the 2.0 mg/L standard variance set by the State Water Resource Control Board.

9.3 Finance

Ms. Byerrum reported that net revenue is up as expected this time of year, with expenses slightly lower than projected.

9.4 General Manager

Mr. Kolisz reported several employees have come in contact with positive COVID-19 cases. The District returned to operating on a split schedule to reduce exposure. Capital impact fees will be brought back to the Board for discussion and consideration at a later date.

10. Future Agenda Items and Staff Tasks/Directors' Comments and Reports
None


11. Adjournment

On motion by Director Horn, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at: 4:33 p.m.

Attest:



Ray Kolisz, Board Secretary
Twentynine Palms Water District



Carol Giannini, President
Board of Directors