

Regular Meeting

3:00 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT: J.W. Dell’Orto  
Richard Blood \*  
Brady McCartney  
Jack Tressler  
Steve McDermed

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Travis Small, General Manager  
Adam Brown, District Legal Counsel  
Molly Soulier, Customer Service Representative  
Mathew Roberts, Water System Superintendent  
Tyla Daries, District Engineering Technician

OTHERS PRESENT: Alison Lechowicz

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: The regular meeting was called to order by President Dell’Orto at 3:05 P.M.
2. ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS: Directors Dell’Orto, McCartney, and Tressler were present. Director Blood was absent.

\*Director Blood came in at 3:07 pm (after roll call).

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes per person/15 minutes per subject): None

7. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item number 7 was moved to agenda item number 1. The oath of office was administered to Directors Richard Blood, Brady McCartney and Steve McDermed.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2022-32: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR ON MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CALAVERAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 13, 2022 TO JANUARY 13, 2023 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

Adam Brown, District Legal counsel, informed the Board that due to the State of Emergency, board members are currently allowed to be remote without needing to post the agenda. Three Board members will need to be present in the future in order for a Board member to join remotely without having to post an agenda at their location. A motion was made by Director McCartney, seconded by Director Blood, to approve Resolution No. 2022-32. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Blood, McCartney, Tressler, McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. November 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- b. Claim Summary

Director Blood inquired about Hansford. Travis Small, General Manager, explained that Hansford Economic Consulting LLC is a connection fee study. Director Tressler inquired about Pitney Bowes. Travis Small clarified that it is the District's new bill folding and postage machine in the office. Director Tressler also inquired about the price of tires on a work truck and if prices are being compared to other tire shops. The General Manager and Mathew Roberts, Water System Superintendent, explained that work was done on the truck other than tires. Mr. Roberts also clarified that they have used other shops before. A motion was made by Director Blood, seconded by Director McCartney, to approve Consent Items a-b. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Blood, McCartney, Tressler, and McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

## 8. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Blood stated that he would be next in line by succession. Director McCartney agreed that Director Blood would be a great fit and nominated Director Blood for President. Director Blood accepted the nomination. A motion was made by Director Tressler, seconded by Director McCartney, to elect Richard Blood as President. A roll call vote was taken. Directors Dell'Orto, Blood, McCartney, Tressler, and McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0. President Blood then requested that a Vice President also be elected at that time. Director Dell'Orto nominated Director McCartney as Vice President. Director McCartney accepted. A motion was made by Director Dell'Orto, seconded by Director McDermed, to elect Director McCartney as Vice President. A roll call vote was taken. President Blood, Directors McCartney, Dell'Orto, Tressler, and McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

## 9. WATER RATE STUDY DRAFT REPORT

Alison Lechowicz presented a power point about her water rate study draft. She explained that it would be covering a 5-year period and the first year will require a 33% rate increase in order for the District to meet its financial obligations, including operations and maintenance, as well as capital improvements. President Blood questioned how she arrived at the rate increase and how it was designed. Ms. Lechowicz explained that it was the average across other water utilities in the region. The presentation revealed 2 options for the Board to consider in connection with the adoption of new water rates. Mr. Small then discussed that he would like to start researching a

calculator to add to the website so customers have a better understanding of what their monthly bill would look like. The Board was concerned about the amount of the increase.

#### 10. ACWA REGION 3 BOARD CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Mr. Small explained how to qualify for the ACWA Region 3 Board vacancy. He mentioned that he had already been to some conferences and thought that he would be a good fit for the position. President Blood was trying to understand how much time is needed to be on the ACWA board. Mr. Small explained that all the meetings are in the Region 3 area, so it did involve significant travel. Mr. Small also stated that this was just an application. A motion was made by Director Dell'Orto, seconded by Director McCartney, to nominate Travis Small as a candidate for the ACWA Region 3 Board. A roll call vote was taken. President Blood, Directors McCartney, Dell'Orto, Tressler, and McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

#### 11. REQUEST FOR WATER BILL FORGIVENESS

The Board heard a report from staff regarding a ratepayer's request to have his water bill forgiven due to a leak on his property. It was determined that the leak was entirely on the owner's side and was not a result of any action or inaction by the District. President Blood asked Mr. Roberts to explain the layout of the property. Director Dell'Orto noted that in the past the District had not forgiven bills under such circumstances, but did offer payment plans. District Legal Counsel Adam Brown expressed the concern that absolving the debt owed to the District, without any demonstrated fault of the District and in the absence of a meritorious claim, could be considered a gift of public funds. Upon motion by Director Tressler seconded by Director Dell'Orto the Board denied the ratepayer's request. A roll call vote was taken. President Blood, Directors McCartney, Dell'Orto, Tressler, and McDermed voted yes; none opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

#### 12. REPORTS

##### a. Legal Counsel's Report

Mr. Brown stated that he did not have a report this month.

##### b. Water System Superintendent's Report

Mathew Roberts, Water System Superintendent, provided a slideshow of photos to the Board. The photos ranged from November to present. Mr. Roberts showed numerous photos of repairs done throughout the system. Jeff Davis reservoir is 15 feet below spill. Schaad's reservoir is 42" below spill.

##### c. District Engineer Report

Tyla Daries, District Engineering Technician with Weber Ghio, gave an update on the Clearwell Tank Project. She provided a slideshow showing photos of the progress. She clarified the tank is now blue and that there are some finishing touches left. President Blood asked if the old tank will still be in service. Tyla explained that it still will be active at least for one more year, until the inspection on the new Clearwell Tank is complete.

d. General Manager's Report

The General Manager noted that he is wrapping up the Red Hawk EAP report. Mr. Small then reported that the independent consultants have finalized the FERC Part 12D report and the report has been submitted to FERC.

e. Director's Comments:

None

\* The Board went into closed session at 5:12 pm.\*

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in closed session to discuss performance and compensation for the General Manager. No action was taken.

\* The Board resumed open session at 5:54 pm.\*

8. ADJOURMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Blood adjourned the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carissa Bear, Clerk of the Board

