

LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2016 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location:
District Office
8624 Segrue Road
Lamont CA, 93241

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Board President Cruz called to order the Regular Board Meeting at 6:01 pm on Monday April 25, 2016, at the office of the Lamont Public Utility District. All Board Members were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance—Lead By President Cruz

3. Board Member Announcements

Vice President Prado talked about the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the good project of sludge removal coming up.

Director Hernandez said that she saw the news about the LPUD's need for an accountant. She said we know we need one but do not want to proceed in a way that puts the LPUD at risk. We did not proceed because we were trying to avoid a lawsuit but we know we need one.

Director Sanchez encouraged the public to read the grand jury report. He said there were many important issues there that the public needs to know about.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Juan Hernandez got up and said that he has applied for the General Manager position. He says we have serious problems here. He discussed three.

Ms. Petra Nueva got up stated she had a petition and handed it in. She noted the problems in the grand jury report and hoped the new General Manager could address them. She hoped the new General Manager had the right credentials and could manage well.

Manuel Nueva got up and urged the Board to hire the best candidate for District Manager and that the recommendations in the grand jury report be addressed.

Ms. Vaca got up and talked about her business. She was waiting for the \$21,000 reimbursement for her water/sewer connections. She talked about her case. Because of the District's delay she now requests interest.

Mr. David Manriquez got up and talked about his appointment to the citizen panel for the General Manager recruitment. He was concerned with the news allegedly he was going to influence the process. David denied that. David was concerned with the process and the leak of information to the press.

Walter Cody got up and stated he was a candidate for the General Manager position and discussed his background and the concerns of the District.

Maula Salasar got up and talked about the Grand Jury report.

Mr. Manuel Salazar got up and expressed concern about the Grand Jury report. The report did not answer his questions. He asked questions about the McKey pipe line. Director Sanchez asked the Engineer if he could answer the question. He said he could not because he did not know the history. Water System Supervisor Marquez answered the questions that the pipe line was in service and described the length of the service. Director Sanchez continued to urge the answering of the questions and the President said he was out of order and the District Counsel said it was inappropriate for him to discuss the issue.

Manuel Cordona got up and stated he is an applicant for the General Manager position. He talked of his background and the terms of his employment.

Miguel Sanchez Jr. got up and wanted to give his two minutes to have the Engineer to answer the earlier questions. The President stated that this is public comment and not a dialog so please make your comments. He discussed the McKee pipeline connectivity and dimensions. He stated that people were stating false information.

5. Staff Reports

A. District Counsel

The District Counsel had no report at this time.

B. District Engineer

The District Engineer had no report at this time.

C. General Manager

The Interim General Manager gave the Board a status report on the General Manager recruitment process.

6. Consent Agenda

President Cruz asked if the solar grant will cover all the Solar Project's first bill. The Manager advised it would but the bill had to be revised because some of the bill period was prior to the grant which is not eligible.

Vice President Prado requested the minutes be pulled and to add the Interim General Manager's recommendations for the audit.

Motion to approve all remaining items included on the Consent Agenda

First Motion—Vice President Prado

Second Motion—Director Hernandez

Vote 5-0 Approved

7. Regular Agenda

- A. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approve recommendation to approve signature of letter responding to letter of Conditions for Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Application, extending water service to the five properties on the Fairfax Water Pipeline project, which will not be possible without acceptance of grant money. **James Gardiner, District Engineer**

The District Engineer gave a report. Abigail Sland with self-help, who is helping with the project, urged a fast completion. Mr. Mchappy got up and thanked the Board for their help.

Motion was made to approve the letter.

First Motion – Vice President Prado

Second Motion – Director Gonzalez

Vote 5-0 Approved

- B. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approve recommendation of option one to sign and complete the forms to continue with the Solar Power Installation Project. **James Gardiner, District Engineer**

District Engineer presented the staff report.

Motion was made to approve the signing of the forms for the Solar Project.

1st Motion— Vice President Prado

Second Motion—Director Gonzalez

Vote 5-0 Approved.

- C. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approve option 1 to have the General Manager in collaboration with the District Engineer draft and issue the Will-Serve letter for Sewer and Water to 8928 Panama Road. **James Gardiner, District Engineer**

The District Engineer gave a report on the will serve letter request. Director Sanchez asked for the location of the property. The Engineer advised.

Motion was made to approve the will serve letter.

1st Motion – Director Sanchez

Second Motion – Director Gonzalez

Vote 5-0 Motion Approved

- D. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approval of Notice of Completion for Well No. 18 TCP Treatment System Project & Release of Retention. **District Engineer, J.T. Gardiner**

District Engineer presented a report. Director Sanchez asked a financial question.

Motion was made to approve the Notice of Completion for Well No. 18 TCP Treatment System Project 7 and approve the Release of Retention.

1st Motion – Vice President Prado

Second Motion – Director Sanchez

Vote – 5-0 Approved

- E. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approve the Draft Plans & Specs for Sludge Removal Project with District comments addressed and proceed with public bidding for the full amount of work estimated by the District Engineer at \$1,075,800. **James Gardiner, District Engineer**

District Engineer gave a report on the project. Director Sanchez express concern on the cost. The extra cost was due to sludge remove. President Cruz asked to have the staff to look at hauling it to recology because we have a liner there. Also to check with the County and Measure E requirements. Director Hernandez asked how often we have to remove the sludge. The Engineer responded that it is recommended to remove sludge every 5 years. Vice President Prado felt it was a good recommendation. Director Hernandez felt we should move on it before the State starts raising concerns. The President asked about the time frame. The Engineer stated the summer is the best time so the sludge can dry.

Motion was made to table the issue until the staff researches the Boards questions.

1st Motion – Director Gonzalez

Second Motion – Director Hernandez

Vote – 5-0 Approved

- F. Report and Possible Minute Action: Approve a salary range for the new General Manager. **Interim General Manager, Peter Cosentini**

The Interim General Manager gave a report presenting the information in the staff report. Vice President Prado felt \$110,000 to \$120,000 was good. Director Sanchez felt the suggestion was too narrow a range and recommended \$110,000 to \$135,000 to be able to get the person with the right qualifications. Director Gonzalez suggested \$140,000 for the high end of the range. The Board discussed the issue further among themselves and had consensus for a salary range of \$110,000 to \$140,000.

Motion was made approving a salary range of \$110,000 to \$140,000 for the new General Manager.

1st Motion – Director Gonzalez

Second Motion – Director Hernandez

Vote 5-0 Approval

- G. Report and Possible Minute Action: Consideration of a request by Director Sanchez to move the second interview date for the General Manager from May 7 to May 14 or some other date that works for all Board Members. **Interim General Manager, Peter Cosentini**

Interim General Manager made a presentation on the issue including the importance of having all Board Members participate in the selection process. Director Gonzalez state his wife was having a baby and the May 7th date was probable not good for him. Vice President Prado expressed concern about the proposed movement of the meeting and how it was unfair after they had all agreed on the May 7th date a moved their schedules to accommodate the meeting. Director Hernandez also express concern about moving the meeting and felt everyone needs to be responsible for their pledge to the May 7th date. The President sought consensus and continued to ask individual Board members if they had a problem with the May 14th requested date. After a little further discussion consensus was found on the May 14th proposed date.

Motion was made to move the second interview date for the new General Manager to May 14, 2016.

1st Motion – Director Gonzalez

Second Motion – Director Sanchez

Vote – 5-0 Approved

H. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2014/2015 Audit Findings. **Director Sanchez**

Director Sanchez proposed a Special Board meeting with the new General Manager to discuss the important issues in the 14/15 Audit findings and the Grand Jury Report, especially the issue of staff members clocking in and out for other staff members. He further stated that the Board needed to deal with these issues because they were dealing with the people's money. Vice President Prado agreed with the concept. The Interim General Manager recommended a late July meeting time frame so the new General Manager would be able to attend. President Cruz asked when the Board had to respond to the Grand Jury Report. The Manager explained the time frame. There appeared to be consensus on the meeting but no action was taken.

8. Closed Session

- A. Employee Appointment/Employment – Gov't Code 54957 Title: General Manager
- B. Potential initiation of litigation; Government Code §54956.9 (d)4, (one case)
- C. Potential Threat of Litigation – Gov't Code 54956.9.d (2) (Two cases) Claim of Ms. Vaca and Claim of Tracie White

The Board made a motion to go into closed session.

First Motion – President Cruz

Second Motion – Vice President Prado

Vote – 5-0 Approval

9. Open Session

Reporting out of closed session the public was advised that, regarding the General Manager issue, the Board selected 8 candidates and two alternates and interviews are being set. In regards to the other issues, information was provided and by unanimous consent, direction was given.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lamont Public Utility District, held on Monday April 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm was made at 8:45 pm.

1st Motion – Vice President Prado

Second Motion – President Cruz

Vote 5-0 Approval

ATTEST:

x _____

Jose G Cruz, Board President
Lamont Public Utility District

x _____

Peter A Cosentini 00
Peter Cosentini, Board Secretary/Interim General Manager
Lamont Public Utility District

