

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

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

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – President Johnson, Vice President Unger, and Director Reynolds. Director Hund - Absent

STAFF PRESENT -Curt Sauer, GM, Mark Ban, AGM-Operations, Susan Greer, AGM-Finance, Sarah Johnson, Director of Administration, and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT - Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach, and Mr. Gil Granito, District Counsel, Redwine and Sherrill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Director Reynolds moved to approve the Agenda. Vice President Unger seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Reynolds/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree asked about information going out to the public on how our wastewater affects our aquifer and what we can do to maintain it. People moving here, that have previously had sewers, need information on how a septic system works, how often does it need to be pumped, and finally what should and shouldn't go into a septic system. She suggested that maybe this information could go into the newsletter.

Al Marquez, Sun Fair Community commented on Fire Protection No. 5, County fire protection that LAFCO authorized, to have jurisdiction over all of San Bernardino County. Currently we are paying for fire protection services in the Morongo Basin and for his property alone is \$122 per year, even though it doesn't show on property taxes, it goes into the general fund. Fire protection for 2019/2020 is estimated at \$288 million dollars. Within the next year we will be paying \$157.26 more per year than we are currently paying.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Vice President Unger made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

PUBLIC HEARING – President Johnson opened up the Public Hearing to receive and discuss public input & comments regarding the water availability charges for 19/20. AGM Greer gave the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree North stated that we have roughly 12,000 people in Joshua Tree that pay this fee, which is about \$1 million in revenue to the District. If we don't have this fee and the District loses this revenue then the rate payers will have to pay extra.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED-

Vice President Unger motioned to adopt Resolution 19-1005, establishing water availability charges for 19/20 and authorizing collection by San Bernardino County. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED -

JBWD BOARD MEMBER VACANCY – Mr. Gil Granito informed the Board on the rules and regulations associated with appointing a Board member and/or holding a public election. The Board of Directors discussed and determined that they will fill the vacancy, left by the passing of Mickey Luckman, by appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Frank Coate, South Joshua Tree asked if in 2020 we will be redistricted and since there will be three (3) seats open on the Board, will each person have to run in their own District? President Johnson responded yes.

Al Marquez, Sunfair Community was dismayed as to why the item was on the Agenda so fast after Director Luckman's passing. He asked if the redistricting has been adopted now or will it be adopted in 2020?

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree North stated that for the last two (2) years he has been prompting the District to get going on a lot of things. However, moving forward, with an extremely competent staff, the General Manager has participated in the complete overhaul, and redevelopment of the entire District. He doesn't see how the ratepayers would benefit from a delay with an election process.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –

Director Reynolds motioned to appoint a new Director to the vacant seat. Vice President Unger seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Reynolds/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – Director Reynolds discussed the process that the Ad-Hoc Committee (President Johnson and Director Reynolds) went through in order to vet AGM Mark Ban.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Al Marquez, Sunfair Community stated that the term of Interim General Manager should be specified on the Agenda. President Johnson stated that the term is in the contract under section 4.

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree North stated that he has been in communication with AGM Ban on several occasions and was very impressed by him. He is very confident that AGM Ban will be very competent as the Interim General Manager.

Karen Tracy, Chairperson Citizens Advisory Committee, congratulated AGM Ban on his new role as Interim General Manager and looks forward to working with him to create collaboration between the CAC, the citizens of Joshua Tree, and the Joshua Basin Water District.

**PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –**

Director Reynolds motioned to approve AGM Ban's promotion and new contract to Interim General Manager. Vice President Unger seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Reynolds/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-1001, ESTABLISHING THE APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 18/19 –** AGM Greer gave the staff report.

Vice President Unger motioned to adopt Resolution No. 19-1001. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

**APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN AND THE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN –** GM Sauer gave the staff report and reiterated to the Board of Directors that they will need to adopt both Resolutions in separate motions.

Vice President Unger motioned to adopt Resolution No. 19-1002 JBWD Hazard Mitigation Plan. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

Vice President Unger motioned to adopt Resolution No. 19-1003 JBWD Emergency Response Plan. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: Hund  
Abstain: None

**DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT –** Mr. Gil Granito commented on the issue of the Board seat vacancy, in which the Board of Directors had no practical choice but to make a decision. We have 60 days from the time of Director Luckman's passing on June 9, 2019 to August 9, 2019 to either appoint a new Director or hold an election.

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT –** GM Sauer stated that this is his last meeting and thanked the Board of Directors for all of their support and asked that they continue to support the staff of the Joshua Basin Water District, as they have for the past 5 years. He went on to thank the Citizens Advisory Committee and his Management team.

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER REPORT- IGM Ban stated how humbled he was for all the positive comments he has received. He continued to report that recharge will be wrapping up on July 8, 2019 under our current flow rates.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS & REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED –

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant updated the Board on the following:

- Joshua Tree Community Center Event: June 29, 2019 from 4-9 p.m.
- Low Income Assistance Program
- Evaporative Cooler/Swamp Cooler Study
- District Office Closing July 4, 2019

Director Reynolds, Vice President Unger, and President Johnson, thanked GM Sauer for all of his hard work in the past 5 years and congratulated him on his retirement and look forward to working with Interim General Manager Mark Ban.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES-

President Johnson informed Board, staff, and the public of the upcoming meetings.

President Johnson expressed his condolences from the entire JBWD family for Director Mickey Luckman's passing.

ADJOURNMENT – President Johnson adjourned the Board of Directors meeting at 7:33 in honor of Director Mickey Luckman.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Mark Ban, Interim GM and Board Secretary