

Herlong Public Utility District



Regular Board Meeting October 10, 2023

THIS MEETING IS HELD PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20
ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ON
MARCH 17, 2020
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If you wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item, the following methods are available:

READ INTO THE RECORD AT THE MEETING: Submit your comment via email or drop box prior to the start of the meeting, provided that the reading shall not exceed three (3) minutes. Please state in your email that you would like this "read into the record". In those cases where the meeting author requests that the email be read aloud as though it were being delivered orally at the meeting, the email will be read aloud by the Board Clerk up to a maximum of three minutes. Comments received after the meeting has begun will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately. sandy@herlongpud.com

CALL TO ORDER: Director Everett called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

FLAG SALUTE: Director Everett led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Director Johnson, Director Flores, Director Swistowicz, Director Harris, and Director Everett were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director Swistowicz made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Johnson seconded. Aye votes: Everett, Harris, Swistowicz, Flores and Johnson. Nay votes: None. Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

WPV PROJECT: Engineer Paul Winkelman gave an update, sharing that paving is complete, also apologizing for the public disturbance. He informed the group Rapid Construction would be back the week of October 16th. Residents can expect parts of the road to be blocked as the manhole collars and valves are brought up to the surface. November 6th is the contract substantial completion date. Paul will be conducting a walk-through once done. A punch list is being created to address items needing correction and/or repair. These must be completed by mid-November. All parties involved will return in 11 months to do a warranty walk-through.

Director Flores asked who was responsible for indicating where fire zones existed (i.e., areas surrounding fire hydrants being painted red). A sheriff deputy had told him to park 15 feet from the hydrant otherwise a ticket would be issued. His concern was who is required to alert the public. Paul replied there had not been red paint previously and that information should be common knowledge.

Meeting attendee Randi Kaarbo inquired if Mountain View was complete. Paul indicated it was completed to standard. Randi disagreed, saying she did not buy a home on a dirt and gravel road yet that is what it now is. She commented, "it is comical that the Board is not willing to do anything". She relayed what Q&D had told her, that the road is a patch and strip seal job; but that is not what was promised at the initial public meeting prior to construction commencement. Director Swistowicz asked the GM if she had been out to the site, who commented that they were supposed to finish gravel and asked Paul if that was done. Director Flores said he believes the

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GM went over the Fire Department details. 9 calls were received in September. A HVFD Workshop for the Board of Directors is being held Wednesday, October 18th. The volunteers have a scheduled monthly meeting the same day. Crystal and Mike will be participating in the Trick or Trunk event on October 26th. A new volunteer had signed up, Enoch, Director Everett's grandson. He is not able to respond to calls until certified, but he has already been registered for First Aid and CPR classes taking place in November. He will be joining Chief White on October 31st to hand out a Home Fire Safety Survey, along with candy, to residents. The pamphlet contains tips and precautions to promote safety in our community. Director Johnson asked for more information on these upcoming happenings. GM shared Trick or Trunk is Thursday 10/26 from 5-7 PM at the church.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Director Everett called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 PM. Attendee Mr. Pendleton had a comment. He had a Fire Tax statement warning a lien would be placed on his property unless payment was received in full by October 10, 2023. He said he knew nothing about these charges, did not agree to them and never joined HPUD or HVFD and has no plans to do so. GM let him know in 2018 HPUD took over fire tax billing (from the County of Lassen) with Measure A. It has always been charged; but now we are able to collect and use those funds. She then provided him with resources and directed him to the District website when he asked where to research this.

Director Flores asked about who had purchased the Title VIII lots and why it was only being billed as one parcel. Director Swistowicz was able to respond as he was familiar with the subject. He informed the group he had attended a meeting where this was originally handled. There was a contract stipulation in place and HPUD does not have the authority to change or contest it. The land was sold as one parcel. As soon as any homes are built, it will be parceled off and subject to the per lot charge. There was a lengthy discussion about zoning, terms of sale, parcel rates. Director Flores made a motion to have the General Manager investigate the sale of Title VIII and BRAC laws. Director Swistowicz made a motion to move forward with the liens. Director Harris seconded. Director Everett closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 PM

Director Flores reintroduced the motion to have GM Investigate Title VIII sale, wanting to look into ways to bring money into the community. Director Swistowicz seconded. A vote was taken. Aye votes: Harris, Flores. Nay votes: Everett, Swistowicz, Johnson. Absent: None. Motion did not carry.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLY CHANGE SERVICE FEE CHARGE: Director Everett explained the proposed service fee increase from \$25 to \$150. The reasoning is that customers can pay a onetime fee of \$150 during extended absences when facility and usage charges would not be billed, saving them money while covering the loss of funds for usage at the District level. Director Swistowicz commented that it appears as though we are trying to get \$150 any way we can. GM explained if the water is turned off on the customer's side (now an option following the project) they will continue to be billed a facility charge, if HPUD performs the service we in a way recoup monies. The \$175 amount is an industry standard-service fee is the same as a facility charge.

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Director Flores contributed that seniors, especially in this community, do not often leave for 3 months. He was curious how many shut offs there are or if customers call for assistance after trying to turn off the water themselves. Director Swistowicz called for a vote. Director Everett requested a motion. Director Harris made a motion to vote with Director Swistowicz seconding. A vote was taken. Aye votes: Everett and Johnson. Nay votes: Harris, Swistowicz and Flores. Absent: None. Director Harris then asked if the new amount had to be \$150. GM responded it could be \$75 but the District would be losing money. She noted one positive effect of the current situation is the meter remains on and is read with monthly billing. If a customer is known to be out of area and there is usage it can point to a leak. There was a back and forth about the benefits of increasing the service charge versus keeping it as is. An additional vote was discussed then decided against being as how the first vote failed.

GM REPORT: It was reported that SDRMA congratulated the District on 2 years without any paid property/liability claims. The Volunteer Fire Department received an ISO rating for the next 5 years. District Clerk Tammy celebrated her one-year anniversary on October 4th. The Greenway has been paved. Work on the fence, irrigation and landscaping will begin in 2024. Director Flores asked if it was still to be a desert theme. GM noted it was always a desert theme. The County had the work done and requested the fence not be installed until after paving. Director Everett wanted to know if inmates at the prison could perform the planned work. GM said she looked into that but received no response from the 4 people she contacted.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

Director Everett: None

Director Harris: None

Director Swistowicz: None

Director Flores: Shared he had not requested the offered monthly stipend when he served on the Board in the past, for 12 years. Starting this year, he will be taking one and donating the money to the sports program at the high school.


Director Johnson: None

ADJOURNMENT: Director Swistowicz made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 PM. Director Everett seconded. Aye votes: Everett, Harris, Swistowicz, Flores and Johnson. Nay votes: None. Absent: None.



John Everett, President

ATTEST TO:



Tammy Jacobs, District Clerk