

*Del Rey Community Services District*  
**Minutes of the  
Board of Directors  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 18, 2024  
6:00p.m.**

President Reyna called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Directors present:** Maria Reyna, Daniel Ramirez, Joaquin Nunez

**Directors absent:** Stephanie Garza, Rolando Sanchez

A2 The Board leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A3 **Approval of Agenda:** Linden states item D-1 can be pulled based on last meeting's decision. The hearing date meeting was set, staff was directed to send notices, so they can choose to approve agenda with the provision. Reyna states a member from the public was present with questions on Prop 218 so asks if it is possible to explain. Linden explains it is not consistent with the item, but they can give an explanation during the District Managers report or during Director's communications. DM Arias asks if item D-3 can be moved to D-1 because the speaker needs to leave. Reyna made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendments. Ramirez seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Ramirez, Nunez. All Absent; two absent: Garza, Sanchez. Motion passed.

**B. SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS:**

No public comment.

**C. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

C-1 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – December 2023, a Total Amount of \$219,276.56.

C-2 Approve payments for vendors for West America Bank – January 12, 2024, a Total Amount of \$30,207.00.

C-3 Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

The Board decides to discuss the items C-1 to C-3 together. Reyna opens the items to the public for comment. No public comment. Ramirez made a motion to approve items C-1 to C-3. Nunez seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Ramirez, Nunez. All Absent; two absent: Garza, Sanchez. Motion passed.

**D. PUBLIC HEARINGS (DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS):**

D-1 Discussion/Direction regarding Community Plan Update. Yvette Quiroga informs the Board of the Community Plan Update. The next meeting will be January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6PM for the vision statement to be put into the Community Plan. She states the District has to have capacity to grow and build and prefers a written statement for County to take into consideration. Dictos asks where the money is coming from. Quiroga explains this is a Community Plan Update - they identify lands to rezone, work with water districts and non-profits with ideas to expand and grow. They do not have

or give money, but they help with grant applications. The purpose for today is to discuss water and sewer capacity because without that, they cannot move forward. Arias states they have the capacity for 80-120 units. Discussion. Quiroga informs the Board to get an updated map and identify which areas (APN's) they want to be added to sphere of influence and the purpose they want it to be added. Dictos says he can get the APN's if given the addresses. Discussion. Linden advises the Board can give direction to District Manager to provide the information.

D-2 Award CDBG Engineering Services to AM Consulting Engineering. Arias states this needs to be done every three years. This was sent out to ten different companies, but only one responded, which was AM Consulting. Reyna asks what the CDBG grant is for this year. Arias responds it is to remove and fix the old plant, so it is not a safety hazard anymore. Reyna opens the item to the public for comment. No public comment. Reyna made a motion to award CDBG Engineering Services to AM Consulting Engineering. Ramirez seconds the motion. All in favor; three ayes: Reyna, Ramirez, Nunez. All Absent; two absent: Garza, Sanchez. Motion passed.

D-3 Discussion/Consideration for adding hall rental revenue in monthly agenda packet. Reyna says she put this on the agenda because she would like to be informed how many rentals are done in the month. She states there was confusion because the financial statements were off from rental amounts. Dictos states there may be a confusion based on the dates. DM Arias clarifies from January 2023 to December 2023 there was about \$6,000 in hall rentals. Dictos explains the financial statements are based on the fiscal year which is from July 2023 to present. Discussion. Reyna asks for reports on hall rental income every month especially if we plan to use the rental income for updates on the hall, so she would like to see what's coming in and what's going out. Dictos states he will do so. Discussion. Linden advises the update can be given during the District Manager's report so there doesn't have to be an action item discussed every month. Reyna explains that is what she would like – the District Manager to state how much was made in hall rentals for the month during his report. Discussion. Reyna opens the item to the public for comment. Public member 1 asks if there is anything being done to promote the hall rental. Discussion. President Reyna requests to add it to the website. Arias responds it will be taken care of. Ramirez asks Arias if they can make sure to close the gate after every rental to ensure security.

#### **E. DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS/AGENDA ITEMS**

Reyna gives an overview of Prop 218. One of the biggest reasons they need to raise rates is because the District is a part of the GSA and have to pay their sum every year. When they first joined, the fee was only about \$20,000, but then it went up to about \$100,000, and next year it is projected to be around \$225,000. She explains the District doesn't make that amount alone in connections, so they don't have the money to pay that fee on top of regular monthly bills. The District is currently borrowing money to sustain itself. She stresses the importance in raising rates. She states the increase for residential would be roughly \$25 more a month but even higher for industrial and commercial customers. Discussion. She states it is essential in order to prevent Fresno County or the State Water Board to take over. Linden explains there are official documents available, and a notice will be sent out to inform the residents. Discussion. Reyna states she will go out to explain and inform the public and hopes the rest of the Board will do so also. Linden explains the Board can do so, but Staff can only address facts.

**F. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

F-1 Report of District Manager (Report by Carlos Arias)

DM Arias reports they are using cameras to find problems with the sewer line. They realized on Van Horn and Fantz there is a pipe going through the sewer line that they believe it belongs to Comcast. They contacted Comcast to see if they would pay, but they won't accept responsibility as they claim there was no record of work orders done in that area. Arias states it needs to get done regardless, and that Comcast will come out to see if it is theirs, if so, they will pick up the tab. He got a bid to get it done which was \$24,000, but he will keep looking. He tells the Board he would like to rehire James Johnson part time, since he was directed to hire someone part time, and he feels it makes sense to hire him to work at the plant which would free up another guy for maintenance. Arias states he would like to stop using Zoom since they don't get anyone on there and it costs about \$100 per month. He informs the Board he has Robert working overtime because they lost power, so he needs to come to check on the generator. Lastly, he informs the Board he will be retiring June 30<sup>th</sup>.

F-2 Report of District Counsel (Report by Michael Linden)

LC Linden states there is nothing to report.

F-3 Report of District Engineer (Report by AM Consulting)

Angela Hall, in place of Manrique, gives updates on projects and reviews the report.

F-4 Report of District Accountant (Report by Paul Dictos)

Dictos reviews report and highlights key points.

**G. UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS:**

Public member Joey Lopez asks what can be done for those who aren't paying their water bill – is there a notice that can be sent to them. Arias explains that under current circumstances, that cannot be done. Lopez asks what the process is since the District Manager put in his resignation. Reyna explains it is not an action item so it cannot be discussed yet, but it will be added to the agenda as a closed session item. He asks what would be so wrong with Fresno County or the State Water Board taking over. Reyna responds she is not sure, but she believes there will no longer be a Board or a way for the public to have a say in what goes on. Discussion. Public member Rumaldo Reyna asks if the pipe going through the line is optic fiber. Angela Hall responds she is not sure, but believes it is unlikely as they are older.

**H. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eileen Hernandez

Del Rey Community Services District