

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT
25945 Highway 243
Idyllwild, CA 92549

August 21, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Schelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: *Directors present: President Schelly, Vice President Szabadi, Director Kunkle, Director Hunt, Director Gin, General Manager Mike Creighton, Chief Financial Officer Hosny Shouman, Deputy Board Secretary Amy Hawley and Board Secretary Jeannine Olsen were also present.*

(PUBLIC) 6

PUBLIC COMMENTS: JP CRUMRINE had a concern regarding the board AGENDA and President Schelly advised that we are using the AGENDA that was distributed on Friday August 16, 2019.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed so that it may be acted upon separately. General Manager Comments are verbal and will follow action on the written materials.

A. MINUTES – July 17, 2019

Vice President Szabadi Made a Motion to table the July 17, 2019 discussion minutes and redo the minutes in the summary style for the next regular board meeting and Director Hunt seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly			
Peter Szabadi			
Steve Kunkle			
David Hunt			
Les Gin			

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS July 2019

Income statement for the 1st month ending July 2019
District warrants for JULY 2019

Check #	= \$ 282,025.07
Gross Payroll	= \$ 66,764.00
Federal/State PR taxes	= \$ 9,405.00
LAIF Transfers	= \$ 0
Transfers/charges	= \$ 211.00

C. OPERATIONS REPORT FOR THE FIRST MONTH – JULY 2019

President Schelly made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Vice President Szabadi seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly			
Peter Szabadi			
Steve Kunkle			
David Hunt			
Les Gin			

GENERAL MANAGER’S WORK IN PROGRESS: South Circle/Village Center Drive Pipeline Project is coming to an end. It is anticipated to be completed August 22, 2019. Cost overrides have not been identified as of 8/14/2019. Riverside County re-paving project is slated to start 9/23/19 and expected to be completed by 10/31/19. Groundwater Database Program, Natalie Vidales has started compiling various grafts to illustrate relationships between ground water levels, lake storage, precipitation and groundwater production numbers. Field staff has started cleaning up all district fire hydrants. Golden Rod well site has been regraded and cleaned up. Plan to request additional office staff hours for updating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’S). Plan to hire temporary staff for a variety of laborer jobs, facility cleanup, sewer ponds and miscellaneous duties. Tyler has officially received his OIT Cert for Waste Water. I have developed a Strategic Plan to be presented at the September Board Meeting.

1. **CLOSED SESSION:** The Board will adjourn to CLOSED SESSION, “conference with Legal Counsel- An anticipated litigation-significant exposure to litigation Govt. Code Section 549556.9(a)-(b)-(d) - (2).”

Vice President Szabadi made a motion to change the order of the Agenda to have the closed session at the end of the meeting and Director Gin seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly			
Peter Szabadi			
Steve Kunkle			
David Hunt			
Les Gin			

2. **WATER RADIO SYSTEM:** The board will hear a presentation from a Zenner Water Radio System Representative and reconsider the purchase of the Zenner Radio System.

G.M. COMMENTS: Creighton offered the board two options for pursuing the radio meter reading system. The first would be a full districtwide commitment, which would cost about \$243,000. The second option involves two phases. In the first phase, IWD would purchase sufficient equipment for all commercial meters and the largest residential meters. Later, when the district is ready for phase two, IWD could purchase equipment for all of the remaining residential meters. The combined cost for the two-phase approach, according to Creighton’s memorandum, was \$202,000.

The radio devices will transmit meter data daily to the IWD office. This will eliminate the need for staff to drive the streets and read the meters .Deputy Board Secretary Amy Hawley “This would be good for customer service, especially for of part-time users.”

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: Director Peter Szabadi requested a full report on what has been purchased and moved to table any further action until the board reviews the report and knows what commitments have already been made.

Robert Gallegos, A rep. from Zenner Performance Meters Inc. in Banning presented his firm’s product during the meeting. Essentially, a radio transmitter is connected to the water meter. It will transmit usage data to a central collecting device. On a daily basis, the water usage data would be retransmitted to IWD. The Zenner equipment is compatible with 99% of water meters, according to Gallegos. The radios are compatible with all IWD meters, according to Creighton. Besides eliminating the staff time to drive by each meter, criteria in the software can be used to identify continuous water usage over a period of time. This will help identify possible leaks on the customer side of the meter. Currently, usage is collected monthly. Consequently, many customer leaks go undetected for days or weeks. “For leaks, one criterion might be any water usage for 24 hours over three days,” Gallegos suggested.

Vice President Szabadi Made a Motion to table the purchase of the Zenner Radio System and Director Hunt seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly Peter Szabadi Steve Kunkle David Hunt Les Gin			

3. **RESOLUTION #765:** The board will consider rescinding the payroll action that was passed at the June19, 2019.

Vice President Szabadi made a motion to rescind the payroll action from every other Friday to the 15th and 30th and Director Gin seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly Peter Szabadi Steve Kunkle David Hunt Les Gin			

4. **RESOLUTION #765:** The board will consider rescinding the Hiring Freeze that was not properly agendized, however passed 3-1-1 at the July 17, 2019 regular board meeting.

President Schelly pulled Item #4 to revoke the hiring freeze during the 4-day, 10-hour work schedule.

5. **SEWER ANNEXATIONS OUTSIDE OF IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 1:** The board will hear an update and consider sewer annexations outside of Improvement District 1.

G.M. COMMENTS: Several water users have come to IWD for annexation of their properties into the Improvement District #1 (sewer district). Creighton expressed several concerns about the plant's capacity, particularly given its 50 years old. Currently, 107 parcels within the sewer district have not yet connected to the sewer lines. Being in the sewer district, they have a right to connect to the sewer line. Consequently, Creighton is hesitant to expand usage until he can improve its reliability. Also, over the past year, more infiltration, ground water and runoff from the streets has been seeping into the sewer pipelines. For example, the average daily volume at the treatment plant in June was higher than July, although fewer visitors were in town during June. The greater usage was runoff from the May rains, he said.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: The board did accept Creighton's recommendation to avoid any annexations into the sewer district until he can prepare a report on the current wastewater treatment plant capacity and options for expansion or replacement.

Vice President Szabadi made a motion to have a moratorium on any sewer annexations and Director Hunt seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Schelly Peter Szabadi Steve Kunkle David Hunt Les Gin			

6. **RESOLUTION #759 MODIFICATIONS TO THE 4-10 WORK WEEK:** The board will consider rescinding the Saturday Schedule that was not properly identified however passed 3-1-1 at the July 17, 2019 regular board meeting.

G.M. COMMENTS: Creighton requested to reverse the July decision to open the office on Saturdays. While the board voted to abandon the Saturday hours all together, He offered several reasons – one being that separating staff creates some problems because their work is intertwined, resulting in inefficiencies. But Creighton also thought the vote was not appropriate since the change in hours was not specifically on the board's agenda.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: Board President Charles Schelly argued that the agenda cannot identify every

nuance of how an issue might evolve during its debate. Since board members had not discussed whether to open the office on Saturdays before the meeting, they were obeying the Brown Act, California's Open Government law. The actual motion and vote were the result of an open discussion in a public meeting, Schelly emphasized. Agreeing with him was Szabadi. Hunt, who had made the motion to open on Saturdays at the last meeting, initially said he was willing to revise his vote based on the recommendation. However, it was actually Schelly and Director Les Gin who changed their votes. Hunt and Director Steve Kunkle continued to support the Saturday office hours. Szabadi and Gin favored rescinding the Saturday openings. President Schelly cast his vote for the rescission.

Vice President Szabadi made a motion to rescind the Saturday Hours and Director Gin Seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES

Dr. Schelly
Peter Szabadi
Les Gin

NAYS

Steve Kunkle
Dave Hunt

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

CLOSED SESSION: The Board will adjourn to CLOSED SESSION, "conference with Legal Counsel- An anticipated litigation-significant exposure to litigation Govt. Code Section 549556.9(a)-(b)-(d)- (2)."

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Idyllwild Water District

By: 

Charles Schelly, Board President

Idyllwild Water District

By: 

Jeannine Olsen, Board Secretary

The next Board meeting is a Regular Meeting scheduled for September 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., to be held at the Idyllwild Water District Boardroom, 25945 Hwy. 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549.