

**LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:00 P.M.

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

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

- a. Board President Jose Cruz called to order the regular board meeting at 6:02pm on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at the office of the Lamont Public Utility District. All board members were present. Staff present included General Manager/District Secretary Scott Taylor and District Counsel Karl Berger.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by President Cruz.**

**3. Board Member Announcements –**

- a. Director Sanchez welcomed members of the audience to the meeting.

**4. Public Comment**

- a. Timoteo Prado
  - i. Mr. Prado commented on the letter sent to him not translated into Spanish.

**5. Staff Announcements – Information Only**

- a. None.

**6. Consent Agenda**

- a. Director Sanchez motioned for approval of consent calendar as presented. Motion seconded by Director Gonzalez. Approved 5-0.

**7. Regular Agenda**

**A. Public Hearing Regarding Proposition 218 Rate Increase.**

- i. General Manager presented information relative to justification and explanation of the need for a rate increase as recommended in the Board approved Rate Study.
- ii. President Cruz opened the public hearing for public comment and input.
- iii. Citizen Linda Ayon commented on how long the rate increase will be. Ayon sought clarity on the amount of input the District will have if the District becomes insolvent. Ayon also commented on the ability to pay any increase in water rate.

- iv. Director Sanchez commented that the rate increase is to assist in covering costs mandated by the State and the impacts of prevailing wage on District bids.
- v. Director Prado stated this is an opportunity for the public to speak and give their opinion.
- vi. Hymie Cervantes commented on cost versus revenue. He also commented stating repairs are not done on an annual basis for everything. He stated once a repair is done, it does not need to be done every year. Mr. Cervantes also commented on the ability to pay more.
- vii. President Cruz stated the Board understands that issue and also stated that unfortunately the District needs to increase to establish the infrastructure.
- viii. Director Sanchez commented that the District is audited every year and prepares a budget every year that is available to the public. And, that the audit and budget include all the revenues and expenses the District has.
- ix. An unidentified person commented on the Board should be for the community, not the District.
- x. An unidentified woman commented and wanted to confirm the rate increase would be for residential and commercial and industrial. She commented that if you need to raise rates for repairs and improvements that is fine. She commented to just do what is right.
- xi. President Cruz commented the rate applies to all rate payers and that larger meters would pay substantially more than the smaller meters such as residential.
- xii. Jose Murielles commented that what the General Manager said is true relative to the consequences of not increasing rates. Mr. Murielles stated he doesn't want to pay more, but if we need to, then we need to. He encouraged other members of the public to come to the District and speak with the manager about revenues, expenses and anything else they want to know.
- xiii. Manuella Ortega commented on when the increase would start.
- xiv. Director Gonzalez commented on Delano residents are paying \$150 per month. He commented that if the public does not want the rate increased, then fine. But then we have to accept the consequences. Director Gonzalez stated that if the State mandates an outside company to take over the District, it will cost a lot more than the rate increase.
- xv. Timoteo Prado commented that LPUD should have rented out a venue to conduct the public hearing.
- xvi. President Cruz commented that LPUD needs the rate increase, which it costs more to repair than the money the District is bringing in. It is not to make money, it's to provide the service to you.



- xvii. Director Hernandez commented that whomever has questions, to do it now and it will be taken into account.
- xviii. Jesus Alonso commented on the Board's ability to lower the rate increase below that recommended in the rate study. He also commented on the community's input on reducing the rate increase amounts.
- xix. Director Hernandez stated this is her last meeting and thanked the public for voting her.
- xx. Director Prado inquired about the legal requirement for a town hall meeting. Counsel Berger stated there is no legal requirement for additional meetings beyond the public hearing held on November 27, 2018.
- xxi. President Cruz closed the public hearing at 8:17pm.
- xxii. The protest ballots were certified at 115 by NBS which was not a 50% plus 1 majority of the total connections of 3159.
- xxiii. The Board considered resolution 458 to adopt Resolution 458 certifying the results of the protest ballot under Proposition 218.
- xxiv. Director Sanchez motioned to adopt Resolution 458. Seconded by Director Gonzalez. Resolution adopted 5-0.
- xxv. The Board considered resolution 459 to adopt the rate increase as presented, with the modification of suspending the implementation of the rate increase upon further review at the December Board meeting.
- xxvi. Director Sanchez motioned to adopt Resolution 459. Seconded by Director Gonzalez. Resolution adopted 5-0.

**B. Action to Authorize General Manager to Purchase a Replacement Backhoe in the Amount of \$47,447.44 and Place Current Backhoe into Auction.**

- i. The Board considered the information provided and various quotes.
- ii. Director Sanchez motioned to approve the purchase of the backhoe and place current backhoe into auction as presented. Seconded by Director Gonzalez. Motion passed 5-0.

**C. Action to Issue Will Serve Letter for 13649 Weedpatch Highway.**

- i. General Manager presented information relative to a request for a will serve letter for an existing cold storage facility.
- ii. Director Gonzalez motioned for approval. Seconded by Director Sanchez. Motion passed 5-0.

**D. Action to Adopt Resolution 457 to Initiate Annexation Proceedings of 13649 Weedpatch Highway.**

- i. General Manager Taylor presented information relative to a request for annexation into the District to provide services.
- ii. Director Gonzalez made a motion to adopt resolution 457 as presented. Seconded by Director Sanchez. Motion passes 5-0.

**E. Action to Issue Will Serve Letter for a Zone Change of a Parcel Located at Northwest Corner of Mountain View Road and Weedpatch Highway.**

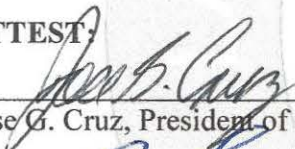
- i. General Manager presented information relative to a request for a will serve letter for a zone change of a vacant for future development.
- ii. Director Gonzalez motioned for approval. Seconded by Director Sanchez. Motion passes 5-0.

**Adjournment**

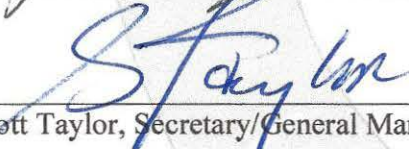
A motion was made by Director Sanchez and seconded by Director Gonzalez to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lamont Public Utility District, held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 8:47 pm. Approved. 5-0.

**ATTEST:**

X

  
Jose G. Cruz, President of the Board

X

  
Scott Taylor, Secretary/General Manager