

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
May 14, 2019**

**PRESENT**

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Jim Robinson | President |
| Thomas Ace   | Treasurer |
| Jeff Lawler  | Director  |

**ABSENT**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jim Hickle       | Vice President |
| Bryan Wadlington | Secretary      |

**A. Opening of Meeting**

**A.1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ramona Municipal Water District was called to order by President Robinson at 2:00 p.m., at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona, County of San Diego, State of California.

President Robinson led the Board and members of the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A.2. Consideration of Non-Agenda Items Which Arose Subsequent to the Posting of the Agenda**

None.

**A.3. Adoption of Agenda for Meeting of May 14, 2019**

**MISC MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED (Ace/Lawler)**

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| AYES:    | Ace, Lawler, Robinson |
| NOES:    | None                  |
| ABSTAIN: | None                  |
| ABSENT:  | Hickle, Wadlington    |

**A.4. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Board on any Subject within its Jurisdiction but not on the Agenda**

None.

**A.5. Announcements and/or Informational Reports from Board and/or Staff**

**A.5.a. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Barnum provided a summary of the upcoming agenda items and read portions of the book "Death of a Water District" to show parallels with the RMWD, highlighting lessons learned from the past from other water districts.

## **A.5.b. Committee Reports**

None.

## **A.5.c.- Staff Reports**

### **A.5.c.-1. Presentation of a News Release Concerning the North County Water Agencies Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest and Presenting Awards to 4th Grade Student Winners**

Recommendation: Present awards to the winning Fourth Grade Students.

Tim Clement, Administrative Services Manager, discussed the contest requirements and Diane Stoltz, Cross-Connection Program Specialist, announced the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners. President Robinson presented the awards to the winning students and thanked their teachers for encouraging students to recognize the importance of water awareness and conservation.

### **A.5.c.-2. Information Regarding an Update to the RMWD Website and Implementation of an Online Bill View and Pay System**

Recommendation: Information item only, no action required.

General Manager Barnum briefly introduced the agenda item discussing the critical infrastructure updates that were required first to support a new billing software with an online component for customers. Tim Clement presented a high-level overview of the District's new website, emphasizing ease of use and mobile functionality along with new customer bill view and pay options. Chief Financial Officer, Craig Schmollinger, provided more detail on the new online bill options for customers, highlighting major improvements in both processes and user payment fees. He thanked the District and Board for their investments in the IT infrastructure and systems. General Manager Barnum expressed his thanks to staff for their valuable contributions towards the finished project.

## **B. Ministerial Items**

Public Speaker: Gary Hurst addressed the Board on item B.1.b. regarding the accounting methods used by the District.

### **B.1. Consent Calendar**

(All matters on the consent calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Board Member requests separate action on a specific item)

#### **B.1.a. Adoption of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2019**

Recommendation: To adopt the Minutes for April 9, 2019.

#### **B.1.b. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports – March 2019**

Recommendation: No staff recommendation.

#### **B.1.c. Authorization to Award a Contract for Construction of the San Vicente Road PRV Project**

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommends the Board authorize the General Manager to award a contract for construction of the San Vicente Road PRV Project to M-RAE Engineering, Inc.

**MISC MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED (Ace/Lawler)**

AYES: Ace, Lawler, Robinson  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Hickle, Wadlington

**C. Public Hearing/Bid Openings**

(This space on the agenda is reserved in the event there is a public hearing or bid opening)

**D. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Members of the Public**

(This space on the agenda is reserved in the event a member of the public is scheduled to address the Board)

**E. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Other Agencies/Consultants**

(This space on the agenda is reserved in the event another agency/consultant is scheduled to address the Board)

**F. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Staff**

**F.1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Proposition 218 Notice for Sewer and Water Rates, Charges and Fees, and to Set a Date for Public Hearings:**

Recommendation: District staff respectfully recommends that the Board:

1. Select their preferred Notice for sewer and water rates, charges and fees (2 or 5 years), and
2. Set a date for the Proposition 218 public hearings on July 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Public Speaker: Gary Hurst addressed the Board regarding the financial reporting methods used in the rate and fee study reports.

General Manager Barnum introduced the agenda item, describing the District's planning methodology and where the agency stands in their multi-year effort to address increasing costs and ongoing capital needs.

Chief Financial Officer, Craig Schmollinger gave a detailed presentation incorporating an overview of the requirements of Proposition 218, updated sewer and water rate projections and trends, and cost containment measures.

Alex Handlers from Bartle Wells Associates, an independent public finance consulting firm, presented on the sewer rate and fee study reports, describing the factors that were taken into consideration to create the reports and their final recommendations.

Andrea Boehling from Raftelis, an independent consulting firm, presented on the water rate and fee study report, describing the factors that were taken into consideration to create the report and their final recommendations.

Board discussion followed regarding customer classifications, pumping charges, use of property taxes, the impact of recycled water revenue on sewer rates and capital project funding.

**MISC MOTION TO ESTABLISH JULY 9, 2019 AT THE REGULAR MEETING AT 2:00 P.M. FOR A PROPOSITION 218 PUBLIC HEARING (Ace/Lawler)**

AYES: Ace, Lawler, Robinson  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Hickle, Wadlington

**MISC MOTION TO SELECT THE PREFERRED NOTICE FOR SEWER AND WATER RATES, CHARGES AND FEES FOR A FIVE YEAR PROGRAM (Ace/Lawler)**

AYES: Ace, Lawler, Robinson  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Hickle, Wadlington

**G. Closed Session – NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

President Robinson adjourned the meeting for a break at 4:27 p.m.

The board entered closed session at 4:36 p.m.

**G.1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation**

Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4)-(2 cases)

**G.2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2)-(1 case) Existing facts and circumstances pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(e)(1)

Closed session ended at 5:26 p.m. Legal Counsel reported that direction was given with no reportable action taken.

**H. Remaining Agenda Items**

**H.1. Directors' Reports of Reimbursed Meetings**

Pursuant to Legislative Code Section 2.08.140, members of the Board who receive reimbursement from the District for their actual and necessary expenses for attending meetings outside the District shall either prepare a written report to be submitted at the next subsequent Board meeting or make a verbal report during the next regular Board meeting. The report shall detail the information that may be of benefit to the District that was presented at the meeting

None reported.

**I. Closing Agenda Items**

**I.1. Date and Time for the Next Regular Meeting**

**June 11, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.**

President Robinson adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

**Adjourn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Robinson", is written over a solid horizontal line.

**Jim Robinson, President  
Board of Directors  
RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**