

HELIX WATER DISTRICT

Setting standards of excellence in public service

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 – 3 p.m.

7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427

1. President Verbeke called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The roll call showed Directors Verbeke, Muse, Hedberg and Scalzitti present. Director Linden arrived at 3:42 p.m.

Staff present: Lugo, Stoia, Umphres, Hayman, Bryant, Olney, Janzen, Lawler, Salois, Masterson, Uhrhammer, Andrews, Tejeda and Schipper. Legal Counsel Elizabeth Hull and Kelly Salt were also present.

Others present: Customers Dexter Levy, Frank Cook and Gordon Place. Reporter Karen Pearlman of the San Diego Union-Tribune and Raftelis Financial Consultants Inc. Manager Habib Isaac were also present.

2. Agenda approved:

Motion: Muse
Second: Scalzitti

Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Muse, Hedberg, Scalzitti. Absent: Linden.

3. President Verbeke provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. There were no requests to be heard.

4. The Committee of the Board considered the recommendations contained in the Helix Water District Comprehensive Water Cost of Service and Rate Study report prepared by Raftelis Financial Consultants Inc., reviewed the proposed water service fees for water rates, and provided comments on the corresponding draft Proposition 218 customer notice of public hearing on October 7, 2015.

President Verbeke recognized Customer Gordon Place. Mr. Place stated customers are at a disadvantage in reviewing all the numbers as provided on Friday prior to the meeting. He stated he has conserved, uses a minimum amount of water and does not agree with verbiage stating Tier 3 is inefficient. He also referred to property values, swimming pools, animals, fire hazards, insurance rates and the 10 percent penalty.

Director of Administrative Services Lisa L. Stoia stated the board will review options regarding the penalty at the August 5, 2015, regular board meeting at 5 p.m.

President Verbeke reminded Mr. Place he is always welcome to make an appointment with General Manager Carlos V. Lugo to review any questions.

Discussion ensued. All questions were answered. President Verbeke, Vice President Muse and Director Linden congratulated staff for the complete, detailed and easy to follow report. Director Scalzitti stated he would like to work toward water budgets once the software is in place for better data collection. He also stated all tiers need to conserve water without focusing solely on Tier 3. President Verbeke stated we need to cut down on outdoor water use regardless of the tiers.

Director Hedberg requested a definition of peaking be included in the cost of service study. Director Hedberg asked clarifying questions regarding the best practices for smoothing rates, the differences in the tiers from the scenario presented in May, projections, the number of active meters, how meters are determined inactive and referred to Table 4.1 for clarity regarding the capacity ratio.

Director Hedberg stated she was hoping for lower numbers. Mr. Lugo stated we were all hoping for lower numbers. Director Linden reminded the board that studies show we are in a long-term drought. Mr. Lugo thanked Legal Counsel Kelly Salt and Elizabeth Hull for their work and also thanked Consultant Habib Isaac.

Ms. Stoia stated language would be added to the Proposition 218 letter detailing how protest letters will be collected.

President Verbeke adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Sandra L. Janzen, Board Secretary

DeAna R. Verbeke, President