



SPECIAL JOINT TOWN COUNCIL AND BIG PLAINS WATER SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT WORK MEETING

1777 N Meadowlark Dr, Apple Valley
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

Mayor | Michael Farrar

Council Members | Kevin Sair | Robin Whitmore | Barratt Nielson | Janet Prentice |

Chairman | Barratt Nielson

Board Members | Harold Merritt | Ross Gregerson | Michael Farar

CALL TO ORDER- Mayor Farrar called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER- Prayer offer by Council Member Prentice.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor and Board Member Michael Farrar

Council Member Kevin Sair

Council Member Robin Whitmore

Council Member and Chairman Barratt Nielson

Council Member Janet Prentice

Board Member Harold Merritt

Board Member Ross Gregerson

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

DISCUSSION

1. Appointment of board members for the Big Plains Water Special Service District.

Council Member Sair provided a historical overview, highlighting efforts to collaborate with the State, Governor, and DEQ Executive Director Kim Shelly for financial support. The discussion focused on infrastructure replacement in AV1, challenges faced by the Cedar Point system, and the need to train new individuals while preserving knowledge from current Board Members Ross and Harold.

Mayor Farrar expressed concerns about the last day of a board member and pressure from higher authorities. The possibility of turning over to the conservancy district was raised, prompting a conversation about exploring options before resorting to such measures.

Chairman Barratt Nielson explained the importance of open dialogue and emphasized that external options were being considered as a last resort. Information was being gathered for an informed decision, with a reminder that saying no was always an option.

Board Member Merritt discussed informal meetings, highlighting a radium problem and an engineer's proposal for well 59 at \$200,000. Financial constraints led to the consideration of various options, with Board Member Gregerson detailing a step-by-step approach to addressing radium levels and the challenges faced.



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Concerns were raised about well 59's approval, which the state had denied, leading to an exploration of alternative solutions. Pending results regarding radium levels with the DEQ were discussed, and a potential Plan B involving a pipeline to supply AV water to CP was mentioned.

Mayor Farrar discussed the current water demand status, potential shortages in April, and water quality. Funding feedback and ongoing communication with the State were shared, including a Zoom call scheduled for the following Wednesday.

Various water sources, including Cooke Well and Canaan Springs, were discussed. Mayor Farrar highlighted the high radium levels and legal limits, along with funding history from the Division of Drinking Water. Emergency funding applications were submitted for a permanent pipeline solution.

Discussions included the amount of water source, the potential tie between Canaan Springs and Cedar Point, and the need for aquifer recharge. Board Member Merritt mentioned the available water but limitations on connections due to the water source.

Mayor discussed an unofficial deal for pipeline placement and connections along the land, exploring options like a pump-free system and the pressure involved. Plans for drilling a well at Canaan Springs were discussed, and costs for various pipeline options were considered.

The meeting addressed engineering aspects, including a mixing station, dedicated lines, and the importance of maintaining pressure. Financial considerations were discussed, exploring the possibility of obtaining funds without selling. The unique nature of the local aquifer was highlighted, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive study.

A plan to move forward was discussed, considering various options for the next 12 months. The importance of communication with the conservancy district and a focus on day-to-day operations, including potential rate increases, were highlighted. The mayor expressed gratitude for everyone's efforts, emphasizing the momentum and consistency moving forward. The meeting concluded with discussions on records, paperwork, and the ongoing commitment to team collaboration.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Sair motioned to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Gregerson.

VOTE: Mayor Farrar called for a vote:

Council Member and Chairman Nielson - Aye

Council Member Sair - Aye

Council Member Whitmore - Aye

Council Member Prentice - Aye

Mayor and Board Member Farrar - Aye



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Board Member Gregerson - Aye
Board Member Merritt - Aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Date Approved: 2/21/24

Approved BY: 

Mayor | Michael L. Farrar

Attest BY: 

Town Clerk/Recorder | Jenna Vizcardo

