



COUNTY WATER DISTRICT OF BILLINGS HEIGHTS

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes

March 26th, 2024 at 2:00 PM

County Water District of Billings Heights 1540 Popelka Dr., Board room

The meeting is open to any interested member of the public. Agendas are prepared for the meetings; agendas may be requested from the General Manager and are available at <https://heightswaterdistrict.com/agendas-and-minutes>. Agenda packets, due to their size, will not be printed off for the meetings or at the public's request. The public can access and view the agenda packet online and can download them or print them at their own expense.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Doug Kary called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members present: Doug Kary, Frank Ewalt, Tom Zurbuchen, Jeff Essmann (On Zoom)

Jenn Burnside (Board Secretary)

Staff Members present: Josh Simpson

Also present: Greg Erpenbach, David Graves, Pam Ellis, and Evelyn Pyburn (YCN)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: Read by Doug Kary

During the course of the meeting, the Public may be heard before a vote is cast by the Board. The President will acknowledge the Public once the motion has been made and discussed by the Board for their input. The President will recognize speakers who raise their hands. Once recognized, the speaker should move to the side of the board table so comments can be heard, identify themselves by name, and limit their comments to two minutes. Each speaker will have one opportunity to speak on any agenda item. Once the public comment period is over the public may not provide further comment or ask additional questions during the remainder of the agenda item discussion, unless specifically requested by the chair or presiding officer of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Public Hearing Agenda Items: Read by Doug Kary

- A. Any member of the public may be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda;
- B. The board will not take action on these items at this time but may choose to add the item to the agenda for the next scheduled board meeting.

March 26th, 2024 2:01 PM

NEW BUSINESS:

Item #1 Interview candidates for Board of Directors vacancy

Item #2 Select a candidate

Doug asks the candidates present to inform the board why they would like to serve on the board and what talents they can bring forth.

Frank makes a motion to reject all applications for the vacancy at this time. Tom seconds.

Jeff supports this motion because he feels we need to restore the public's trust.

Doug said he has been receiving emails from another board member pointing out all kinds of stuff. This board member is not telling the full truth. We cannot have three board members without an official meeting. Board members said there are three people on this board that are going to railroad the consolidation with the City through, this is far from the truth. Some of the applications we received, those applicants were not eligible.

Tom is for rejecting all applications. He would like to remind the candidates that we still have a vacant seat and those applicants who wish to serve will have to reapply.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam said she wasn't sure why the board would reject the applications. In the past, they kept applications on file for two years. You know people are interested, it's an error in communication and scheduling. She said she thinks the board should just keep the applications and reschedule the meeting at a later date.

Greg said new laws based on lawsuits just came out. Files were held for future opening but those files were never pulled out only the current applications were used.

David said this has been going on too long. We need to step back and figure out what is best for the ratepayers and the employees of the Water District. As well as figure out how we can work with the City of Billings.

Susan Swimley is concerned with Pam on holding the applications and rescheduling the meeting for another time.

Frank thinks that the Board needs to have new applications.

Motion and Vote:

Frank makes a motion to reject all applications for the vacancy at this time. Tom seconds. All Approved.

Frank said going forward we will have a posting after the April 17th meeting listing the following:

Date of vacancy

Opening for applications

Date of closing for applications

Date of interviews and appointment

To be voted on at the next business meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Evelyn asked what prompted the calling of this meeting.

Doug said to interview the candidates.

Meeting moved to Executive session.

Next Board meeting Wednesday, April 17th @ 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned @ 2:15 pm

Board Secretary, Jennifer Burnside

Board President, Doug Kary