



COUNTY WATER DISTRICT OF BILLINGS HEIGHTS

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing

June 29th, 2023 at 6:00 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 Peyton Brookshire, peyton@heightswaterdistrict.com, 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 Ming Cabrera called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members present: Laura Drager, Ming Cabrera, Doug Kary, Frank Ewalt, Tom Zurbuchen

Staff Members present: Peyton Brookshire, Josh Simpson, and Jenn Burnside

Also present: Andrew Rheem, Doug & Pat Walters, Stan & Marsha Buchholz, Lyle & Debbie Fogle, Pam Ellis, David Graves, Ed Miltcher, Sharron Phillips, Stephanie Romsa, and Evelyn Pyburn (YCN)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: Read by Ming Cabrera

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 Ming Cabrera

- 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.

June 29th, 2023 6:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Walters asked if after this many years, the District doesn't make enough money that we have to charge the customers even more.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Andrew Rheem from Raftelis presented his presentation. Documents are attached regarding his presentation.

Public Comment:

Marsha asked about the 50,000 commercial going down but why doesn't the 50,000 residential go down?

Andrew said that commercial customers don't require the pipe to sit ideally throughout the wintertime.

Doug Walters said so the commercial customers get a break why the resident's bills are raised?

Andrew replied that the commercial customer has been higher for several decades and this recognizes that.

Peyton says it is a conservation message to our customers.

David Graves says we are trying to promote more business into the Heights and this is a good way to do that.

Ed said a 50% increase is outrageous and he wished his social security would go up that high.

Pam says the packet was not posted by 6 pm on Monday and the packet is inadequate. All information that the board relies on should be in the agenda. She also says that this is not a proper report.

Doug Walters asks why the inch and a half meter goes up double than the current charge.

Andrew said that they are higher because we are trying to recover the cost to replace the meter.

Ed asks what about the cost of the residents outside of the city limits. Is this changing the rate for those people as well?

Ming says that you will be paying for what you use.

Ed also asked if we could ever develop our own water plant so we don't have to deal with the city anymore.

Stephanie asked about a rate adjustment in the summertime when you would use more water. Will this change that?

Andrew said no could make the summer bills higher.

Stephanie asked if she came into the office and if the staff could look at her prior usage and give her an idea of what her new cost would be.

Jenn said that she and Suzie would be able to give an estimate of what their water bill will look like.

Lyle Fogle asked if the line charge will go away.

Andrew said the \$1.30 will continue to be added to the bill.

Laura called the question. Frank seconds. All approved

Tom makes a motion to delay the vote until the July 19th Board meeting Doug seconds. Frank, Doug, Tom, and Laura approve. Ming opposed.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:56pm

**Recording Secretary, Jennifer
Burnside**