

**Chester Public Utility District
PO Box 503
251 Chester Airport Rd.
Chester, Ca. 96020
530-258-2171**

Minutes of Special Meeting: June 23, 2023, at 5:30pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Kim Green, Steve Voboril, Arthur Tharpe, Royce Raker and Steve Graffweg,

Directors Absent: None

Guests Present: 1

Staff Present: 2

1. **Call to Order:** Director Voboril called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
 - a. Director Voboril led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. Roll Call/Attendance: Director Voboril let it be known that all Directors were present.
 - b. Agenda Approval: Director Green made a motion to accept agenda. Director Raker seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Public Comment Agenda Items:** None

3. **EMS/FIRE Parcel Tax Assessment: Resolution #427-2023**
 - GM Cox stated that this would be a new special assessment, the existing parcel tax would remain as is.
 - \$350.00 per parcel the first year, and \$10.00 added the next 5 years capping at \$400.00.
 - Two thirds of the vote is needed to pass.
 - The board has the option to lower the assessment amount annually.
 - Director Graffweg has concerns regarding equitability, as parcel sizes vary.
 - GM Cox stated that the amount listed only gets the department to even. There still wouldn't be any funds to cover long-term liability or saving for reserves.
 - We still need to go on wildland fires, and we still need the revenue from the ambulance.
 - A FAQ section will be on the website and in a pamphlet stating facts.
 - Sept and Oct will be a big push at the townhall events and other public outreach.
 - The voter guide will have impartial analysis and facts.
 - A public member advised the board to include, "what has changed" with the department in the facts sheet. Some other points of interest that were brought up; "Improved Spending Policies", "Management Strategies", "The current management understands budgets" etc.
 - GM Cox also wants to include a list of issues and hurdles; neglected equipment, money that wasn't invested, acquiring a full staff, etc.
 - Another revenue idea is to annex more territory. However, LAFCo and lawyer fees could reach over 20K.

- GM Cox wants to include in the fact sheet that with no fire department, homeowner insurance could go up or even be cancelled along with many other consequences for not having a fire department.
- Director Voboril stated that this idea of another parcel has been going on for years. Now we are desperate.
- Director Raker stated that it is time to let the voters decide.

After a brief discussion on the amount per parcel, Director Green made a motion to accept the resolution and ordinance as presented. Director Tharpe seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Comments:

Directors: None

Staff: GM Cox thanked the board.

- 5. Adjournment:** Director Tharpe made a motion to adjourn at 6:10pm. Director Raker seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Johnson

Approval of Minutes *So Effel*