



**BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223

Wednesday, July 26th, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order, President Slawson

President Slawson began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Director Diaz

Director Diaz led the pledge.

Invocation, Director Hoffman

Director Hoffman led the invocation.

Roll Call

Present at the meeting were: President Slawson, Director Covington, Hoffman, Diaz, and Director Ramirez. Legal Counsel: James Markman. District Staff: Director of Finance and Administrative Services: Yolanda Rodriguez, Director of Engineering: Dan Jagers, and Director of Operations: Anthony Lara.

Public who registered their attendance were David Fenn and Sharon Hamilton.

Public Comment

Mr. Lloyd White shared that he is speaking as a citizen of Beaumont and shared his concerns regarding the termination of the General Manager Fraser's contract. He stated that he hopes this has nothing to do with the fact that Mr. Orozco (Beaumont's City Councilman) approached the Board earlier in the year at a Board meeting at which Mr. Orozco expressed concerns with being able to work with the BCVWD's General Manager, Eric Fraser. He stated he hopes the Board takes in consideration everything positive General Manager Fraser has done for the District and rate payers.

Dr. Blair Ball, San Geronio Pass Water Agency Board member, shared that he has served on the Board of Directors of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and that he is very familiar with the District's Policy. He went on to read the policy regarding the General Manager's evaluation process and asked the Board if they had complied. Dr. Ball asked a series of questions as to which of the following reasons Mr. Fraser was being fired: was it because he fully funded the 2017 CIP with existing funding sources? Or fully funding Capital Replacement Reserves, or sending field supervisory to safety classes, etc. He stated perhaps he is being fired for having integrity and being honest. He went on to share that the SGPWA annually evaluates and sets goals for their General Manager and asked if the Board had done this for General Manager Fraser. Dr. Ball directed a comment to Director Diaz since she was the swinging vote and reminded her that she was not a Board member long enough to evaluate General Manager Fraser.

Mr. Jeffrey Cottrell, prior BCVWD Board member, shared that he supported everything Dr. Ball stated and stated that the Board should be ashamed in terminating General Manager Fraser. He shared that General Manager Fraser has done an excellent job for the BCVWD's finances and has always looked out for the best interest of the rate payers. He stated that if General Manager Fraser is too abrasive, than work with him, but not fire him. He expressed his support for General Manager Fraser's honesty and always doing the best thing for the community.

Ms. Judy Bingham shared her disappointment and was saddened to see the termination of General Manager Fraser. She said she supported the integrity of General Manager Fraser and how he turned the District around for transparency and financial strength. She stated that the Board should be ashamed for firing General Manger Fraser.

Ms. Sharon Hamilton shared that she lived in the community during the period before General Manager Fraser was hired and shared that it was a frustrating time, that finances were a mess and was happy to see what General Manager Fraser has done to turn the District around to a positive place. She said she is happy and the rate payers she has spoken to are also happy with the General Manager. She addressed Director Diaz and shared that she thought Director Diaz was not a Board member long enough to evaluate General Manager Fraser and asked for delay of the termination of General Manager Fraser.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services read out loud the following two public comments, which were sent via email:

Mr. Dennis Radzik, Four Seasons Beaumont Community, shared that he has never met General Manager Fraser, but has heard that the General Manager's experience with BCVWD, and matters of concerns, are highly valuable. Mr. Radzik asked that the Board would look to the General Manager's value in regards to his skills and not to those actions which are more closely related to emotion or feelings.

Ms. Jeannette Olko, Division 3, stated that the Board would be doing a disservice to the customers of the BCVWD if it votes to terminate the employment agreement with General Manager Fraser. Ms. Olko shared that General Manager Fraser and she have been colleagues for over ten years and knows he is honest and direct, which people get caught up in the delivery of the message, which can be very blunt at times, but shared that she has never known Mr. Fraser to be wrong. She shared that she respects how General Manager Fraser has always protected the rights of the rate payers. She shared that she believes that Eric Fraser is still the best person for the job of BCVWD General Manager and implored the Board of Directors to reconsider the termination and instead choose to support General Manager Fraser, who she states has spent these last several years supporting the rate payers.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Termination of Employment Agreement with General Manager Eric Fraser, Effective Immediately.

Director Hoffman motioned to table the item for thirty (30) days to re-evaluate. The motion was seconded by President Slawson. Motion was denied by a 2-3 split vote: President Slawson – Aye; Director Hoffman – Aye; Director Covington1–Nay; Director Diaz – Nay; Director Ramirez – Nay.

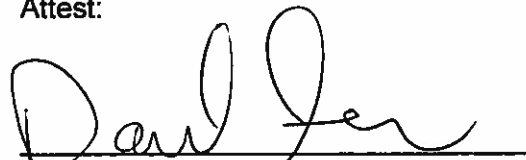
President Slawson commented that he thought the termination of General Manager Eric Fraser was a bad decision for the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District. He stated he understood some people had a problem with Mr. Fraser because he was blunt, but he had confidence in his work.

Director Covington motioned to move forward with the action item Termination of Employment Agreement with General Manager Eric Fraser, Effective Immediately. The motion was seconded by Director Diaz. The motion passed by a 3-2 split vote: Director Covington-Aye; Director Diaz-Aye; Director Ramirez-Aye; President Slawson-Nay; Director Hoffman-Nay.


Adjournment

President Slawson adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Attest:



Director Daniel Slawson, President
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District



Director Claudeen C. Diaz, Secretary
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

** Information included in the agenda packet