



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Via Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH QUORUM

The regular meeting of the North Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2:00 p.m. via teleconference. The Directors in attendance were President Coolidge, Directors Mourelatos, Thompson, Hughes, and Daniels. District Staff in attendance included General Manager Johnson, Engineering and Operations Manager Pomroy, Chief Financial Officer Van Cleave, Administrative Manager Holt, Utility Operations Manager Fischer, Public Information Officer Justin Broglio and Administrative Liaison Moga. Counsel Nelson was also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited. No changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS (2:05 P.M.) -

Jane Davis provided public comment regarding TTSA matters. She provided an article to the board, which is attached hereto.

Pippin Mader provided public comment regarding TTSA matters. Mr. Mader's comments are attached hereto.

There were no further requests for public comment. The Board convened into Closed Session at 2:10 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – Pursuant to Section 54957. Title:
Chief Financial Officer

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Section 54957.6. Agency
Designated Representative: Sarah Coolidge, President. Unrepresented Employee: Chief
Financial Officer

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: 1400 Kings Vista Court, Tahoe Vista, CA

Agency negotiators: Bradley A. Johnson, P.E. and Joshua Nelson

Negotiating parties: New Cingular Wireless PCS

Under negotiation: Rent and Terms of Rental Payment

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – (Paragraph (1) of
subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: NTPUD Water Rights Applications
A001379, A017149, A017235, A018414, A012574, A023475, A023727, SWRCB

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – (Paragraph (1) of
subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Case name unspecified: Settlement negotiations

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/REVIEW AGENDA

President Coolidge opened the meeting to the public at 3:50 p.m. and announced that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session and advised that the Board will go back into Closed Session. Alex Mourelatos was not present.

MANAGEMENT TEAM INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:

Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) Report - Lane Lewis, TTSA Representative, provided highlights from his report. Mr. Lewis provided an update regarding the water control board violations response. He noted they had not heard back from Lahontan. Director Daniels added January 18 was the deadline for Notice of Correction.

Recreation and Parks Commission Report – Recreation & Parks Commission Stoltzman provided highlights from his report. He spoke about the Regional Park’s grooming and sled hill operations. He announced funding was granted by Board of Supervisors for Field #4 and ADA pathway. He spoke about Community Garden agreement and operations. He added he participated in the Recreation Supervisor interviews. He noted the Commission received the final report of Active Recreation Assessment.

General Manager/CEO Report - General Manager (GM) Johnson provided highlights from his report, including COVID and the District’s response. He provided a COVID Rate Relief status update. He reported the initial results of the Rate Relief survey indicated the majority of respondents don’t need rate relief at this time. He provided an update of Rec Supervisor interviews and Engineering Manager and Senior Engineer recruitment.

Public Information Officer Report – Public Information Officer, Justin Broglio, provided highlights of his first 30 days as PIO. In response to Director Hughes’ inquiry, PIO Broglio noted all the data is from Google Analytics. Director Hughes spoke about pathway partnership on Nevada Tahoe trails and grant opportunities. In response to Director Daniels, PIO Broglio explained the difference between email open, click rates, and campaign performance. PIO Broglio stated he will review our audiences to provide better resources. President Coolidge stated it’s important to understand what our community wants and have targeted interactions.

Accounting Department Report for month ending December 31, 2020 - Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Vanetta Van Cleave, provided highlights from her report including. She spoke to budget on revenue, trends on actual operating income, EBIDA, and reserves. She noted roll overs. She noted the net equity with property tax split out with the realignment in December. She added cash investments decreased. She announced we receive our first property tax allotment. She noted we are ahead of budget with RDA budget.

Park and Facilities Department Report - Administrative Manager (AM) Loren Holt provided highlights from his report. He reported the sled hill concessionaire will not be operating this year due to operational challenges with COVID protocols. The Staff and board members discussed sledding in the park and around the lake. AM Holt stated over the last 5 years, the number of visitors during the winter have increased on weekends and midweek. They discussed outreach.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY AWARDS - Michael Henn, Parks/Facilities Maintenance Worker I, was recognized for his 5 years of Service. AM Holt spoke about Michael's service and background. The board thanked Michael for his years of service.

Planning and Engineering Department Report - EOM Joe Pomroy provided highlights from the Engineering report. In response to President Coolidge's inquiry, EOM Pomroy explained the water model as referenced in his report. The staff discussed the importance of a current water model to understand development impacts, infrastructure planning, fire flow, pressure and flows at specific points in the system. In response to Director Daniels, GM Johnson stated an updated water model helps identify hydraulic deficiencies in zonal gaps or local gaps.

Utility Operations Department Report - Utility Operations Manager (UOM) Ken Fischer, highlighted items from his report. He noted even with COVID protocols, crews continue to take care of issues, including water main breaks. He spoke about devices and equipment upgrades.

Legal Report - Legal Counsel, Josh Nelson, provided an update. He noted a private lessee of public agency is subject to the first amendment. He spoke about AB 992, modifications to the Brown Act that applies to social media. He noted there are key changes to the 120 days statute of limitations for Prop 218 which would be a win for water and sewer providers.

Board Committee Reports – There were no reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- Approve Accounts Paid and Payable for the period from January 12, 2021 through February 8, 2021
- Approve Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting and January 22, 2021 Special Meeting
- Authorize General Manager to File Notice of Completion for the NTPUD Base Facilities Emergency Power Distribution System Project
- Authorize General Manager to Execute a Purchase Order and Authorize a Project Budget Realignment for the Procurement of a Pipeline Inspection Camera System

Director Thompson noted D&P Committee recommends approval on the last two items on the consent calendar.

MOTION: Director Thompson moved to approve the consent calendar. Director Daniels seconded the motion which passed by roll call (4-0).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Review, Discuss, and Possibly Accept the Annual Independent Audit Report of Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2019-20 with Presentation by Brad Bartells of MUN CPAs (Timed item 4:00 p.m.)

CFO Van Cleave introduced Brad Bartells and Aaron Blankenship. Mr. Bartells and Mr. Blankenship provided a PowerPoint slideshow.

In response to Director Daniels, CFO Van Cleave noted typographical errors will be corrected prior to publishing. To address President Coolidge's inquiry, Mr. Bartells explained what Non-current investments are. President Coolidge thanked auditors and staff.

MOTION: Director Daniels moved to Accept the Annual Independent Audit Report of Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2019-20 with the presentation by Brad Bartells of MUN CPAs subject to corrections of typographical and non-material items. Director Hughes seconded the motion to accept the annual independent audit report which passed unanimously by roll call (4-0).

Award Multiple Contracts and Authorize General Manager to Execute the Agreements for the National Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

GM Johnson introduced the item. EOM Pomroy provided additional project information and spoke about impacts on TVRA boat ramp operation.

Director Thompson spoke about the project and stated he didn't agree with the construction reserves. In response to Director Thompson, GM Johnson spoke about the importance of a contract contingency for a project with this level of complexities, uncertainties, and risk. He noted the contingency is not guaranteed. Director Hughes stated she agreed with the prequalification process to ensure the contractor has experience. She added having a contingency for the project in a sensitive area is a good idea. In response to Director Hughes' inquiry about multiple contracts, GM Johnson noted it's standard for a project of this complexity. From a project management standpoint, GM Johnson noted that the District will have other construction projects going this summer. He spoke about the necessity of the contractors' technical expertise and their familiarity with Lake Tahoe.

MOTION: Director Hughes moved to approve multiple contracts and authorize the General Manager to execute contracts one through five as outlined in the board report. Director Daniels seconded the motion which passed unanimously by roll call (4-0).

The Board and staff discussed providing regular project updates and outreach to the community and boating community for boat ramp closures. GM Johnson noted the beach and restrooms will remain open during construction. In response to President Coolidge, GM Johnson spoke about the station's lifespan.

Authorize General Manager to Execute a Communications Site License Agreement with New Cingular wireless PCS

GM Johnson introduced the item. In response to Director Daniels regarding the site plan, GM Johnson noted there will be no additional parking, paving improvements, or trees removed. Director Hughes noted it's an important asset for safety. Director Daniels stated she had mixed feelings as she supports increased communication but recognizes the contention in that community with the installation company if they install 5G.

MOTION: Director Hughes moved to Authorize General Manager to Execute a Communications Site License Agreement with New Cingular wireless PCS. Director Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously by roll call (4-0).

Authorize Execution of a Grant Agreement Between North Tahoe Public Utility District and the County of Placer in the Amount of \$825,000 - Administrative Manager Loren Holt introduced the item. In response to Director Daniels' inquiry about the District's matching responsibility, AM Holt noted in addition to this grant from Placer County, Prop 68 Per Capita funds will also be utilized and the remaining balance will be the District's responsibility in the current fiscal year and next fiscal year. The Staff discussed the project timeline and financial expenditures.

MOTION: Director Daniels moved to Authorize Board President and General Manager to execute a Grant Agreement Between North Tahoe Public Utility District and the County of Placer for Park Dedication Fees in the amount of \$825,000 for the Field #4 Renovation and Pedestrian Path Project. Director Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call (4-0).

Board members complimented the project and congratulated staff. GM Johnson thanked AM Holt and late PIO Emmerich for their efforts.

Public Employee Compensation – Title: Chief Financial Officer

a. Consider Actions regarding Chief Financial Officer Performance Review

GM Johnson introduced the item under consideration and noted CFO's annual review was completed in closed session today. The Board members complimented and congratulated CFO Van Cleave for her hard work. There was no further discussion by the Board, the board made the following motion.

MOTION: Director Thompson moved to award a one-time bonus of 10% (in the amount of \$16,600) and adjust CFO Van Cleave's base salary by 3.8%, effective the start of the next pay period. Upon second by Director Daniels, the motion carried (4-0).

BOARD COMMENTS – President Coolidge announced LAFCO is looking for nominees and the deadline is March 16. GM Johnson noted if the board members are interested, we can bring this back as a future agenda item to discuss.

LONG RANGE CALENDAR – GM Johnson reminded board of special board meeting of 2/24, 1 p.m. to receive NTEC review, kick-off budgeting process and strategic plan discussion. In response to President Coolidge's inquiry about Snowfest, GM Johnson noted the District will partner with NTBA and participate virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS - There were no requests for public comment. President Coolidge closed the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the Board, the Board went back in to a closed session at 6:09 p.m. There was no reportable action taken during the closed session and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

Jane Davis Public Comment submitted on February 9, 2021
Pippin Mader Public Comment submitted on February 9, 2021


From: [JDinCA](#)
To: [Misty Moga](#)
Subject: Today's board meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 12:23:16 PM

Hi Misty,

I'd like to make a public comment regarding the TTSA report today. I'm attaching an article from the TTSA Tribune, and I'd appreciate it if you could provide that to the board members.

Thank you,
Jane

← **TTSA Tribune**
Seeking The Truth And Sharing The Truth
How a Public Agency is Terrorizing Its Employees and the Truckee River
[SUBSCRIBE](#)


Why Does NTPUD Hate Democracy? 

January 11, 2021

These people.

At last month's NTPUD board meeting we were treated to quite the spectacle. Starting with board member Phil Thompson, commenting on complaints about TTSA:

Phil Thompson: Some of the letters that were written were not signed... Uh, the people that do not sign their name, I don't even need to hear from them because that doesn't tell me anything. People that tell me that they read something in the newspaper, doesn't mean anything to me because we don't know who put that in the newspaper.


Really, Phil? You don't believe what you read in the newspaper? Because fake news? 

Moving on to board member Alex Mourelatos:

Alex Mourelatos: I'm very interested in understanding the compelling nature of the complaints that we've received on a consistent basis without very much, in my opinion, merit... I discount a lot of the rhetoric that we hear for the point still made, they are not substantiated on fact for me.

And critical thinker Sue Daniels:

Sue Daniels: I'd like to thank Alex and, uh, Phil both for their comments, and I would like to say that I agree with their comments.



None of these board members wants to change their representation on the TTSA board because they all maintain that they have no "evidence" that his performance is subpar. They refuse to believe any anonymous communication, they refuse to believe anything they read in the newspaper, they refuse to believe public commenters at their own board meetings.

And...

They also believe that being the NTPUD representative to TTSA is sooooo hard that none of them could ever possibly tackle the position.

But...

They also believe that it is *vitaly important* that NTPUD maintain control over an agency that the majority doesn't understand, adamantly refuses to inform themselves about, and resents having to deal with.

Sarah Coolidge: I do also want to point out that we do have the option of saying we don't want to do this any more. We can do that. And I — I'm going to advocate heartily that we don't. However difficult this is for us, this responsibility, I believe that it's in the best interest of the NTPUD to have a representative and not just hope that whoever gets appointed at TTSA, they get publicly elected [waving hand dismissively], however it all works out, but we're not involved with it, we can't be represented at all then. And something they might make a decision on will directly affect us and affect our ratepayers.

So there is always that back door, but I would advocate that we don't consider taking that. I don't think it's good for our district to consider that.

"The best interest of the NTPUD," never mind what's good for the larger public or the environment.

And there you have it, folks. Condensed and paraphrased for you: "Nobody on this board wants to put in the effort to do the job, understand the job, or even competently oversee the job, but we sure as hell won't let anybody else do it, especially (shudder) somebody elected by and answerable to the public."



Alex Mourelatos

Lane Lewis

North Tahoe PUD

NTPUD

Phil Thompson

Sarah Coolidge

Sue Daniels

Tahoe Truckee Sanitation Agency

TTSA

From: [Pippin Mader](#)
To: [Misty Moga; obgolf@gmail.com](mailto:obgolf@gmail.com)
Subject: Re: Pippin Mader public comment
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:49:00 AM

Misty,
Comments below.
Thanks,
Pippin

North Tahoe PUD board, thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. My name is Pippin Mader. Two months ago I said in public comment that TTSA was spiraling out of control. You asked me what it meant for an agency to be spiraling out of control. I think the article in Moonshine Ink lays it out pretty well. To be clear, I did not participate in the Moonshine article at all. None of my public comments were quoted and I did not speak to the author. And I learned some new things from reading the article.

I ask you, as board members, if this article had been written about North Tahoe would you be concerned? If the North Tahoe GM said no one has a problem with their management style – but almost 80% of people had left in the last 5 years would you be concerned? And even with almost everyone leaving - if it appeared that nearly half of the employees were still disgruntled would that be concerning to you?

If the local water boards made it clear that they were likely to take action because of violations would you be taking action?

Make no mistake, these violations are because of the lack of leadership and high turnover. The institutional knowledge has left, and in many cases employees who left were not inclined to properly train their replacements. There is also a general feeling that the most effective way to stay in managements good graces is to suck up to people in power and do whatever management asks you to do even if you know it isn't right morally or technically. But that is how to get ahead at TTSA, and the results are clear.

I know Lane has said he is an advocate for locals and employees; that is what TTSA needs right now. I ask this board to support Lane to take the definitive action that is needed to re-set TTSA onto a path of success immediately before things spiral even farther out of control.

Thank you

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From: Pippin Mader <pippinmader@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Misty Moga <mmoga@ntpud.org>
Cc: Danielle Hughes <dhughes@ntpud.org>; Sarah Coolidge <SCoolidge@ntpud.org>;
Brad Johnson <bjohnson@ntpud.org>; Alex Mourelatos <amourelatos@ntpud.org>;
obgolf@gmail.com; Susan Daniels <SDaniels@ntpud.org>
Subject: Pippin Mader public comment

Misty,

I would like to provide public comment related to the recent moonshine article:

<https://www.moonshineink.com/tahoe-news/staff-at-ttsa-divided/>

I can provide a written version of my comments after the meeting for your convenience.

Thanks,

Pippin