



# PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
729 E. GOLD DRIVE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of The Pueblo West Metropolitan District met at 729 E Gold Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado, on August 13, 2019; at the hour of 6:00 P.M. President Proal called the Regular Meeting to order.

- A. CALL TO ORDER**, President Doug Proal
- B. INVOCATION**, Ron McPheeters, Amazing Grace Fellowship
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. ROLL CALL**

President Proal called the roll: Director Mike French, Director Judy Leonard, Director Matt Smith, Director Terry Zupan, and President Doug Proal were present.

Also present was Nina Vetter, District Manager; Harley Gifford, General Counsel; Laura Savage, Assistant to the District Manager; Jay-Michael Baker, Communications and Engagement Manager; Roni Kimbrel, Budget and Accounting Manager; Shawn Winters, Interim Public Works Director; Jennifer Pearson, HR Manager; Brian Caserta, Fire Chief; Dave Cosby, Procurement and Risk Management Director; Laurie Cozzetto, Community Development Director; and 10 audience members.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Proal motioned for the approval of the agenda. Director French requested Item H-4 be moved to Old Business. It was moved by Director Leonard and seconded by Director Smith. Motion unanimously passed.

**F. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Brian Caserta introduced Stefan Murphy as the newest Firefighter/Paramedic. Jennifer Pearson introduced Jessica Pankey as the new HR Analyst. Roni Kimbrel introduced Karen Cordova as the Finance Department's new Accountant.

**G. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. PUEBLO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT UPDATE**

Barbara Bernard provided an update on the Arkansas River levee reconstruction project and highlighted key improvements with a photo slideshow. The City of Pueblo is seeking a GOCO grant to improve the kayak course, trail, and landscapes. CDOT will fund a new pedestrian bridge near Fourth Street for levee access.

**H. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

President French motioned for the approval of the Consent Agenda; it was seconded by Director Smith. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

- 1. FINANCE REPORTS**
- 2. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT**
- 3. MINUTES OF MAY 9 AND MAY 14, 2019**

**4. RESOLUTION 2019-065 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT SURPLUS PROPERTY**

After a brief discussion, Director Zupan motioned for the approval of the resolution, seconded by Director Smith. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION REGARDING THE RAILROAD TIE FENCE**

President Proal drew attention to the current condition of the 10 miles of railroad tie fence throughout the District, which has deteriorated since McCulloch installed it beginning in the early 1970s. Mr. Gifford suggested a public comment session to attract community feedback. Staff continues to research information surrounding potential disposal, repair, or replacement of the fence. Director Leonard inquired as to CDOT's requirements, to which Mr. Winters responded that further discussions are required to understand right-of-way requirements along specific portions of Highway 50. The future westbound Highway 50 widening project between Pueblo Boulevard and Purcell Boulevard will require additional fencing to deter driving through the right-of-ways. Mr. Winters explained there is a possibility to merge removal and/or replacement of the fence with the conclusion of the widening project to save funds. A brief discussion was held regarding replacement costs, approximately 150 annual staff hours for maintenance, potential revenue to sell the ties, total annual maintenance costs, and the vast expanse of the fence. President Proal requested to revisit the discussion item at a future meeting.

**2. RESOLUTION 2019-066 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Director Zupan motioned for the approval of the resolution to appoint Doug Proal to the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, seconded by Director Smith. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**3. UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF PUEBLO WEST FIRE PROTECTION SALES TAX**

Chief Caserta noted the District engaged in a professional poll regarding a 1% sales tax for fire protection within the District's boundaries. Results indicate that 32% strongly favored the sales tax and 31% agreed with the sales tax. Only 17% stated they were opposed to the sales tax. Staff feels confident the District has support to move forward with a successful ballot measure in November 2019. Chief Caserta led a discussion on response times, revenue challenges, issues surrounding the 1972 ladder truck replacement parts, need for a capital improvement fund, and the increased demand in calls for service. Mr. Gifford provided draft language and Ms. Vetter briefed the audience on the purpose and process of the poll. Only registered voters and residents likely to vote were approached, and costs were reduced by coordinating polling with other regional local governments. If passed, the sales tax would provide approximately \$1.5M in revenue and would be used exclusively for fire protection and related expenses. Chief Caserta added the funding stream would provide benefits District-wide, although a plan includes construction and operation of a southwest neighborhood station.

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RESOLUTION 2019-067 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 COORDINATED ELECTION AND APPOINTING A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL**

Director Zupan motioned for the approval of the resolution and to appoint Laura Savage as the Designated Election Official, seconded by Director Smith. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**2. RESOLUTION 2019-068 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND PUEBLO COUNTY RELATING TO THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 COORDINATED ELECTION**

Director French motioned for the approval of the resolution, seconded by Director Zupan. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**3. RESOLUTION 2019-069 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2019-35-001 DESIGNATING THE LOCATION FOR POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES IN EXIGENT OR EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §24-6-402**

Director French motioned for the approval of the resolution, seconded by Director Smith. Ayes: French, Leonard, Proal, Smith, Zupan. Nays: none. Abstained: none. Motion carried 5-0.

**K. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Lew Quigley, 1225 Parkridge Dr., recalled Ms. Bernard's report on the Pueblo Conservancy District and commented on Black Hills Energy's proposed transmission line throughout the Wildhorse Creek area. He brought attention to the large amount of drainage through that parcel and the potential issues during severe storms and run off.

**L. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director French commented on the need to mow District-owned properties to reduce the amount of tumbleweeds and to maintain the median along South McCulloch Boulevard.

Director Zupan echoed Director French's comments, then added that a portion of Hahns Peak near the golf course is in need of mowing. Also, Director Zupan expressed her disappointment in the lack of community attendees during two open house citizen engagement opportunities regarding the civic building. Lastly, she commended the Streets and Roads department for improved maintenance on Daily Drive.

**M. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

See agenda for list.

**N. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Proal motioned to move into executive session and cited item as indicated below. The motion was moved by Director Zupan and second by Director French. Motion unanimously passed.

**1. §24-6-402(4)(e) C.R.S., DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS AND DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS; SALE OF DISTRICT OWNED PROPERTY**

**O. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Proal adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2019 at the hour of 6:00 P.M., presently set for the meeting room of the Board of Directors, 729 E. Gold Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado.

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**Secretary**

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Approved 10/08/2019