

**MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
11207 OCOTILLO STREET. MORONGO VALLEY, CA 92256

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

7:00 p.m. Regular Business

**FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Conference via "Zoom"

CALL: 1 (669) 900 6833 MEETING ID: 839 2404 5046 PASSWORD: 240286

<https://morongocsd.specialdistrict.org/>

*The Morongo Valley Community Services District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you require special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please call (760) 363-6454. Materials related to any items on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the CSD Main Office, 11207 Ocotillo Street, Morongo Valley, CA 92256.*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Board Meeting of February 2, 2023, was called to order at 7:11 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. Jennifer Henning, President - Present
2. James Whitney, Vice President - Present
3. Johnny Tolbert, Director - Present
4. Christina Gorke, Director - Present
5. Michael Emory, Director - Present

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Brakebill.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board of Directors now takes time to consider your comments on items which are on the agenda. The President will recognize you at the appropriate time to assist in the orderly and timely conduct of the meeting. When called upon to speak, please state your name and residence. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes or less. If you wish to comment on an agenda item or non-agenda items during Public Comment, fill out the form on our website, or raise your hand. There will also be a one (1) minute Public Comment period before each agenda item.

**Shawna Johnson**

**Meg Foley**

**Johnathon Williams, Fire Captain, Morongo Valley Fire Department**

**Eva Rowles**

**Sharon Scott**

**T. Nemeth**

**Autumn Anderson**

**Lynn Hover Watts**

**Jim Ragland**  
**Brennain Gorter**, Morongo Valley Fire Department  
**Jessica Von der ahe**  
**Vanesa Wruble**  
**Donna Yurman**  
**Buddy Stogner**  
**Sue Lefevre**  
**Christina Sanchez**  
**Matthew Campos**  
**Jeremiah Weldon**  
**Lisa Weldon**  
**Estell Foster**  
**Karen Lowe**  
**Evelyn Hanna**  
**Lisa Rayblack**  
**Rosemarie Geiger**

#### **E. CONTINUED BUSINESS**

##### **1. DIRECT GENERAL MANAGER/FIRE CHIEF TO SIGN LEGAL COUNSEL AGREEMENT**

Director Tolbert expressed his concern for the new Best Best & Krieger (BB&K) contract that was presented to General Manager/ Fire Chief Jim Brakebill. It was discussed that Director Tolbert, Fire Chief/GM Brakebill and President Henning reached out to LAFCO separately regarding bringing on BB&K as legal counsel.

Director Tolbert questioned the state of the CSD office employees revealing Brittney Chavez had sent out a letter stating President Henning and Vice President Whitney's hostile work environment and that she is out on a Workers Comp claim due to stress. Chief Brakebill is also filing a Workers Comp claim due to stress.

Director Gorke had concerns with the contract for BB&K which was presented and voted on in the last regular board meeting.

**MOTION:** Director Gorke, hold on any contracts to be completed until our next regular meeting in February so that it can be more appropriately put on the agenda, with more than one bid and we take public comments at that time.

**SECOND:** Director Tolbert

**ROLL CALL:** Vice President Whitney – Nay, Director Tolbert – Aye, Director Emory – Nay, Director Gorke – Aye, President Henning - Nay

**RESULT:** Motion fails 2/3 vote.

After more discussion by the Board and comments from the Community a motion was made by President Henning.

**MOTION:** President Henning, accept the recommendation as presented on the agenda to re-memorialize the Board’s past action at the January 18, 2023, Regular Board meeting. The motion is as follows: “Direct General Manager to complete the execution of the agreement before adjournment of this Special Board Meeting to retain the legal services of Best Best & Krieger as approved by the Morongo Valley Community Services District Board of Directors on January 18, 2023, by a Motion of Vice-President Whitney, “Bring Best Best & Krieger on with Shauna Amon as lead Counsel, starting immediately, subject to an Advanced Deposit or Trust not to exceed \$2,500 or a retainer in excess of \$500 a month.” Second by Director Emory; motion passed by roll call vote, Aye: 3, Nay: 2.

President Henning called a recess of the Board at 9:41 PM PST.

Meeting reconvened at 10:11 PM PST

President Henning repeated the motion made prior to recess. A motion to accept the recommendation as presented on the agenda to re-memorialize the Board’s past action at the January 18, 2023, regular Board meeting. The motion is as follows: “Direct General Manager to complete the execution of the agreement before adjournment of this Special Board Meeting to retain the legal services of Best Best & Krieger as approved by the Morongo Valley Community Services District Board of Directors on January 18, 2023, by a Motion of Vice-President Whitney, “Bring Best Best & Krieger on with Shauna Amon as lead Counsel, starting immediately, subject to an Advanced Deposit or Trust not to exceed \$2,500 or a retainer in excess of \$500 a month.” Second by Director Emory; motion passed by roll call vote, Aye: 3, Nay: 2.

**SECOND:** Director Emory.

**ROLL CALL:** Vice President Whitney – Aye, Director Tolbert – Nay, Director Gorke – Nay, Director Emory – Aye, President Henning – Aye.

**RESULT:** Motion passes 3/2 vote.

President Henning due to the disruptive nature of the meeting made a motion:

**MOTION:** President Henning, adjourn the Special Board Meeting of the CSD Board of Directors of February 2, 2023 to the next regular meeting on February 15, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Covington Park Multi-purpose Room.

**SECOND:** Director Emory

**RESULT:** Motion passes unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM PST

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. ADOPT POLICY ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR THE REVIEW AND EXECUTION OF CSD BOARD APPROVED AGREEMENTS**

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

**G. CLOSED SESSION**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)  
Title: General Manager/ Fire Chief

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

**H. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS**

There were no Director reports

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

President Henning due to the disruptive nature of the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 10:19 PM PST to the next regular meeting on February 15, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Covington Park Multi-purpose Room.

**Moved:** President Henning

**Second:** Director Emory

**Vote:** Unanimous