

**FLYING L PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – OCTOBER 23, 2020
M I N U T E S**

CALL TO ORDER: The October 23, 2020 special meeting, of the Flying L Public Utility District; is called to order by President Patrick Raab at 6:00 PM. Additional Board Members in attendance are June Baker, Austin Christensen, and Don Bateman. Also, in attendance are Recording Secretary Leslie Rector, and Field & Office Administrator Steve Childers.

A quorum was established.

Guest(s) in Attendance: Donna Witt, Liz Koeninger, John Simmons, Rayla Childers, Ella Sides, Amanda Christensen, Penny Bateman, Glen McComb, Terry & Dorene Peek, Jeff & Ellen Biggs, Brent & Sharon Buchanan, Judd Ryan, Nathon & LeeAnn Laws, Geilinde Schott, Lawrence Tucker, Bob & Janet Williams, Mike Arguelles, and Gary Talk.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Raab informed the guests that Public Comment would be limited to 3 minutes per person with a total of 30 minutes. (Some comments and questions to the Board could not legally be addressed in an open meeting, some expressed support for Steve, some were informational, some were criticisms of the Board and others were conversations amongst the guests. Below are some examples.)

Why has the firing taken place? (The firing has not taken place, that determination is the reason for this meeting and will be discussed in Executive Session.) Why is Alkek Elementary on our sewer system? Steve was complimented for initiating the new Bill Pay System, Website, and increasing the fire hydrant systematic maintenance. It's a team effort to accomplish the workings of the Board it's not just one person. Not sure why this situation came up with Steve's job, what was the criteria that made this issue come up? (Raab: That will have to be brought up in Executive Session and if legally we can let you know we will.) Homeowner said, "Steve is it ok for us knowing?" Steve answered, yeah.

Why haven't the hydrants been serviced before Steve came on board? (That is a false statement. The hydrants have been serviced when needed.) A homeowner complained he didn't know any of the Board Members. (He has never attended a monthly meeting and was invited by the Board to attend.) A comment from another was he has attended a few meetings and still hasn't gotten any answers.

A Board Member commented that they are not discrediting Steve's work, they don't have a personal conflict with him, not aware of any problems between homeowners and Steve, and the issue is not between the Water and Sewer Operator and Steve.

Why is there a stipulation that the people on the Board cannot talk on Social Media when we need to know what is being done in the community? (There are guidelines and rules for the Board and it's employees in regards for posting information and opinions on Social Media.) A long-term homeowner said he was previously on the PUD Board many years ago when there were only about 50 houses. At that time most of the work was done by the Board Members due to financial reasons. The PUD is controlled by the State, many rules and regulations. The reason Alkek was put on our sewer system is because the plant needed more sewage to help the plant run properly. Eventually the sewer plant had to be replaced by taking out a loan, the wells needed upgrading, the PUD continues to grow with the community. He asked for understanding of what is going on and to be informed. A question was asked about the timing of this meeting, was it that urgent? (A Board Member commented, something came up and it had to be discussed.)

A comment was made stating she knows there are a lot of rules and restrictions in the operating of Boards. You just can't go on Social Media and disrespect the entire Board. This behavior erodes the trust and confidence you have in your PUD. They are doing the best they can, and yes they may make mistakes, they are not perfect. The previous Administrator had that position for many years and was run differently than what Steve is doing. This community has enjoyed consistent water service through the years. This Board may have been resistant in the beginning with the changes that were proposed but they are working with Steve and a lot of great things are being

accomplished. When people go on Social Media and complain the Board cannot defend themselves in that arena because of their restrictions. Without hearing both sides, assumptions are made.

A homeowner reminds the attendees that the PUD is not like a POA. It is a different business all together. The PUD is a government agency and the PUD and Board Members are regulated by the State. This Board runs a business just like the Electric Company.

Steve Childers: He thanked everyone for coming. It's fine to have a difference of opinion. He introduced two of the three candidates that he supports. This Board consists of some fine wonderful people. When he came to the Board he was hoping to get a lot accomplished and to be a part of the group. He finds it personally sad that it has come to this. Don came to my door and said the Board had decided to terminate my employment. I followed the Social Media Policy to the letter up until I was told my employment was being terminated, even though I was still technically employed, I violated that policy. I was not told why my employment was being terminated so I assumed it was because of our Water Operator. My opinion of the Water Operator is that he is very qualified and has great experience, and he could be a wonderful asset to our community. The problem is with our Board, they have never given Jerry the parameters to work within, or expectations of what is expected or held accountable. They have rewarded his bad behavior. I informed the Board about the issues I was having with Jerry and asked for help. The only response I got was Don coming to my home saying the Board has decided to terminate me. This was a big mistake by the Board because it has given me cause. If this Board wishes to follow this path, it's going to cost the community a lot of money and a lot of problems. I am calling for the resignation of Patrick Raab, Don Bateman, and June Baker. If you think I'm blowing smoke, I encourage you to google Steve Childers vs King Ranch. I understand the process and I've been there before. We need to be setting up business practices for the PUD.

Former Administrator said there are companies that buy water districts. With PUD not having any debt, this would be a perfect time to sell PUD and get all the residents out of the water business, put this on someone else and every body could get along. Some one else could operate your water. Adults should be able to discuss issues one-to-one and resolve any problems that arise. The way this was handled is causing hard feelings. She said why can't Steve sit down with the Board but no he has to go out and solicit help from the whole community. We're either fighting over POA or PUD. The Board has a job to do and they're trying their best to do their job. They cannot do their job with everyone telling them how to do it.

President Patrick Raab called for the Executive Session at 6:38 PM

Executive Session: The special meeting was adjourned and they entered into Executive Session at 7:07 PM to discuss the possible termination of Steve Childers.

The Special Meeting was reconvened at 7:14 PM. The board stated that Steve Childers violated the District's Code of Ethics by releasing customer information that was not authorized by the Board. Mr. Childers is given a 60-day probation period and the Board will revisit his employment status after that time frame.

Adjourn: Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Presented for review and approval,
Leslie L. Rector, Recording Secretary
for the Flying L Public Utility District