

OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #925  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

<https://www.ovpsd.org/board-agenda-february-2024>

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance.**

Director Hudson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Directors Present:** Dale Cox\*, Bill Hudson, Fred Ilfeld, and Katrina Smolen.

\*Director joined via noticed teleconference.

**Directors Absent:** Katy Hover-Smoot\*\*

\*\*Director joined via un-noticed teleconference.

**Staff Present:** Jessica Asher, Program Manager & Board Secretary; Gary Bell, Legal Counsel; Brandon Burks, Operations Manager; Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Sam Donahue, Operations Superintendent; Mike Geary, General Manager; Dave Hunt, District Engineer and Interim General Manager; Alexa Kinsinger, Assistant Engineer; Danielle Mueller, Finance & Administration Manager; and the OVFD Professional Firefighters (Chris DeDeo, Keith Erickson, Jeff Geigle, Kurt Gooding, Scott Halterman, John Rogers, Josh Rytter, Travis Smith, and Hans Walde)

**Others Present:** Jean Lange, Allison Silverstein, Dwight Smith, and David Stepner.

Captain DeDeo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Community Informational Items.**

**B-1** Olympic Valley Watershed Alliance (OVWA) – None.

**B-2** Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) – None.

**B-3** Olympic Valley Design Review Committee (OVDRC) – None.

**B-4** Olympic Valley Municipal Advisory Council (OVMAC) – Mr. Stepner shared that Placer County has received construction bids for replacement of the field surface and the playground structure at the Olympic Valley Park. He also provided information about the status of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certification for the SNOW Museum.

**B-5** Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company (OVMWC) – Mr. Stepner provided an update on the Company's SCADA replacement project, recent operational changes, and the status of the loans which funded recent water system improvement projects.

**B-6** Firewise Community – Mr. Stepner and Chief Chisholm shared information on the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County which hired Jason Hajduk-Dorworth as the Eastern Firewise and Resiliency Coordinator. They are optimistic that he will be a good resource for the Firewise Communities throughout the region (including in Placer and El Dorado Counties).

**B-7** Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) – Ms. Mueller shared that there was a joint meeting with the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) committees and summarized some of the larger projects requesting funding from the CAP.

**B-8** Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) – Director Cox reviewed the T-TSA Board Meeting summary highlighting the ongoing transition from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite, and new technology for nutrient removal being considered by the agency.

### **C. Public Comment/Presentation.**

Mr. Stepner shared information about the success of the Mountaineer program. There was a brief discussion about the employee shuttle program from Reno which is funded by commercial entities and the Truckee/North Tahoe Transportation Management Association.

Kurt Gooding, OVFD Engineer-Paramedic, provided public comment on behalf of the OVFD Professional Firefighters regarding their unanimous opinion that a North Tahoe Fire Protection District/OVFD consolidation is the best way for the Department to serve the community and provided their reasoning. The letter that Mr. Gooding read was provided to the Board and is available to the public, upon request.

The Board asked that staff make this issue a top priority, understanding that we do not want to rush any decisions. They would like a financial analysis to be presented first, which will inform decisions on next steps. The Board requested that the Regular March Board meeting include (1) the first draft of relevant financial scenarios; (2) that General Counsel provide information regarding the process for consolidation and briefly present other revenue options discussed in the financial analysis (such a parcel tax or benefit assessment); and (3) Chief Chisholm provide qualitative components of the analysis such as levels of service changes. If the items cannot be reported on directly, they requested staff convey a timeline on how and when the information may be presented, and what consultants may be needed. The Board thanked the Professional Firefighters for their presence and comment.

### **D. Financial Consent Agenda Items.**

Director Hover-Smoot and Smolen convened with staff on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from approximately 7:45 – 8:10 A.M. to review items D-1 through D-11, F-2, F-3, and other finance-related items on the agenda. Ms. Mueller provided a summary of the meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the progress payment to Shields Consulting Engineering for the 305 Olympic Valley Rd. HVAC Improvement Project. Mr. Hunt explained that Shields Consulting Engineering provided a third-party review of the design prepared by SEED, Inc. which highlighted design and contracting options for the District to move the project forward.

Public Comment –

Ms. Lange asked if the District's electricity bill from Liberty Utility has increased significantly. Ms. Mueller responded that the rates have increased noticeably. Mr. Stepner asked if the District's investments were diversified, Ms. Mueller responded that they are.

Director Smolen made a motion to approve the financial consent agenda, which was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

### **E. Approve Minutes.**

#### **E-1 Minutes for the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ms. Asher noted that Ms. Mueller requested a revision to the minutes for item B-7 clarifying that there were 38 applications to the four funding agencies (CAP, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), and TBID Zone 1); not 38 applications for CAP Funding.

Public Comment – None.

Director Smolen made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as amended, which was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

**F. Old and New Business.**

**F-1 Climate Change Modeling for the Sufficiency of Supply Assessment.**

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Directors Smolen and Hudson announced a conflict of interest due to employment with Palisades Tahoe and left the room.

*The Board took a break from 9:45-9:55.*

Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report and Mr. Smith of UES, formerly McGinley and Associates, provided a presentation which was included in the Board Exhibit. The modeling demonstrated that under the 2070 Central Tendency Climate scenario, four of the simulated municipal wells have model water levels below 65% aquifer saturated thickness during the critical dry year conditions. The more extreme climate conditions (drier with extreme warming and wetter with moderate warming) produced similar results. The aquifer is simulated to substantially refill (up to at least 84%) in all years. In future climate scenarios the total precipitation remains static compared with current conditions, but will likely fall as rain rather than snow, resulting in a peak runoff and cessation of stream flow earlier in the water year. Mr. Hunt reminded the group that demands on the aquifer have historically been much higher than the present condition due to implementation of water meters, conversion to low flow fixtures, rate structure changes, and infrastructure improvements. The presentation concluded with stating the importance of the proposed Water Management Action Plan for water supply management and well functionality, since peak runoff will shift earlier in time and the seasonal dry period for pumping from storage will become longer. Staff reinforced that the climate change model will be used as another tool that allows the District to proactively manage the Olympic Valley aquifer.

Staff clarified that in accordance with the mitigation measures included in the EIR and protections that will be included in the development agreement, there will be project level studies and approvals to ensure adequate water supply at the time development; these studies will complement the capacity and reliability studies performed by the District as needed, on average every five years. Additionally, the wells that are constructed as part of the Palisades Tahoe Village Development will be dedicated to the District allowing the District staff to properly manage the aquifer. Lastly, if there is a water shortage, the District can manage water use among the District's customers through the conservation measures included in the water code.

The Board thanked Mr. Smith for the work and highlighted the importance of collaborative management among the aquifer water pumpers moving forward.

Public Comment –

The public asked technical questions related to the modeling throughout the presentation, which Mr. Smith and staff responded to. Discussion resulting from public comments are included in the summary above.

*This item was taken out of order.*

**F-6 First Round Interviews for the General Manager Position.**

Mr. Geary reviewed the interview process with the Board.

The Board remained in open session; however, recording was stopped for the interview process to protect the confidentiality of the applicants and the District's interview process/questioning. The Board considered two (2) applicants who expressed interest in serving as the District's General Manager.

Public Comment – None.

**F-2 Budget Preparation Schedule.**

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Ms. Mueller reviewed the staff report highlighting the changes to the budget preparation schedule compared with previous years. The ordinance to adopt next year's rates and charges will be considered one-month earlier than in the past allowing for a 30-day period prior to effective date. Accordingly, the Proposition 218 notice will be brought to the Board for approval in March.

Public Comment – None.

**F-3 CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability – Additional Payment.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved an additional payment towards the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) for the CalPERS Miscellaneous Pension Plan in the amount of \$200,000.

Ms. Muller reviewed the staff report. The District targets a 90% funding level for the CAL PERS UAL. According to the most recent actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2022, the plan is 86.7% funded. As such, during the most recent budget cycle, the Board approved an additional \$200,000 payment to the UAL for the Miscellaneous Group.

Public Comment – None.

Director Ilfeld made a motion to approve an additional payment towards the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) for the CalPERS Miscellaneous Pension Plan in the amount of \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Director Cox. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Absent

**F-4 Approve 2023-2024 Employee Salary Schedules Revision.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2024-02 approving the FY 2023-2024 Employee Salary Schedules Revision.

Mr. Hunt reviewed the resolution which is required due to the approval of the Interim General Manager position, the resolution also provides ministerial changes to the Fire Department salary schedule as there is no longer an *Incoming* Fire Chief.

Public Comment – None.

Director Cox made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02 approving the FY 2023-2024 Employee Salary Schedules Revision, which was seconded by Director Hudson. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Absent

**F-5 California Special Districts Association (CSDA) – Board of Directors Nominations Seat A**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and did not nominate a candidate.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None.

**G. Management Status Reports.**

**G-1 Fire Department Report**

Chief Chisholm reviewed the report highlighting a recent meeting with Caltrans, the World Cup event at Palisades Tahoe, the surplus item sale, the Chevrolet Tahoe vehicle delivery, and the Department’s efforts to improve communications, during normal operations and during an incident.

**G-2 Water & Sewer Operations Report**

Mr. Burks reviewed the report which included information about water system maintenance and the bacteriological tests over the past few months. There was a brief discussion about the increasing difficulty to maintain a non-chlorinated water system.

**G-3 Engineering Report**

Mr. Hunt reviewed the report highlighting the status of current projects. The bid for the District/Mutual Water Company Intertie Project was noticed on February 27th and staff is hopeful to award the construction contract in March. The OVMWC Board approved the cost share proposal, approved by the District’s Board in January. The Granite Chief “A-Line” Sewer has had some momentum, and the Water and Sewer Committee will be kept informed on the project with a committee meeting likely in March.

**G-4 Administration & Office Report**

Ms. Asher reviewed the report.

## **G-5 General Manager Report**

None.

## **G-6 Legal Report (verbal)**

None.

## **G-7 Directors' Comments (verbal)**

The Board requested an agenda item to change committee assignments with Director Hudson and Director Hover-Smoot switching places on the personnel and finance committees.

Director Ilfeld made a motion, seconded by Director Smolen to adjourn to closed session at 2:50 P.M. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

## **H. Closed Session.**

### **H- 1 Closed Session – Public Employment.**

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957 et al regarding the public employment of the General Manager. Only the item on the agenda was discussed, no action was taken.

### **H- 2 Closed Session – Public Employee Performance Evaluation.**

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957 et al regarding performance evaluation of the General Manager. Only the item on the agenda was discussed, no action was taken.

### **H-3 Closed Session – District Labor Negotiations.**

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 et al regarding District labor negotiations. Only the item on the agenda was discussed, no action was taken.

Director Ilfeld made a motion, seconded by Director Cox to adjourn to open session at 3:18 P.M. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

## **I. Possible Action from Closed Session.**

### **I-1 Fire Department MOU – Negotiator Consultant**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, approved the proposal from Patrick Clark Consulting to act as Lead Negotiator for the MOU between the District and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Engineers, Local 39 representing the Fire Department for a not to exceed amount of \$20,000, and approved a budget amendment in the same amount.

Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None.

Director Cox made a motion to approve the proposal from Patrick Clark Consulting to act as Lead Negotiator for the MOU between the District and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Engineers, Local 39 representing the Fire Department for a not to exceed amount \$20,000, and to approve a budget amendment in the same amount. The motion was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

**J. Adjourn.**

Director Ilfeld made a motion, seconded by Director Cox to adjourn at 3:21 P.M. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Ilfeld – Yes | Smolen – Yes

By, J. Asher

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