

**Regular Meeting Minutes of the HCSD Board of Directors**

**October 14, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

**NOTE MEETING LOCATION:**

**Due to Covid-19 Stay at Home Order, Meeting Will Be Held Via  
Teleconferencing Per March 17 Executive Order  
To Attend Call 1-866-906-0123, Enter Code 5824809# when prompted  
Hornbrook, CA 96044**

**CORRECTED AND APPROVED MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Robert Puckett, Michele Hanson, Melissa Tulleo and Elaine Mellon.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm. Robert Puckett, Elaine Mellon, and Michele Hanson present. Melissa Tulleo absent. Quorum established.
2. **Public Comment:** Due to the circumstances, the Chair will ask each member of the public if they wish to make a comment at this time to avoid confusion and retain order and will be subject to 3 min. each. Then again after each agenda item.  
Pat Miller asked who was going to get a notice about the rate increase.
3. **Approve and Authorize Signatures:** on Warrant Authorization Form for District expenses received through October 14, 2020, "A list of the bills to be paid will be read to the Board and public at the meeting. Including payroll and Quarterly taxes.  
Therese Fericano asked how many hours does Clint Dingman work a month.  
Motion was made by Hanson to pay all bills presented including the property taxes, Dingmans payroll and EDD State and Federal Quarterly taxes. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mellon with 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.
4. **Update on Board Vacancy:** Puckett explained that the Board of Supervisors will be appointing a new Board member to the District because the two applicants who did apply for the position applied after the deadline the County gave the District to appoint for themselves. Thus the County Supervisors anticipate making the appointment around the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 at their next meeting.
5. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Minutes:** Meeting minutes of July 8, Aug. 12, Aug. 25, Sept. 9, Sept. 12, and Sept. 26 of 2020.  
Mellon had a correction on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. Number 8 on agenda, (Adjournment), listed the next regular board meeting will be held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. This should have been for the 14<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 2020. Hanson made a motion to accept all the minutes as presented with the correction to the Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mellon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion with 3 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent. Motion carried.
6. **Update Discussion and Possible Action:** "Hornbrook CSD Rate Study Report", and possible action on Resolution 2020-25. Presentation by Rodney Page from RCAC. If any of the board members or public have specific questions about the rate study documents or the prop-218, please put them in writing and email to Rodney Page at RPage@rcac.org.



Rodney Page was not in attendants to address the rate study. Puckett initiated discussion on the rate study. There was no video presentation, only the slide presentation on the hornbrook website.

Puckett saw a few flaws in the rate study made by RCAC. Puckett pointed out the rate amounts for the larger meters were outrageous. Starting with base rate of \$211.13 per month for 1 in, \$422.26 for 1.5 in, \$675.62 for 2 in meters. The 5/8 meter started out at \$84.45 per month. Each year after that the base rate will increase and at the end of 2025. Puckett checked other special districts and these rates that RCAC are suggesting were way higher than other districts. None even came close to these rates. Puckett suggested we the Board, need to go over it again and more say in the rate study. Puckett's idea would be more like \$70, \$120.00, and \$150.00 and \$250.00 per meter size with 5000 gal. per base rate. And anything over the 5000 gals would be charged per 1000 gal.

Therese Faricano asked if we could do another rate study. Puckett explained that we probably could if we had the funds to do so. But at this time we do not.

Rodney Page and Melissa Tulleo at 5:45 called in and joined the meeting. All board members at this time are in attendants.

Mr. Page informed the board that the rates were done by state requirements. Therese once again asked a question. Where do you get the numbers you use to come up with the rates? Rodney answered, from districts records. Therese asked if there was any economic consideration because we are a depressed community and have very limited resources. Rodney and Puckett argued back and forth for a while on what would happen if the community voted no on the rate increase. Rodney said at that point the Board would have to come up with a different rate increase and to make sure it followed the guide lines in prop. 218 to a tee. At this point Rodney told us that we do have flexibility in the rates and he would have to ask RCAC and the State for a new time line to complete a revised rate study and he would get back to the board on what that might be if they agree. Therese at that time told him that the medium income for the district was between \$15000 and \$18000 a year. Would that have any effect on the rates? Rodney said absolutely. He is willing to see if the rates could be brought down. Rodney said he would contact his sources and see if the Mean Household Income (MHI) could be reevaluated specifically for the Hornbrook residents who use the water to bring the rates down. Hanson interjected that Therese was correct in the average income of the community because of social security and disability income for most of the residents. And that is was not fair for those in the community who do not have access to a computer or internet not to be able to see the presentation in person to know exactly what was going on. And that it felt like we were trying to push this through to fast without public input. Rodney agreed and understood what Hanson was trying to say. Rodney at this point was going to have to leave the meeting and said he assumed that the board was not going to vote on Resolution 2020-25 to proceed with the rate study at this time. At that point Rodney said his goodbyes and left the meeting. Hanson then moved to postpone and take no action on Resolution 2020-25 until further notice, Tulleo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

**7. Board Member Comments and Questions:** At this time, members of the Board may ask questions of the staff, request reports be made at a later date, or ask to place an item on a future agenda on any subject within the Board's jurisdiction. Directors may take this opportunity to make comments on any topic not listed on the agenda but may not be acted upon.

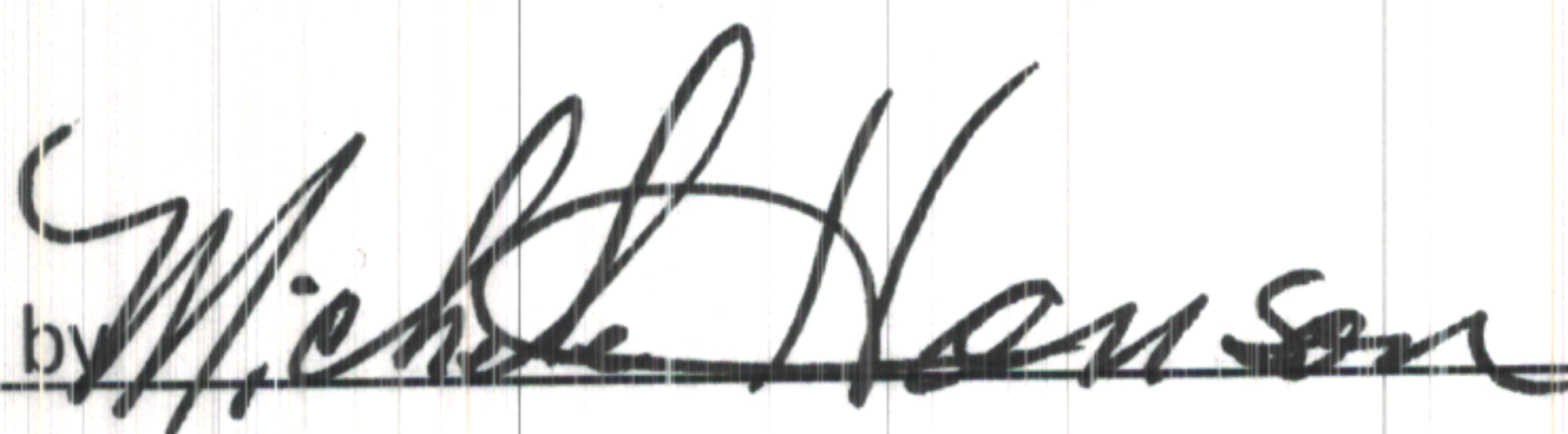
Mellon asked about a grant for backup power generators for the wells during the power outages if that would be an option. Puckett agreed that it would be a good idea. Mellon said she would look into it. She also wanted to know about a newsletter and what we as the board thought. The board agreed it would be a good idea. It will be added to the agenda for consideration in the future along with the backup generators.



**8. ADJOURNMENT:** Next meeting will be on Nov. 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm. via teleconference. Puckett made a motion to adjourn, Tullado 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 4 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Meeting agendas and written materials supporting agenda items, if produced, can be received by the public for free in advance of the meeting by any of the following options: A paper copy mailed pursuant to a written request and payment of associated mailing fees. An electronic copy received by email. Note -- if you would like electronic copies please email [hornbrookcsd@gmail.com](mailto:hornbrookcsd@gmail.com) prior to the Board meeting. A limited number of copies of agenda materials will also be available at the meeting. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance: If you require special assistance to participate in Board Meetings, please contact any HCSD Board Member. Advance notification will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to insure accessibility

Submitted by

 Board Secretary