

**Regular Meeting Minutes of the HCSD Board of Directors  
September 9, 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**

**MINUTES**

**For Zoom Meeting, Please go to: <https://hornbrookcsd.specialdistrict.org> – Then click on the  
Launch Meeting Link to Access the VIDEO PRESENTATION**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:09 pm. With Robert Puckett, Melissa Tulleo, Michele Hanson present. Elaine Mellon 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.

Larry Grieb commented that the water is awful and the district needs to get a new chlorinator. It is Puckett's responsibility to see that such things are being taken care of.

**3. Approve and Authorize Signatures:** on Warrant Authorization Form for District expenses received through Sept. 9, 2020, "A list of the bills to be paid will be read to the Board and public at the meeting.

Puckett read to the public and Board, the bills presented to the Board including Dingmans payroll for the month of August.

Hanson made a motion to approve bills presented to the Board including payroll for Dingman and authorize signatures on Warrant Authorization form. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tulleo with, 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 1 Absent. Motion carried.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action:** Unconditional Commitment to cease violation, case # 14-0797

Puckett explained this is a response to a cross-complaint filed alleging Brown Act violations by members of the Board in June of 2014 and July of 2014. The District is willing to avoid more unnecessary litigation without admitting violations even occurred by issuing an unconditional commitment to cease and desist from repeating alleged Brown Act violations in the future.

Hanson made a motion to Issue an unconditional commitment to cease, desist and not repeat these alleged allegations and to request dismissal of the action with prejudice. Tulleo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, with 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 1 absent. Motion carried.

**5. Update:** Information on New Web Site and Audit Report.

Julie Keith reported that the audit report was completed for 2018, 2019, and 2020, and everything passed but, the district needed to switch from cash basis to an accrual instead. Which is in the process of being done now.

Hanson reported the website is back up and running. We are still in the process of uploading doc's to the site, but should be complete very soon. Rodney Page from RCAC is assisting Elaine Mellon to make sure everything is current and up to date. Mellon was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but will have an update on the progress she is making at our next regular meeting.

**6. Update:** "Hornbrook CSD Rate Study Report". Presentation by Rodney Page from RCAC.

Rodney presented a slide show via zoom for the public who had computers to watch, and provided teleconference to listen to the presentation.

RCAC is a state funded organization that helps Districts water systems become solvent and remain solvent. The district must have a rate study for obtaining grant money and /or loans, and RCAC provides this. The rate study shows funders that the district is capable of funding its operation and is mandatory for this funding. The rate study is quite lengthy and time consuming.

The presentation goes into detail on what and why the rates will increase over a 5 year period and will have a rate study don every 5 year after that to make sure the district stays solvent. The state pays for these studies.

The website will have the presentation on it for those who want to see it and try to understand what it entails.

Anyone with a computer or cell phone will be able to log on and see it. Please access this presentation by going to [hiorbrookcsd.specialdistrict.org](http://hiorbrookcsd.specialdistrict.org)- click on the link that says rate study. It will bring up the presentation. View presentation and write down any questions they might have and at the next meeting these questions and any concerns will be addressed at that time.

Question from Larry Grieb: Who pays for these studies? Once again Rod explained the state pays for all of them.

Then Larry wanted to know where state got their funding to pay for this. If the state pays for it is it coming out of tax dollars? Rod told Larry that he was not at liberty to give out that information. Larry also asked why we would be paying interest rates on the funds we will be getting. Rod explained that the grants are not loans and have no interest, but like any loan there would be interest rates.

Rod explains that any water district must follow Prop. 218 California laws which defines the rates according to the size of the pipe that is used. The larger the pipe the higher the rate. This dictates the base rate for users. Then the user/customer is charged for the water usage. The slide show presentation explains Prop. 218 in detail.

**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. Puckett stated we are still unable to use the school for our meetings, thus the meetings will be held by teleconference till further notice. Also Board training will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September via the website posted on the agenda. There will be no teleconferencing for this meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** Next regular meeting will be held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 via teleconference at 5:00 pm. Special meeting to be held on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via website. Puckett made motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tulleo, with 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 1 Absent. Motion carried. Adjournment at 6:31 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