

**MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
11207 Ocotillo Street  
Morongo Valley, CA 92256**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Phone Conference via "Zoom"

**Call:** 1 (669) 900-6833    **Meeting ID:** 5069667982    **Password:** 629875

In an effort to keep all public input/questions organized and to ensure that each person's input/question is heard, please use this Google form to ask a question or provide input. [Gov. Code Section 54954.2(a)(2)] for Public Comments on Agenda Items and Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items use the following link.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3NSqx96p7XhFGvmiGTh6m5kCAGuGOSMQWWzrTquOQpjAgg/viewform?ts=5ebc5e59>

The questions and comments will be read aloud during the September 16, 2020 MVCSD Zoom board meeting. Public input/questions will be conducted through this written Google Form method in alignment with the Order of the Health Officer of the County of San Bernardino for the Control of COVID-19 dated April 23, 2020 and still in effect. More information on how to join a Zoom Meeting or access Public Comments is on our website.

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

6:00 p.m. Regular Business

**September 16, 2020**

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.

Government Code Section 54954.2 (a)(3) [Brown Act] – States that, "No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda".

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Swarat called the Regular Board Meeting of September 16, 2020 to order at 6:05 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. Gayl Swarat, President **X**
2. Kristina Brook, VicePresident **X**
3. Matthew Campos, Director **X**
4. Laurie Klimowicz, Director **X**
5. Johnny Tolbert, Director **X**

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Swarat.

#### D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board generally considers items in the order listed on the agenda. However, items may be considered in any order as established by the direction of the Board. Under certain circumstances, new agenda items may be added by a two-thirds vote of the Board. [Gov. Code Sec. 54954.2(b)(2)]

1. Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 16, 2020

**There were no changes for the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 16, 2020.**

**MOTION:** Director Brook motioned to approve the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 16, 2020 with no changes.

**SECOND:** Director Tolbert Seconds.

**RESULT:** Motion passes with a 5-0 Vote.

#### E. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Sheriff's Report – San Bernardino County Sheriff's Representative

**The Sheriff was not in attendance.**

2. Director of Operation's Report – Gerald Yearsley

**President Swarat stated that the Morongo Valley Fire Department received a Certificate of Recognition from the State Senate for the work that was done on the Apple Fire. Director of Operations Yearsley stated that he did spend 14 days going back and forth for ICP for the Apple Fire. He also talked about the Lake Fire and Kern County Fire. Stating that BE 461 was out at the Lake Fire for 10 days and WT 461 was in Kern County for 5 days.**

**MOTION:** Director Klimowicz motioned to approve the Director of Operations report.

**SECOND:** Director Brook Seconds.

**RESULT:** Motion to pass with a 5-0 Vote.

3. Risk Management and Public Relations Ad Hoc Committee Report – Directors Klimowicz and Brook

**Director Klimowicz spoke about a group of moms who would like to gather at Covington Park to help each other with school and babysitting. It was stated that Shanna Overcast would reach out to Administrative Assistant Brittany to give her contact information that she could post to the District's website that other parents could use to reach out to her.**

4. Director of Operations Ad Hoc Committee – President Swarat and Director Brook

**Director Brook stated that during the July meeting the Board of Directors approved the Director of operations job description and employment agreement. This Committee has fulfilled its duties and is no longer needed.**

5. Fire Apparatus Driving Parameters Ad Hoc Committee - Directors Brook and Tolbert

**There was nothing to report at this time.**

6. Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department Funding Ad Hoc Committee – President Swarat and Director Campos

**President Swarat stated they were waiting for the approval of the final Budget.**

#### F. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items on the consent calendar are routine matters or formal documents covering previous District Board instruction. Items may be acted on by one motion of the Board unless a Board Member requests a separate discussion and/or action on an item.

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2020

2. Cash/Checks Disbursements & Credit Card Purchases for August

**There were no changes made to the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2020.**

**MOTION:** Director Brook motioned to approve the Consent Calendar with no changes.

**SECOND:** Director Tolbert Seconds.

**RESULT:** Motion to pass with a 5-0 Vote.

## G. CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 1. Duty Officer Compensation

Director Brook spoke about the AB5 Law stating that for the Morongo Valley CSD and Fire Department to be in compliance with FLSA we cannot pay more than 20% of a fulltime employee pay as a stipend, furthermore, he/she cannot be someone who has already been an employee of the Morongo Valley CSD.

### 2. Open Public Hearing on 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year Budget

The Board of Directors took the time for the following community members to make their statements or ask questions.

- Donna Yerman; Mrs. Yerman stated that she represented around 85 people who all felt similarly to the way she did. She read a lengthy letter she had written to the Board of Directors. In her letter she mentioned that she stood behind Director of Operations Yearsley maintaining the dual position for Fire Chief and General Manager. Stating that she believes he has saved the District thousands of dollars as well as done an amazing job in the position.
- Estelle Foster; Mrs. Foster stated that she supports the fire staff, Chief Yearsley, Chief Springer and Brittany. She thanks the Board of Directors for what they do. She goes on to say that Home Depot will be donating a larger commercial freezer to the Fire Department.
- Darin Sander (online question); Why does the preliminary budget not list director of operation and the salaries of that position also why does it not make it clear that this is being paid to the same person as the fire chief also why does it not say that he is not being compensated for medical when he has 100% compensation? President Swarat stated that the granting agencies want to see what the Fire Chief makes not the General Manager. She states that most of the Board has agreed on this.
- Don Krouse (online comment); Why is it that a couple of board member continue to be part of the problem instead of a team. You know who you are and I do not support you and your activities. I want to thank Chief Yearsley and all the Firefighters who do everything to protect us.
- Director Tolbert; He states at the last meeting Director Tolbert stated that he had another budget option for the separate positions. He explained how the Morongo Valley CSD could have a Fire Chief and a part time General Manger within reason. He states that he had given the budget to Chief Yearsley and President Swarat stated that he could not put it on the website for the community to view because it was not approved by the Board of Directors. President Swarat states that during her entire time on the Board the Morongo Valley CSD has never had a part time General Manager. Director Tolbert explains that it is possible, if a competent person is hired. He states that as it is right now district staff is already doing most of the General Managers and Secretary of the Boards work.
- Director Campos; He states that he supports the separation of the two position and after looking at the numbers that Director Tolbert has provided, the Morongo Valley CSD would still be under Budget. He believes that especially in situations like the Apple Fire it would be in the best interest of the community to separate the positions.

### 3. Adopt the 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year Budget for the Morongo Valley CSD and Fire Department

President Swarat asked if there was a motion to approve the 2020 – 2021 Preliminary Budget.

**MOTION:** Director Klimowicz motioned to approve the 2020 – 2021 Preliminary Budget as it was presented.

**SECOND:** President Swarat Seconds.

**ROLE CALL:** President Swarat Aye, Director Brook Aye, Director Campos Director Nay, Klimowicz Aye, Director Tolbert Nay.

**RESULT:** Motion to pass with a 3-2 Vote.

## H. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Halloween Trunk or Treat

President Swarat asked if anyone had any concerns about allowing the trunk or treat this year. Director of Operations stated that the Morongo Valley CSD should look into having a drive thru candy

pick up to comply with COVID regulations. It was stated that Director Brook would contact the County Health Department to find out what would be advisable.

## 2. 2020 Election Candidates Forum

- Christina Gorke; She states that she has lived in Morongo since 2015. Since then she has fallen in love with the area. She wants to get involved with the community so that she has a great place to live. She really would like to take advantage of the community buildings for fundraiser to help improve not only the kids play area but also the Fire Department.
- Sue Lefevre; She states that she is running because she has seen things that are disturbing to her. She has also always been active anywhere she has lived. When she first started attending the Board Meetings, she was very dismayed with how things ran. She has also wondered why there is such a disconnect between the Board of Directors and the community. She would like to support the community better. She would like to help with community engagement. She wants to be the voice of the community. She believes that there should be much more representation from young families.
- Director Tolbert; He states that he has lived in the area for the last 14 years, 9 of those years he has served on the Board of Directors. He firmly stands for keeping our Fire Department local. He states that his goal is to make sure that the people of the District remain heard. He feels that at times the community is not heard and they need to be.

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### *END OF ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS*

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## I. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. President Swarat; she would like to thank Director Campos for reminding everyone about Census. The Morongo Valley CSD really could use the money. She also states that she agrees with Director Brook. She wishes everyone who is running in the upcoming election good luck.
2. Vice President Brook; she's very impressed with all the commendations that have come in. She really would like to thank the U.S. Forest service. She thanks the Fire Staff, Chief Yearsley and admin. She states that when they do the budget review she would like to put on the agenda or just bring to Chief Yearsley's attention to consider a raise and more hours for excellent administrative staff Brittany Chavez. She has done such an incredible job, she's so professional and I really think it would be really great to give her a raise and more hours. She would also like to thank Estelle and Dr. Yerman. She would also like to wish all the candidates that are running good luck, she wishes you the best.
3. Director Klimowicz; she hopes the people of Morongo Valley realize that we do not have a lot of money. If we lose our Fire Department, we lose our medical help. We can only afford what we have the money for.
4. Director Tolbert; he would like to thank the men and women of the Fire Department. He gives a special thanks to Chief Springer Firefighter Vasquez and Paramedic Morgan for taking care of his daughter when she was involved in a bad car accident. She's fine, sore but she's okay. He thanks all the men and women of the Fire Department and Brittany Chavez; I know she's been working extremely hard to get things done and keep everything moving. Thanks to the Board, we've got to keep working together we'll get through this.
5. Director Campos; he would like to thank the men and women of the Fire Department for working so hard. He thanks Brittany for the hard work that she does and keeping everything together. I'm so grateful for our team. He would like to remind everyone to participate in Census. It will help Morongo Valley more than anyone knows. He wishes all the candidate's good luck in the upcoming election.

## MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

### J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next Regular Board Meeting: October 21, 2020

### K. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Board Meeting of September 16, 2020 was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Moved Director Campos

Second Director Tolbert

**Vote 5/0**