

MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
11207 OCOTILLO STREET. MORONGO VALLEY, CA 92256

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

2:00 p.m. Regular Business

February 23, 2023

Conference Via Zoom

Call: 1 (669) 900 6833 **Meeting ID:** 811 8797 9926 **Passcode:**189828

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

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A. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Board Meeting of February 23, 2023, was called to order at 2:07 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

1. Jennifer Henning, President - Present
2. James Whitney, Vice President - Present
3. Johnny Tolbert, Director – Present (under protest)
4. Christina Gorke, Director - Present
5. Michael Emory, Director – Present (excused from meeting at 3 PM)

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lead by President Henning.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 23-02 AB 361 RECERTIFICATION

MOTION: Vice President Whitney motioned to approve Resolution 23-02 AB 361 Recertification.

SECOND: Director Emory.

ROLE CALL: Vice President Whitney- Aye, Director Emory- Aye, Director Gorke-Nay, Director Tolbert- Nay, President Henning- Aye.

RESULT: Motion 3/2 vote.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board of Directors now takes time to consider your comments on items that are on the agenda. The President will recognize you at the appropriate time to assist in the orderly and timely conduct of the meeting. When called upon to speak, please state your name and residence. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes or less. If you wish to comment on an agenda item or non-agenda items during Public Comment, fill out the form on our website, or raise your hand. There will also be a one (1) minute Public Comment period before each agenda item.

Jess Vonderahe- Hello I just wanted to note on the AB-361 I do not agree with it as a member of the community. There are multiple neighbors who do not have internet access or access to a computer. And the dial tech number for Zoom is very complicated, and I beg you guys to reconsider your votes. Also, as a member of the community, I do not appreciate that you just disregarded two of our well-known and respected board members twice. I just wanted to say as a concerned neighbor, a mother, a teacher, and a member of this community I am truly deeply troubled by the recent events and proceedings involving the CSD board. I'm worried about unnecessary spending and the hostile work environment that you've created for the Morongo Valley staff and our firefighters. I'm also concerned with how quickly things have been pushed and passed through without giving the community and board members time to think. The Morongo Valley recall committee has listed several issues that are currently being investigated including the major one which is disregarding the desires of what the community has asked and has brought forward. This is unacceptable behavior from our officials, and we must hold you guys accountable for your actions. I believe that it's important that all the members, if our community have a voice to be heard however the format of this board meeting, is not accessible to all people, and not everyone in this community has internet access or a computer as well as afternoon meetings are super hard for families the only reason I'm here right now is a snow day I don't have work today thank god. But I will be working, picking up my children there'll be no way for me to attend just like Mr. Emory just said that was the plan to put it in the middle of the day so no one bugs you and you can pass whatever you want and that is wrong also this meeting is to so you know. The way this media has come about is super wrong. Alongside the trusted loyal members of our community, I agree with the Morongo Valley recall committee and I'm requesting that Mrs. Henning, Mr. Whitney, and Mr. Emory step down and walk away. We have people who are well-known trusted people in this community that want to step in that care about this community. I watched our community fall almost fall apart. I went to every one of those meetings. We almost lost our fire department, and I am passionate about the people who live here. You're not even in Morongo right now and that is messed up so whatever your agenda is I am not for it. As you hear from every person in this meeting nobody is for what you guys are doing were begging for you to step down and you're not listening to the needs of the community. lastly, the BB&K lawyer are you here? Are you representing our community? If you're hired by our funds to represent our community, why are you representing Mrs. Henning? Why haven't you spoken up to anything else do you not hear all of the communities against what's going on and question their intentions? That's all I have to say and God bless you this is all on your shoulders good luck.

Shawna Johnson- Thank you, first I would like to make sure that all or the majority of our board members are inside of our jurisdiction. Are you Jennifer inside the jurisdiction of Morongo Valley? That is my comment I'm asking a question this will not be a legal meeting if there are more than three of you or two of you outside of the meeting area. I hope that you are inside the meeting area otherwise this is all going to be for naught. The other thing I have to say is that the Zoom meetings and the resolution 2302 AB-361 were meant for the state of emergency and for the covid pandemic and that's why we were able to have these kinds of meetings were not even in that state of emergency anymore and we are past the 30 days that are required to re-certify that. Also, a couple of comments on the agenda items, how is it that three of the board members are pervy to litigation and the office staff and other members are not pervy to this whatever litigation is pending or may or may not be? And if it is may or may not be why are we having this special meeting at 2 o'clock. Also, I just want the board members who voted for the new law firm, I want you to know that there are people in the public that are going to hold you financially responsible for any monetary increment of this law firm that is not representing

the public. We will hold you personally liable for those expenses just so you know. And that's all I have to say but I hope you guys are in the jurisdiction otherwise this is all for nothing.

Buddy Stogner- Hi I'm Buddy Stogner and I've been a resident of Morongo Valley for the past 35 years, I've been involved with this community including the softball league for our town for many years and my question to you three board members is why are all of you three still here? You have not answered any of the town's emails, you are spending money that we do not have. Our beautiful little town was just coming together and then here you three come you're destroying everything that the CSD, General Manager, and fire chief that has worked so hard for. This town doesn't want you and when are you guys going to resign and leave us alone? That's my question. Nobody has answered me when are you guys leaving. Why haven't you answered any of the emails that this town has sent to you guys? What about Miss Henning she has not answered one and she's the president. But you're supposed to be the president of our board and be on top of things. Is there a resignation coming from the three of you in the near future? Have a good day.

Tamberline Russel-Stogner- Hi this is Tamberline mine is a public comment not a question, so Your guy's behavior is very inappropriate your timing of today's meeting is very suspect your actions are beneath the positions you hold. You obviously are not serving the community and only serving yourselves. You have heard us loud and clear. We want you to leave and resign, we do not want you to represent Morongo Valley from this point forward we will remove you, if necessary. Thank you.

James Madras- Okay quick question so far, I haven't heard you answer any questions, especially regarding are you in Morongo Valley currently. Second, you guys canceled the regular meeting for this month and then scheduled this special meeting. And this emergency meeting and the timing is very inconsiderate, all the schools are going to be releasing the kids any minute like 20 mins from now. Everyone is over there, and the timing is just very inconsiderate. Whatever you guys are doing I don't understand it, none of it has made any sense. And the other question was you have this closed meeting is the Zoom meeting going to continue after the closed session so that we can have the open comments afterward? I don't understand why there is a BB&K lawyer here when as I know nothing was signed. You guys were trying to force the fire chief to approve this BB&K and then all of a sudden now they are on the call like this, it doesn't make any sense. Just waiting for answers, that's all we just need clarification and reassurance. I'm just asking for clarification so after the closed session we are still open for comments afterward, right? What I'm trying to clarify, is that I just stay on the zoom call until you guys come back?

Bobbi Tolbert- my name is Bobbi Tolbert, and I am very disappointed in the board. The Board needs to understand that you work for the community, not for the three individuals. I would like you guys to please consider resigning because you are not representing our community to the upstanding standards we expect. Thank you and have a good day.

Janet Osborne- My name is Janet Osborne I've lived in this community for over 20 years. I've served this community for over 20 years. Really should pay attention to that brown act because in the brown act as your attorney stated states that you the majority have to be within the community so anything you decide here if you are not all in the community while you're on this, is null and void. Also knowing because you guys have definitely told us how much you know about boards, and how good you are about being on a board, yet you couldn't have a regular meeting to extend the Zoom. Seriously you guys need to step back you guys need to resign you need to do this or the community will take care of that for you I guarantee it. I'm finished and so are you.

Eva Rowles- Because of the inconvenience of this meeting at two o'clock, I'm in my vehicle and it was difficult to unmute my phone. So, let me go ahead and get started with this Jennifer Henning my question will be directed toward you whose decision was it to hold a special meeting at 2 PM instead of the regularly scheduled time that we always have meetings at 6 PM? Do you know or are you aware

that most of us here in our community work during this time frame? Our local elementary school releases students at 2:45 PM. Most parents here in Morongo Valley will not be able to attend a zoom meeting at this time because we are a small town. Most of us drive, drop off and pick up our children. These meetings on Zoom are being held Yes, they were a necessity during the COVID epidemic but now these Zoom meetings are excluding members of our community from having a presence. It is critical that we eliminate these meetings and go back to in-person meetings that everyone can freely attend. This most dramatically affects our elders here in the community that doesn't use computers or technology that Zoom meetings are on. These special Zoom meetings are excluding an entire demographic from our attendance. In my opinion, it needs to be rectified immediately. There is a major lack of communication going on when it comes to putting out information and answering questions from the community. A lot of us feel blindsided by what you three board members are doing and when there are no clear answers to why the need for spending more money than our community has to give. My question is, what have you done specifically to bring income to our community? What grants, events, and fundraising have you done or worked on to provide the much-needed income that our community is struggling to get? I will finish with that question. Thank you guys from my vehicle because we have a 2 PM meeting that makes no sense.

Doves (no last name)- ok along with trying to establish the validity of this meeting I just want to point out that you made the announcement that the monthly meeting was canceled. You made that announcement on Z107.7 but this meeting was not announced so there's an inconsistency there with your desire to reach the community and as somebody else pointed out the schools are letting out. Everybody is with their kids. I think that you are bullies and I want, I think everybody should start using that word you are bullies and that's not okay that is your style that is your tactic and you are bullies and that's what you should be labeled as and I also don't know why this attorney is, I don't know when this attorney was hired as far as I know he was never hired and Jim Brakebill not working. Why is this why do you need to pay a top law firm to run your board meetings you should be competent enough to do that yourselves if this is all defense on your part and why is the attorney not representing the community who is paying for this you're not paying for it we are so the attorney needs to stop defending you and start defending the community that's why you're all here including the attorney. You're not representing the public and as an accommodation, it is appropriate to have the public comment period before your closed session that is another tactic to inhibit the public comment period because nobody wants to wait indefinitely for you to end your closed session it's considered an accommodation. The point is we shouldn't have to and a lot of people won't it's a tactic and I want to point that out it's a tactic to eliminate public participation and it's not acceptable and you should accommodate it by having the public comment period before your closed session. Your bullies and we hope you resign that's it.

Bryan (no last name)- Hi good afternoon, I just would like to say that this meeting at 2:35 in the afternoon on a Thursday with 25 hours advanced notice is inappropriate for any community board to pull the trigger on. Miss Jennifer, I have emailed you, and I have heard your excuses that you don't know where your emails went into your junk mail or whatever it doesn't even look like you're paying attention to me now. People are asking questions and making comments and you have to ask them to repeat themselves. You are unfit for this position, and I ask that you resign since you said you won't, you will be recalled, and you will be removed from office as well as the other two.

Sue Lefevre- Thank you, my name is Sue Lefevre. I've lived in the high desert here now for over 12 and I just wanted to give a big shout-out to the community for rallying this is important. I am so proud of all of you that have stepped up and are going to do something about apparently for whatever reason we have no idea these three board members who refuse to represent you appropriately uh having a board meeting like this last minute on Zoom during the middle of the weekday is outrageous. I am so sorry to say that we have come to this point where they're going to be forced to resign and or be recalled and I do believe that the community has the wherewithal to do that. I am here to support you 100%. There is no reason for this lack of transparency other than they must have another agenda going on that is not being made clear. They are certainly not doing anything to support the community, which number one

is listening. You know it's not about any one person's agenda it is a community agenda and if they're going to continue to schedule meetings where the community is excluded that is a clear message to me that there is some other agenda going on that does not benefit any with anyone but their own personal agenda and that needs to stop right now. It's just not right and I again applaud you, please let me know what I can do to help you. I'm here to support all of this unless something changes, and we actually get to see some transparency as to what is going on haven't seen it yet so it's time to go forward and I thank you again for the time to speak.

Clint Cowan- Hi my name is Clint Cowan, I would just like to reiterate what many people of the community have been saying about the special meeting that you conducted which is last minute, I just learned about this meeting 30 minutes before the meeting started. If we are trying to get everybody on zoom it just doesn't work as evidenced by my inability to get myself unmuted to talk to everybody here and some of the other people that have usernames with their phone numbers and some other random thing they can't tell who's communicating. It just seems suspect seems like you guys are trying to ramrod some stuff through, and I don't like it at all, that's it thanks.

Linda Christian- Hi, you know I really respect and appreciate what you and James, and Michael are doing here. What I don't understand is how you know you guys represent this whole town all of us every single person on this call and every person on the last call and all of us. I was on the last Zoom meeting and I didn't hear one person say please vote tonight we all said please let us meet you, let us get to know you, explain to us why you're doing the things you are and you guys went ahead and voted anyway and that kind of just lost the respect of the whole town and that's kind of why none of us have the faith and confidence in keeping you guys on board then we were looking forward to meeting you guys in person at the last meeting and it got canceled and now here we are on zoom at 2 in the afternoon. I don't understand why you would want to stay on our board and continue to represent us when you aren't representing us. I don't even know how to get ahold of you like there's an email address, I don't know where you guys live, and I never got to meet you, you know that I was looking forward to meeting you at the last meeting and I was also looking forward to the fact that our town graciously asked you to postpone any voting so you could explain yourselves a little so we understood why it was imperative to spend extra the extra money on the things that you had on deck and you know it's interesting to me because it seems the three of you Michael, James, and Jennifer continue to make decisions without the five of you together and that's illegal against the brown act. Isn't that right attorney that it's not okay to make decisions without including the whole group? Well, everything I've read and incidentally I have the manuals, the CSD Morongo Valley board manuals there are two of them three inches thick and one of them is an inch thick. Several of us read the whole thing cover to cover and I'm not sure I think that those are supposed to be delivered to you when you fill out the 700 form explaining your economic impact on this town and how we know who you are financially so I've got the copies of this book and I think it's really important it doesn't seem like you've read this Morongo Valley CSD handbook. It's a total of like nine inches I was sort of surprised but the old timers in this town were very thorough and did a lot to protect the town from something happening like this where people come in and just start making financial decisions. Thank you.

Dr. Chuck Greenwood- I've been a resident here in Morongo since 2004. I love Morongo Valley, I love our community, and I'm very concerned with what I'm hearing and what I'm seeing happening with our board and I'm actually sick to my stomach with everything that's going on. I have not heard anybody supporting the three people that are in question here and there's just no transparency between you three guys and the community. Just as a reminder, this board is responsible for maintaining a functional fire department and paramedic service that we all depend on, our lives depend on it, and our property depends on it, not only for now but for the future and this is what our board has to plan for is the future. And it doesn't look like that's what's happening. So, if we put these services in jeopardy then our tax dollars are being wasted. Then our emergency service for our health care and our property for fire protection, it all disappears. Our property values tank we won't have the care that we need, and we won't even be able to get insurance for our property. I don't know if you guys know this and understand

this it's not just you know making decisions in this moment. We've been here before and we know that if we can't support our own fire department and paramedic services independently the county we depend on, the county we are in deep trouble. We won't be able to get insurance and if we could get insurance, it'll be extraordinary. There are just a lot of questions I have. We got to have an environment for our workers at the office there and for our fire department. We can't have a hostile environment we have to be able to work together. Let's be professionals, that's all we are asking. We are asking for you to be transparent. I haven't heard anybody say they are in agreement with what was going on. Please please listen to us, please. It's not about egos it's not about what you think is best or what your agendas are it's like what's best for the community ask us. and we are telling you right now its best for our community, so right now when I ask how much is it costing us for this new attorney at this moment where is he? I'd like to hear a comment from him, how much are we paying you for the next two hours? When was the last time we had an attorney at our meeting?

Karen Lowe- I've been a Morongo Valley resident for over 20 years and thank Dr. Chuck for everything he said. I frankly feel sick to my stomach too. I prepared some remarks to make during my comment session today. Director Whitney's comment derailed that he essentially said that you're here to do some business and it could all be over within five minutes if the public would just shut up and go away. I want to tell you, people, that that is exactly what the problem is. Directors Whitney, Henning, and Emory, you are not welcome here. We do not trust you, I was reading some CSD guidelines this morning, and here's what it says a district must strive to maintain the trust given to it by its customers operating the district in an open transparent manner, and demonstrating that the district is a proper steward of public resource courses I'm here to tell you that we the community do not believe that you are stewards of our resources and we are going to get your resignations or your recall no matter what we have to do. We do not trust you we do not agree with your opinions and we especially do not agree that you are not representing us by listening to us the public whom you are supposed to be there for. I also have questions about whether this meeting is even legal or not the reason being the resolution to allow Zoom meetings was just allowed to expire and then you and then you can just call a special meeting you can ignore our regular meeting have a totally unacceptable meeting in the middle of the afternoon when people are working and then you just go ahead and re-up it. I mean that just seems like it's totally skirting around what that law meant. I also want to know why two of our board members at least have not filed their legally required form 700 financial disclosures we have a right to know what potential conflicts you have at the last meeting there was more than an hour of public comments that were just asking you to give us a chance explain to us what's going on and what did this board do they went straight through with exactly what they wanted and ignored over an hour of public comments as a result of that we're going to have over an hour of public comments at every single meeting. So Director Whitney I would advise that you get used to that thank you very much.

Donna (no last name)- Thank you for calling on me, I would like to send my condolences to Michael that's rough and I want to thank the three of you for stepping in when there was nobody there and you know I think that it was something that was nice for the town however I'm going to say what everyone else is saying we've lost confidence. I think that the condescending way that were being treated is really not ok with me. I'm hoping that you came in to do the right thing. And one of the things that really upsets me is that I believe if we continue down this road were going to lose our fire department. We're looking at using the same attorneys as L.A.F.C.O. and L.A.F.C.O. are the ones that would shut us down. So, I think that'll be my next step besides looking at legal action to see where to go from here. We have 8 people who are members of the community that are ready to step up and run for the positions. Id really like to ask you to step aside and allow that. Often people think when they come to Morongo Valley, and it happened year after year after year. That they're going to make a killing and they're going to make a lot of money and they're going to be able to arrange things so that they can profit. I have an uncomfortable feeling I have no idea why you guys are doing what you guys are doing but to say you have five minutes meeting and essentially, I wish all this didn't have to happen because your not really interested in what we have to say that really unacceptable. All these secret and closed sessions that's illegal what you guys are doing. So please don't make us go to the next step with all of this. I would really

ask you to shut down the meeting please maybe even now and set it up for a time when people could be here. You heard this time and time again that people said they couldn't be here because they had to go pick up their children and were going to have a meeting of this sort now so that would be a very kind thing to do and maybe even get a little sympathy and empathy from the community. Also, I don't think that the comments from the board and particularly from the three of you have been appropriate. If the majority does not want you here and it's obvious why would you make us go through the expense to recall you?

David I'Anson- Good afternoon I've been in Morongo Valley since 2016. I think we have a great community here but listening to all the comments and just my personal observations with the three new board members here I feel that there may have been some serial meetings in the background a little bit talking together whether its phone communications anywhere, this is a violation of the brown act. Just let me read this the brown act explicitly prohibits the use of direct communication personal intermediaries or technological devices that is employed by a majority of the members of the legislative body to develop a collective occurrence as to the action to be turned on an item by the member of the legislative body serial meetings involve communication between members of a legislative body that are less than a quorum when all participants are considered it constitutes a majority, for example, a chain of communication involving contact from member A to member B who then communicates with member C will constitute a serial meeting. Similarly, when a person acts as the hub of member A and communicates individually with the various spokes member B and C a serial meeting has occurred. In addition to serial meeting occurs when intermediaries for board members have the means to discuss issues for example when representative member A meets with representative member B and C to discuss an agenda item the members have conducted a serial meeting. So just be careful because that's how it appears right now that you're having serial meetings. Second, I'm concerned about this are you all permanent residents of Morongo Valley and not just part-time members or just property owners I'd love to see that you're all permanent residents anyway good luck enjoys the rest of your meeting. Thank you.

Jackie Barlow- My name is Jackie Barlow my family's been here since early 1946 through that area the population in this community is all older people like me. We're in wheelchairs, we have disabilities, and some of us can't afford to have cell phones.

F. CLOSED SESSION

The Special Closed Session of the Board of Directors of February 23, 2023, was called to order by President Henning at 3:24 p.m., with Vice-President Whitney, Director Tolbert, and Director Gorke present.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following item as listed on the Special Closed Session Meeting Agenda:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
One (1) potential case

G. ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of February 23, 2023, reconvened and was called to order by President Henning at 4:04 PM.

BB&K's Nicholas Norvell reported that there was no reportable action from the closed session.

H. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. President Henning – Nothing to report.
2. Vice President Whitney – Yeah, I just want to take this time to do my best to correct a bunch of things. First of all, I might've misspoken in the earlier part of the meeting. I want to see a five-minute conversation in a close session briefly and then get out of the close session and go to regular public comments were there or not restricted to an agenda item that a close session item wouldn't even necessarily know about, so we can get to public comments. Additionally, and unfortunately, I can't stay long as it's over it's after 4 o'clock, but I would love to have five hours of sessions of public comment, in fact, we had a study session slated a couple of weeks ago no agenda went down so we had to shut off hours and hours of commentary from the town in whatever point that that can happen. What my mom used to say; someone saying something doesn't mean it's true when you believe what you hear without verifying the facts, you may find yourself getting caught up in the web of deception. I want to personally clear up a bunch of miss information that is out there. Number one we did not want to fire the Fire Chief. 100% ironically, if you guys know no from the last zoom, Jennifer and I were spearheading awarding the Chief a proclamation, which is the highest award possible. The second thing I want to be cleared up; I want to incorporate Morongo Valley 100% untrue; I would like to analyze our current structure for our residence similar to making sure when you come on as a CEO. Any company is designed as an LLC to make sure it's best for the shareholders. I am guessing unincorporated is best because we have to have a police department and a number of other things and if the town were not interested in green-lighting we wouldn't do any kind of analysis. That is much is has ever happened with incorporating Morongo Valley. Next, that I want to pave the road; 100% untrue even if it's possible and we have the phones or we got grants and that sort of thing the individual residents should want to improve the road. The fourth thing is the new board members have serial meetings, 100% untrue not even one time even my husband and I don't talk about the district business ever

because we shine completely away. If we're going to air on the conservative side we've both been on many boards and know how to navigate. Next, we have formed a voting block; 100%. untrue we have not had a heck of a lot of votes to date, but they range from 3-2, unanimous, and 4-1. I was with the center in the 4-1. My husband and I can't agree on that half the time. Next, Jennifer works for me and my husband 100%, untrue, just to give you some context we've never been to Jennifer's home. We've never met her husband I don't even think I've ever seen a picture of her husband. We consider Jennifer to be a friend even though we're not as close as some would like to think for some people. Anyway, number seven leasing a new truck, 100% untrue we actually had considered leasing one for \$500 a month. Then I heard about a \$10,000 down payment it's also required before, which made the record absolutely impossible. I had conversations with change my mind. Next, I'm benefiting by bringing BB&T on, 100% untrue, as Shawna and Nick and I had never met, again that's just miss information. Also based on the comments I was reading earlier all three of us are primary residents here in Morongo Valley so once again, just because people hear certain things do not make them true. When you believe what you hear without verifying the facts and by the way, there's a bunch more out there I don't want to take more time going over it but when you just believe what you're hearing is true again, you could be caught up in the web and deception. In conclusion, I took an oath, and I will uphold that oath. I will always ask for your opinions, even if it's only 90 people in the town of roughly 3600 Residence. However, sometimes as I mentioned before we the board members are forced to meet and make changes. That was based on non-public knowledge conversations and the information that you were not privileged to hear in the variables was discussed behind closed doors in a private, non-public close session meeting. Unfortunately, they're pretty rare. Please trust that we are acting in the best interest of the district, when I consider making my decision it was because I thought for the town of 3600 that would be the absolute best decision I could possibly make. I want to thank you guys even though your anger is temporally at my expense right now as I said before I'm from New York I got thick skin, at least to some degree. I feel like it's directed here negatively but I applaud your ambition, your energy, and your enthusiasm, and admire how much you guys love our town as do I. I just hope this passion at some point gets redirected in a very positive energy to move mountains, to

make Morongo Valley what we all want it to be and sooner than later Morongo Valley has been my home for five years and there is no place on the planet I'd rather be thank you all very, very much appreciate it.

3. **Director Tolbert** – first and foremost always thank you to the men and women of the Morongo Valley Fire Department and all you do for us. Chief Brakebill, thank you for everything, I know you're listening. Get well soon, sir. Brittany Chavez, and Taylor Morton great work. Thank you very much for all your hard work. Also, calling this meeting today, I feel was wrong, and to me, it could have taken place on February 15 our normal regular scheduled meeting. I truly believe that the reason for the February 15th meeting being canceled was cowardice. If the president of the board who deemed the meeting canceled was not a coward, she would have signed the notice of the meeting cancelation, instead, she directed district staff to. She had Brittany Chavez do it. If you are going to have the nerve to cancel the meeting, then sign the cancelation notice and don't hide behind someone else that is cowardice, and coming from a person who has been in combat, I know what cowardice is. Also, as I stated earlier, I sat through a 2-hour class, it was stated that we should have as a board given to the public for them to review before we hired BB&K. This board did not do their job they did not represent the public. We ask them to trust us, but we do things like this. The public should only come to 3 or 4 meetings a year. When they come like this its because they do not trust us. They do not trust what they are hearing or seeing. That being said, this board needs to make a full 180-degree turn. Because right now a majority of this board is not listening to the citizens and unfortunately, they feel that you do not care about them. I don't go out very much anymore because I get asked to many questions that I can't answer. Changes need to be made. Director Whitney, you asked more than once about incorporating, you even stated you wanted to be called a town council. So when you say that, the public is going to think you want to incorporate. Public members even told you that we can't do that, and you said you still wanted it. You say one thing and then turn around and say another, that's why the public doesn't trust us. Also, it is getting very ridiculous that Director Gorke and myself are not finding out about the meeting until the agenda is put together, not even knowing if we will be able to attend. The proclamation for Chief Brakebill, I've known

that gentleman longer than anyone on this board, I'm sorry but your little surprise was BS. Board members do not come to a meeting and get surprised by a proclamation that the board is doing. That was you're doing it by yourself, the two of you, or three of you. You do not get to make decisions by yourself, this is a five-member Board, and we all get a say. This is not a dictatorship like you are trying to run it, that's why people want you to resign, and that's why they are trying to recall you. Your actions are not in the best interest of Morongo Valley, thank you.

4. Director Gorke – thank you I'm going to try and keep this brief. On March 5 in the park, we will be having a meet-up in the park. If there are any other community members that would like to set up community events, please come talk to me. I would just like to ask that future meetings are scheduled in the evening with enough notice so that I can coordinate childcare. I do feel that is in the best interest of the community as well.

5. Director Emory

Not Present at the time.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned the Special Board Meeting of February 23, 2023, at 4:46 PM.

Moved: Vice President Whitney Second: Director Gorke Vote: Unanimous