

The minutes presented herewith are not a verbatim transcription of the regular board meeting held on designated date. The intent is to provide a synopsis of key points of discussion and to chronicle decisions and actions taken by a quorum of the Board of Directors (ref: Roberts Rules of Order, Section 48). For more information of background, please refer to the applicable Board Packet.

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 20, 2021

President Broughton called a special meeting of the SCVCSD Board of Directors to order via videoconference/zoom meeting at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Becky Broughton, President
Frank Figueroa, Vice President
Ann Wells, Director
Eugene Kitagawa, Director
Maria Machuca, Director
Ben Crowson, Crowson Management Services
Colin Kirkpatrick, Attorney
Lt. Martinez, RCSD
Captain, Herman Lopez, RCSD
Mike Veto, Burrtec & Recycling, Inc.

ROLL CALL

Becky Broughton, Frank Figueroa, Ann Wells, and Maria Machuca.

ABSENT

Eugene Kitagawa

MOTION TO EXCUSE

M/S/C. (Wells/Figueroa). Roll call vote; passes with 4 ayes (Broughton, Figueroa, Wells and Machuca). Unanimous vote to excuse Board member Kitagawa.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S/C. (Machuca/Figueroa). Roll call vote; passes with 4 ayes (Broughton, Figueroa, Wells, and Machuca). Unanimous vote to approve the May 20, 2021 agenda.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS/
AND GUEST**

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT***

Phone number 9637- Brad Anderson- commented. 1). meeting access should be looked into for citizens in area. 2). Will like to see a more detailed agenda. 3). Review legal contract and consider other bids. 4). Glad you're doing roll call votes. 5). And, is concern about any rate increases. Luna on January 21, 2021 I was allowed to comment on items as Board moved through them and will like to make similar request.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. M/S/C (Wells/Machuca) unanimous vote to approve minutes for meeting dated March 18, 2021, and check registers for, April and May 2021. Roll call vote: motion passes unanimously with 4 ayes (Broughton, Figueroa, Wells and Machuca). Luna will like to ask if minutes can be made available prior to meetings and will like to have access to invoices. Broughton thanked him for his comments. Anderson wants to comment that the meeting packet is brief.

REPORTS

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lt. Martinez presented the law enforcement. He discussed departmental changes, crime statistics, new telephone reporting unit, significant activity, and inventory report. Captain Lopez said he is long time Coachella Valley resident, was assigned to Team on November 2020, has been in the department for 22 years, and is familiar with the area and challenges that need to be worked on. Broughton welcomed him and looks forward to meeting in person. Year-end report included all incorporated areas: sexual assaults went up for 1 case, robberies decrease 20%, aggregated assaults 144 to 153, property burglary 127 to 129, auto thefts 235-225, and 20% reduction in larceny theft for year-end 2020. Response time for priority 1 calls has improved significantly for the area averaging 9.71 minutes per call, priority 2 calls include alarms and crimes in progress and average 30 minutes, priority 3 and 4 calls include prior crimes that are not threat to life and average about 1 hour. He reported that the Telephone reporting unit (TRU) is an existing service and is intended to reduce patrol level workload. On December 15, 2020 Team assisted in eradicating 41,000 marijuana plants on avenue 68/Lincoln, 210 grow houses, and it required 200 law enforcement personnel. On April 20, 2021 they responded to 70-100 Johnson St. Mecca for another illegal marijuana grow site, about 11,000 plants and 45 green houses were eradicated. On April 21, they responded to a fire structure on 70-600 Grant in Mecca to discover another illegal marijuana grow site, 17, 144 mature marijuana plants and 45 green houses were eradicated. The most recent copy of inventory has been emailed, 3 cell phones, night vision is still in use, pepper law launcher 3/4 reached end of life, one is in process of being replaced at no cost to District. Pick and Ram is frequently use, 3 patrol bicycles, one needs some repairs, 1 bike rack, 15 safety reflective vest in use, looking for hot iron brander and hilti branding iron, 1 laptop and speakers, ALPR cameras purchased of 2013 are still on vehicles but not in use due to SB34. I am working to bring the cameras back into District. Machuca asked how

such big illegal marijuana operation go unnoticed and what should one look for to report them? Martinez said is difficult to identify and recommends to report if anything looks suspicious. Who is responsible for cleaning these areas? Martinez said they work with different agencies, and Torres Martinez is working on the illegal site on Lincoln. Machuca is impressed that they have technology and has there been a conversation on technology that would be useful for our officers. Broughton said yes. Crowson said it comes down to budgetary concerns and deputies turnover. Wells said we had purchased state of the art equipment which one year later was not able to be used. Figueroa asked if ALPR cameras will be installed in District and will they help solve more cases and improve response time. Lt. Martinez said they will, they will definitely help solving more cases. Machuca asked if location will be known to public and requested if one can be placed on 64 and Dale Kiler. Martinez said they will look into it. Luna asked what constitutes an illegal operation? Martinez said growers have to be licensed by state and employees must go through a background check to work. Broughton asked on differences between Hemp and Marijuana? Martinez said that's an issue and many growers are licensed for hemp but they are growing illegal marijuana.

FRANCHISE WASTE HAULER REPORT

Mike Veto presented the report. He reports that someone hacked into computer system. He attended the first TOM site day. Machuca asked if a press release has been sent out to customers. Veto said they have contacted all contract cities, once they know more details about will let Ben know. Rate increase for 2021-22 includes a CPI increase of 22 cents and disposal increase of 27 cents. A total increase of 49 cents for 2021-22.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Financial Report: March 2021: Budget should be at 75% revenue and expenditures. General Fund revenue is at 51% and expenditures at 67%. Environmental Fund revenue is at 55% and expenditures is 8% under budget. LAIF is holding steady, Crowson added.

B. Audit Engagement Letter: District decided to get audited every year and we signed engagement letter. Broughton said we should look into auditing every two years if that will save District money. Machuca asked how does grand jury report affect the audit. Broughton said it wouldn't affect it, we have applied Grand Jury recommendations. Budget has been restructured with help with Sheriff department, Crowson added.

C. Preliminary Budget: We have not been provided the latest financial report. A preliminary budget will be presented at the June's meeting. Figueroa proposed a budget discussion session.

D. Graffiti/Trash Abatement/TOM Site Report: We'd had two TOM site days and plan to continue opening every second Saturday of each month. In conjunction with CVRCD, we are having a farmers clean up. We are assisting them and is not costing the District anything. Farmers are scheduled for May 29th. and June 26th. He has met with Supervisor Perez and will met again next week to discuss illegal dumping and cleanups.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT N/A

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT N/A

ACTION ITEMS N/A

CORRESPONDENCE N/A

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Preliminary Budget Draft (June 17, 2021);
Public hearing (June 17, 2021);
Resolution for change of elections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS TOM Site day: April 10th.
REMINDERS Next scheduled Board meeting is June 17, 2021.

CLOSED SESSION N/A

BOARD COMMENTS **Broughton:** N/A
Wells: Thank you Sheriff department for the great presentation.
Figueroa: Want to see if another subcommittee meeting can be done, was part of meeting with supervisor Perez and is a great idea to get the District cleaned.
Kitagawa: Absent.
Machuca: wants to ask what has been the practice of district participation on community council meetings, consider designating one board member to attend, she can help. Crowson said usually is on as needed basis and agrees that district participation should be increased.

ADJOURNMENT **Motion to adjourn:**(Machuca) Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.. Next scheduled Board meeting is June 17, 2021.

Recorded By:

Brenda Ortiz-Ruiz