

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104  
Heber, CA, 92249**

Monday, October 27, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

<p><i>The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact the District (760-482-2440) two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation.</i></p>
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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Heber Public Utility District was held at the District's meeting room and called to order at 6:04 pm by President Lizarraga.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Directors present at roll call: Sergio Escobedo, Eduardo Valdez-Belmonte and Margie Lizarraga. Also present was General Manager, Laura G. Fischer; General Counsel Steve Walker was not present. Director Tony Sandoval arrived at 6:08 pm and Director Garcia-Ruiz arrived at 6:50 pm during Closed Session.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Margie Lizarraga.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Approval of Agenda was made by Director Valdez-Belmonte, seconded by Director Escobedo.

Motion approved by Roll Call:

AYES: S. Escobedo, E. Valdez-Belmonte, M. Lizarraga

NOES: None

ABSENT:

**5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENT:**

*The Board may set time limits on the amount of time any speaker can use to address the Board. Members of the public are allowed to make comments about anything not listed on the agenda. If the comments concern an agenda item, they must wait until that item is up for discussion. If you wish to address the Board, please fill out a "Request to Speak Form" and hand it to the Clerk of the Board and when recognized by the President of the Board, go to the podium and address the Board. The Board can't take action on any item not on the agenda.*

Christian Aguilar, an employee with HPUD and the representative of the NRTA Bargaining Unit, spoke to the Board requesting they consider the SDRMA Gold insurance plan with HPUD paying 100%. He said that the District is very generous with their benefit program and that is why we have employees who stay with the District for many year and who work very hard. He stated that the employees were willing to give up the Platinum Plan for the Gold Plan in order to save the District money, but requested that HPUD purchase the Gold plan.

Rachel Carrillo, and employee with HPUD, addressed the Board saying that making a change from Platinum to Silver would be a big change in insurance benefits and a large

increase in expenses for employees. She also stated that there was not a lot of time or notice of a change so employees haven't been able to budget for the additional expenses of the higher deductibles and co-pays. She requested that the Board purchase the SDRMA Gold plan for the employees.

Eduardo Gonzalez, an employee with HPUD and representative of the NRTA Bargaining Unit, stated that the employees appreciate the benefits they receive and ask the Board to consider the hard work the employees do for the District and to purchase the Gold plan.

With no additional public comment, a motion was made to go into Closed Session at 6:15 pm by Director Valdez-Belmonte and seconded by director Escobedo.

Motion approved by Roll Call:

AYES: S. Escobedo, E. Valdez-Belmonte, T. Sandoval, M. Lizarraga

NOES: None

ABSENT:

**6. CLOSED SESSION:**

- A. Government Code Section 54957.6 Negotiations with Natural Resources Technical Association.

The meeting was called back to Open Session at 7:02pm.

No reportable action was taken.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Discussion Related Action Regarding Medical Insurance Coverage For Employees – General Manager

A motion was made by Director Sandoval as follows: HPUD will pay 100% of the SDRMA Gold Plan for all employees; that HPUD will offer, to all eligible employees, the option to "buy back" health insurance benefit at 50% of the cost of the SDRMA Gold Plan for the Employee only; and that these insurance benefits and "buy back" option will be in effect through the term of the NRTA Memorandum of Understanding, which is June 30, 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Valdez-Belmonte.

Motion approved by Roll Call:

AYES: S. Escobedo, E. Valdez-Belmonte, T. Sandoval, D. Garcia-Ruiz, M. Lizarraga

NOES: None

ABSENT:

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm was made by Director Sandoval, seconded by Director Escobedo.

Motion approved by Roll Call:

AYES: S. Escobedo, E. Valdez-Belmonte, T. Sandoval, D. Garcia-Ruiz, M. Lizarraga

NOES: None

ABSENT:

*Minutes for the Special Meeting for October 27, 2014 were prepared by Laura Fischer, General Manager.*

Heber Public Utility District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.