

**SANTA ROSA BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 100 SANTA ROSA AVENUE  
REGULAR MEETING**

1:32 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room

MOTION:

**ROLL CALL**

Present (6) Chairman Dowd, Vice Chair Swinth, Board Members Gale, Galvin, Holt, and Meechan

Absent (1) Board Member Lowe

Vice Chair Swinth moved a motion to approve an agreement for specialized legal services with Lennihan Law, a professional corporation in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The motion was seconded by Board Member Gale and carried unanimously. AYES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1) Lowe ABSTAIN (0)

**STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Dowd stated that he would be abstaining from the approval of the June 4, 2009 minutes since he was absent from that meeting.

**6.3 AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SENIOR WATER RESOURCES PLANNER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA) REGION 1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman Dowd requested this item be removed from the consent calendar. He gave accolades to Ms. Burke for her work and for being nominated by the Department. Miles Ferris, Director of Utilities stated that he is honored to be part of the nominating committee and noted that Ms. Burke currently serves on a number of committees and will represent the City well.

**STUDY SESSION - NONE**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Board Member Galvin moved approval of the minutes of June 4, 2009. The motion was seconded by Board Member Holt and carried unanimously. AYES (5) NO (0) ABSENT (1) Lowe ABSTAIN (1) Dowd

MOTION:

**STAFF BRIEFINGS - NONE**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Board Member Galvin moved to approve Resolution No. 957 entitled "Resolution of the Board of Public Utilities of the City of Santa Rosa Placing in Nomination, Jennifer Burke as a Member of the Association of California Water Agencies Region 1. The motion was seconded by Board Member Holt and carried unanimously. AYES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1) Lowe ABSTAIN (0)

**6.1 CONTRACT EXTENSION – MAJOR TREE CARE & REMOVAL**

MOTION:

Board Member Holt moved a motion to approve Amendment No.4 to Contract No. 05-8221 for major tree care and removal with Cagwin & Dorward, Inc., Novato, California, to extend the contract for an additional one-year term with no increase in contract unit prices. The total amount of the contract amendment is \$50,550. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Swinth and carried unanimously. AYES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1) Lowe ABSTAIN (0)

**REPORT ITEMS**

**6.2 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED LEGAL SERVICES WITH LENNIHAN LAW, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

**7.1 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

Glen Wright, Deputy Director Water Resources reported that Lake Mendocino is up to 57,230 acre feet and continues to gain and Lake Sonoma is at 221,111 acre feet. There is currently 165 cfs being released from Lake Pillsbury; 130 csf to Potter Valley and 41 csf to the Eel River. He then presented a graph that showed the cumulative diversion to Potter Valley from 1922 through 2009. The Sonoma County Water Agency daily demand has been reduced by 25.6% of 2004 levels

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since April 6, 2009. Mr. Wright then spoke about the Temporary Allocation of Water Deliveries to the Sonoma County Water Agency regular customers and noted that if the users continue with the current usage, the City may be able to remain in Stage 1 of the Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan. He further reported that water use continues to be lower this year than when compared to the same period last year. For the month of March, total water use was 17.3% less than March of last year. For the month of April, total water use was 23.5% less than April of last year. For the month of May, total water use was 25% less than May of last year. Water Conservation staff continues to be busy and Mr. Wright provided updates on the various incentive programs and discussed the water shortage outreach efforts that have taken place to date.

Chairman Dowd stated that up until recently the Board's major issue was long-range disposal of wastewater but the Geysers project and urban reuse has helped alleviate that problem. Now the most critical issue is water supply and the need to offset potable supply. He reported that the BPU/City Council Liaison Subcommittee has been working diligently to develop a plan to find solutions.

Vice Chair Swinth reported that she, Chairman Dowd and Mayor Gorin plan to meet with other water contractors to get their perspective on water supply solutions. The Board concurred and supported that their key focus should be water supply issues.

Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed expressed concern about the lower river and the lack of water for recreational use and the irrigation of recycled water and the continued spread of ludwigia.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS - NONE**

**9. REFERRALS**

**10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (And Possible Board Action)**

**11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Chair Swinth reported that an update was given on the City Council/BPU Liaison Subcommittee meeting during the Water Supply update. She further reported that the Budget Subcommittee would be meeting today.

**12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Chairman Dowd reported that he will be a speaker at the Wine County Water Summit being held on July 16, 2009 at Sonoma Mountain Village in Rohnert Park. The Summit will address the devastating impact of the water shortage on the agricultural and business community. A discussion ensued among the Board members about the possibility of rescheduling the regular BPU meeting scheduled for the same day to allow members to attend the Summit. Chairman Dowd directed staff to look at other dates as an alternate to accommodate member attendance at the Summit.

**13. DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Ferris reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Utilities Department orientation had been completed for new Council and Board members. He then reported that operations continue to run smoothly and that new equipment for leak detection and fire line testing is being used to help reduce water loss.

**14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

At 2:35 p.m. the meeting was adjourned. The next special meeting of the Board of Public Utilities will be held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa.

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Richard Dowd

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Gina Perez