

# CPUD Chester Public Utility District

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Chester Public Utility District  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
November 19, 2024 05:30 PM  
251 Chester Airport Rd, Chester, CA 96020  
<https://chesterpud.org>

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Kimberly Green.

### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Kimberly Green

### B. Roll Call

Present: Stephen Graffweg, Kimberly Green, Arthur Tharpe, Stephen Voboril, Royce Raker

Staff Present: Staff: 5Guests: 4

## 2. Agenda Approval

GM Cox asked that agenda item #6 be tabled until the next meeting as more conversations are being had with PERS later this week.

The motion was made accepting the change to table #6.

Stephen Graffweg motioned to approve. A second was made by Royce Raker.

The motion passed with the following vote:

5 In Favor    \_\_\_ Opposed  
\_\_\_ Abstained    \_\_\_ Absent    \_\_\_ Recused

## 3. Public Comments

## 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

### A. October 29, 2024, Regular Meeting

no discussion

Arthur Tharpe motioned to approve. A second was made by Stephen Voboril.

The motion passed with the following vote:

5 In Favor    \_\_\_ Opposed  
\_\_\_ Abstained    \_\_\_ Absent    \_\_\_ Recused

### B. November 06, 2024, Special Meeting

no discussion

Arthur Tharpe motioned to approve. A second was made by Stephen Voboril.

The motion passed with the following vote:

  5   **In Favor**         **Opposed**  
     **Abstained**        **Absent**        **Recused**

#### **5. Approve Financials**

GM Cox stated the Fire Fund remains at 1.8 million in deficit.

Service charges/revenue for Water and Sewer have been caught up and corrected from last month.

OES Invoices are being reviewed, as they are being adjusted down by 30K, so far.

Director Green stated that the insurance costs look much better. GM Cox stated that is because of many changes in carriers and combining plans.

Director Voboril stated that the Equipment budget for Water is already used up and it is also 2/3 used for Sewer. GM Cox stated that funds within the budget may need to be adjusted. The Budget didn't have many capital expenses within it.

Director Raker expressed concerns about the PG&E/ utilities expenses. Solar was discussed as a possible option within the Water Grant, which the state is not funding this year.

Stephen Voboril motioned to approve. A second was made by Arthur Tharpe.

The motion passed with the following vote:

  5   **In Favor**         **Opposed**  
     **Abstained**        **Absent**        **Recused**

#### **6. Fire Department's CalPERS UAL Refunding Overview**

Tabled until the next meeting during Agenda Approval.

#### **7. General Manager Report: Adam Cox**

LAFCo has all the documents completed and submitted from CPUD and Peninsula Fire.

After Thanksgiving there will be a mandatory meeting with Plumas County regarding the property parcels and the taxes.

Debt/OPEB with CalPERS is the next part of the annexation project. Working on refinancing the 2 Safety Plans. PERS' Contracts Department and Actuarial Department have different opinions on how to go about it.

Asked the board to consider having the last group of policies to be reviewed be added to the next regular meeting agenda rather than at a Special Meeting.

Winter projects: Streetlight Funding, X-Connection Ordinance and rework the lease with Plumas County.

#### **8. Fire Chief Report: Richard Sonsteng**

Chief Sonsteng (absent). GM Cox stated that the Chief has been working on the annexation, and fire department loose ends. He has been working on the Federal Incident invoices. He

notified the Division Support team members that this is their last year with Chester. Those that want to go to Peninsula Fire will let us know.

**9. Utility Operations Manager: Allan Homme**

Well 3: waiting to go back online after water samples meet state standards.

Did some non-required water testing for Chlorate and Nitrates just as precaution.

4th Avenue Lift Station: Installed rebuilt pump. Back up pump being rebuilt currently.

Seneca's new Hospital is tied into Water and Sewer. Director Green stated that Seneca's CEO Shawn McKenzie told her that the CPUD crew was very helpful in this process. She thanked the CPUD staff.

Well 3 issues were initially found during an inspection.

**10. Local Union Representatives**

A. Local 5317 / Chester Professional Firefighter's Association (CFD Safety)

no one present

B. Local 39 / Stationary Engineers (CPUD Misc.)

none at this time

**11. TowerCo VI, LLC Ground Lease Agreement**

GM Cox stated that if this agreement is approved, that we will be entering into a 50-year ground lease in the form of ten 5-year terms. Rent starts at \$1,850.00 per month as soon as they start construction. The rental rate will go up 2% annually. Construction to start no later than 2 years. This is just in case they have issues getting power from PG&E and/or have issues due to weather.

Verizon is the only company that will be utilizing the tower so far.

CPUD legal counsel has reviewed the agreement.

Arthur Tharpe motioned to approve. A second was made by Stephen Voboril.

The motion passed with the following vote:

  5   **In Favor**        **Opposed**  
    **Abstained**       **Absent**       **Recused**

**12. Public Comment: Non Agenda Items**

GM Cox reassured the public that retirees and current employees will not see any changes when the 2 safety plans are terminated.

**13. Correspondence**

none

**14. Comments**

15. **Adjournment**

Director Voboril made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18pm. Director Tharpe seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned.