

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Directors of Timberon Water and Sanitation District
Tuesday June 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Timberon Community Center, "Lodge"
1 Bobwhite Circle, Timberon, NM 88350

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman David Cruey.

Pledge of Allegiance

Salute to the New Mexico Flag *"I salute the flag of the state of New Mexico, the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures."*

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Chairman David Cruey, Vice Chair Edward Hardesty, Treasurer Jesse "JJ" Duckett, Director Allen Burmeister and Director Derenda Robb.

A quorum was achieved.

Staff present: Secretary Nanette Thorell Office Manager Wendy Case, Plant Operator David Hunter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to approve the agenda as written. Director Burmeister seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION Authorized by NM Statute § 10-15-1 (I)

1. Discussion limited to two personnel matters.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to go into Closed Session to discuss two personnel matters. Treasurer Duckett seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed, and the meeting went into Closed Session at 4:03 PM.

Discussion.

Motion to reconvene to Open Session.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to reconvene to Open Session. Director Burmeister seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously, and the board returned to Open Session at 4:20 PM.

Vice Chair Hardesty read the following statement:

Statement: The matters discussed in the closed session were limited to those stated in the notice of the closed session. No action was taken.

1. Vote to act on closed session discussions.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to offer the job of General Manager to current Office Manager Wendy Case. Director Burmeister seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to reinstate David Hunter back to his previous responsibilities as Water Plant Operator. Director Robb seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss/Approve TWSD Property Insurance.

Treasurer Duckett and General Manager Case provided an overview of the District's current insurance coverage, noting that the primary coverage consists of liability insurance with an approximate annual cost of \$20,000. In addition, the District holds several other policies: a property insurance policy, a large equipment policy, a standard vehicle policy, a Workers' Compensation policy, and an Insurance Funding policy that serves as umbrella liability coverage. GM Case noted that the Insurance Funding policy is due for review.

Treasurer Duckett moved that we approve our insurance broker to go out for bid on our liability insurance. Vice Chair Hardesty seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss/Approve TWSD Health Insurance.

Treasurer Duckett reviewed the status of the current TWSD employee health insurance and discussed the feasibility of adding the option of family health insurance.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to approve the TWSD health insurance for employees and families. Director Burmeister seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discuss/Approve minutes of the June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to approve the minutes as written. Treasurer Duckett seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Audience member Jeffrey Merrick requested to speak regarding water-related concerns and read from a prepared list of questions. He first asked why Treasurer Duckett was unable to sign checks. Vice Chair Hardesty responded that he would accompany Treasurer Duckett to the bank to complete the necessary profile and ensure he is added as an authorized signer.

Mr. Merrick then questioned the lack of transparency regarding bank balances and requested that printed reports be made available. Chairman Cruey clarified that bank balances are read aloud by the Treasurer at each regular monthly meeting. Treasurer Duckett offered to supply bank balances on request.

Next, Mr. Merrick voiced disagreement with the board, citing concerns about a four-day suspension of plant operator Hunter during which, he claimed, no water testing or

treatment occurred. Chairman Cruey assured him that regular testing and treatment had continued during that time, carried out by other certified operators.

Mr. Merrick went on to accuse the board of holding improper meetings and stated that he had started an informal petition calling for the resignation of [unidentified], claiming it was supported by "a good part of the town." Chairman Cruey asked how many signatures had been collected, but Mr. Merrick did not specify a number.

Mr. Merrick also expressed concern that the community was at risk of fire due to low water levels in the storage tanks. Chairman Cruey responded that he had spoken with Fire Chief McWilliams, who confirmed the tanks were at acceptable levels, and he also emphasized that Mr. Merrick was not authorized to make such statements on behalf of emergency services, and that if water levels were a threat to fire safety, he would have contacted the board directly.

At that point, the meeting devolved into unproductive arguments and accusations.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Vice Chair Hardesty moved to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Duckett seconded the motion. A vote was called. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Approved July 8, 2025

Chairman David Cruey 

Secretary Nanette Thorell NThorell

