

Kern County Cemetery District
Minutes for
June 15, 2023

Regular Board Meeting
Shafter Memorial Park Office
18662 Santa Fe Way, Shafter, CA

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:10 pm by Chairman Braun. Chairman Braun led the flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call: In attendance was Barry Braun, Chairman of the Board; Belton Banks, Vice-Chair; Jerry Ezell, Secretary of the Board.

Employees: Eliza Caudillo, District Manager; Denton Carender, Superintendent; Alicia Reveles, District Secretary.

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Consent Calendar: Includes the approval of the agenda for the current meeting and minutes of the regular Board meeting for May 2023. Also includes the approval of the minutes for the May 24, 2023, Negotiation Committee meeting. The payroll warrants for 23/10 through 23/11 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports for May 2023 were approved. This was done by approval of the consent calendar by motion of Trustee Banks and seconded by Trustee Ezell; 3 ayes, unanimous.

Management Update

- We had 17 services in Shafter and 9 services in Wasco for the month of May 2023. This gives us 281 services for the fiscal year to date. The District has a 19% cremation rate.
- The Shafter Memorial Day/Centennial celebration was well attended. Shafter had approximately 200 people, and Wasco had approximately 20 people. Peters Funeral Home was gracious enough to lend its sound system for the event. The Wasco Wrestling team and Wasco Boys and Girls Scouts helped with the flags. Due to a lack of participants, the Wasco VFW and Shafter's Ladies Auxiliary have terminated their organizations.
- An unexpected water line leak was discovered off Heinrich St., and Superintendent Carender could not repair it due to extensive damage and repair requiring heavier equipment than what staff had on hand.
- Santa Fe Way Road repair has commenced and will be completed in a North and South phase. The estimated repair dates are from June 12, 2023, to September 16, 2023.

Budget 2023-24 – First Look

The Board discussed the draft budget for 2023-24 as presented by Manager Caudillo. The final two months of the current fiscal year are estimations. This is a discussion item; no action will be taken.

With the information we have to date, the budget was set at \$2,298,971. The First Look budget was a balanced budget and included a proposed COLA.

Capital Projects allotted monies for tree removal, a potential Loft at the Shafter Cemetery shop, upgrade and repair of the Shafter/Wasco irrigation systems, and the development of the new section north of Section A. The Board will need to provide direction for the "B" section in Shafter regarding whether to continue as a fully grassed, partial grass, or drought-friendly design. *No action taken.*

Annual Tax Appropriation Limit

California adopted Proposition 4, which added Article XIII B to the California Constitution. This proposition, known as the Gann Act, limits the amount of tax proceeds that state and local government agencies can receive and spend each year. This amendment was modified by the passage of Proposition 111 on June 5, 1990. If our tax revenue exceeds the District's initiative limit, we are obligated to return the excess to the public. It is required that this limit be adopted by the Trustees each year at a public Board meeting. The Board took action to adopt the appropriation limit prior to the adoption of the District's 2023-24 budget. Our Appropriation Limit this year is \$2,603,316. Our property tax amount received was \$1,015,377 as of the June meeting.

The motion to certify the Kern County Cemetery District property tax appropriation is below their limit of \$2,603,316 was made by Trustee Braun and seconded by Trustee Banks; 3 ayes, unanimous.

Employee Negotiations

The Negotiation Committee, at the request of the Board, met on May 24, 2023. The Employees MOU calls for the Board to evaluate the District's financial position in determining any applicable COLA. The MOU is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2023. The Negotiation Committee brought to the Board the consideration for a \$1.00 COLA for all employees, excluding the District Manager: at Manager's request. The Negotiation Committee also requested that the previous MOU be renewed for an additional three years. The committee requested that the MOU be changed to reflect Life and AD&D insurance in the amount of \$50,000.00. The committee also requested the removal of the separate \$100,000.00 AD&D/Travel policy that provided coverage for the employees and the 3 Board members. This insurance coverage is no longer available.

The motion to accept the 2023-2026 MOU term, with the removal of the AD&D 100K Life insurance, which is no longer attainable, and changing the life insurance from the 2020-23 amount of \$10K to \$50K. The motion also included a \$1.00 per hour increase for all employees excluding the Manager: the exclusion was at Manager's request. The motion was made by Trustee Banks and seconded by Trustee Ezell; 3 ayes, unanimous.

SDRMA Board of Directors Election

The cemetery district is a member of the Special Districts Risk Management Agreement (SDRMA) as part of the joint powers agreement. As such, we must participate in an election every two years to vote for their Board of Directors. This year's nominees include Robert Swan (incumbent), Jesse Claypool (incumbent), Sandy Seifert-Raffelson (incumbent), and Acquanetta Warren. After due discussion, the Board chose to vote for the three incumbents.

The motion was made by Trustee Banks and seconded by Trustee Ezell to vote for the three incumbents, Robert Swan, Jesse Claypool, and Sandy Seifert-Raffelson. 3 ayes, unanimous.

Trustee Banks: Proud of Staff Representation.
Trustee Ezell: Good job for the office staff.
Trustee Braun: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm by Chairman Braun. Due to a prior commitment of a Trustee, the next Board meeting will be changed to July 25, 2023.

Signed,

Eliza Caudillo
District Manager