



**Johnsville Public Utility District  
Board of Director Meeting Minutes  
Date: May 18, 2024    Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Website: [JohnsvillePud.org](http://JohnsvillePud.org)**

1. The meeting was called to order by the chair, David Piepho, at 1:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.
2. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda for the May 18, 2024 Johnsville Public Utility District (JPUD) Board of Directors meeting.  
The January 22, 2024 and April 23, 2024 JPUD Board of Director’s meeting minutes were reviewed. The chair, David Piepho, called for a motion to approve the 1/22/24 and 4/23/2024 minutes. Director Piepho made the motion to approve the minutes for the meetings and the motion was seconded by Director LaTourrette. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0, with the following roll call vote:

David Piepho	<u>Aye</u>	Nay
Jon LaTourrette	<u>Aye</u>	Nay
Don Fregulia	<u>Aye</u>	Nay

Director Fregulia was sworn in by the secretary, Melissa Sheets, for a four-year term 12/1/23-12/1/27 as director on the JPUD Board.

3. Public Comment. The Plumas Pines Fire Chief spoke to the group about a letter the homeowners would be receiving. The Plumas Eureka Fire Department provides us with fire protection and emergency medical services (non-transport) when needed and is asking for a yearly fee of \$280.00 from the homeowners. The fee will give revenue and help cover expenses for the fire department. It was noted that Johnsville is not currently in a fire district. **The Fire Chief also asked that we notify them when the town is at one tank during the upcoming construction.**

4. Reports

- 4.1 Chair Piepho gave an overview of the tank replacement project. This summer construction of our much needed water tank replacement project will continue. The current wood tanks have been leaking for several years. The new steel tanks will hold 20% more water each than the current tanks. The cost of replacement has grown to 2 million dollars plus and the JPUD received a grant for \$2,166,200.00 from the California Department of Water Resources and an additional loan/grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The tanks are on State of California property and the JPUD has an indefinite lease for the property at no cost. The State of California will maintain the road to the tanks and the property. During construction there will be times when we will have access to only %50 of our current water supply. One tank will be taken down at a time and a new one will be constructed.

Director La Tourrette reported that things can happen as the project goes forward and the board is planning for the worst recommending that homeowners have an alternate water supply while the tanks are being replaced. We are trying to do the work outside of mainline times but the weather limits our times. The board is working with several entities including USDA, DWR, California State Parks, Plumas County, State of California and Rural Community

Assistance Corporation (RCAC). The JPUD has received a grant of \$2,162,000.00 from the DWR and \$833,000.00 in loans and grants from USDA for the JPUD Tank Replacement and Liquid Chlorination Project. We will be able to access DWR funding until June 2025. Our USDA agreement will need to be renewed in August 2024. The project could take 2 years. The contractor plans to start around June 5<sup>th</sup> and the Bird Study should be done at the end of this month (May). Chair Piepho added that traditionally our water supply in the tanks become very low due to water use during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week. This year we will probably have only one tank to supply the town's water during that time. This is a 50% decrease in our current water supply. If we run out of water our pumps may burn up, the system may become contaminated and the health department could declare a state of emergency and we would not be able to stay in town. The board plans to mail out another newsletter in June. The board also continues to try to keep water rates down in town, the tank project costs are not in our rates.

Director Fregulia wanted to thank the directors for all their hard work.

4.2.1 Dan Bastian could not be present. He is our district engineer and project manager. He reported to a director that the project is moving along and tanks are currently being constructed.

4.2.2 Stewart Engineering is our contractor and also was not present.

4.2.3 Graeagle Land and Water is our water chlorinator. The leak on Main Street and Bride Street will be repaired Thursday May 23, 2024 and water service may be interrupted.

4.2.4. California State Park was also not able to attend. Chair Piepho reported he had a conversation with Rich Adams about trees being removed along road to tanks and the site. The State will prep road to tanks as much as they can.

4.2.5. Chair Piepho express thanks to Dave Hartwell, USDA resident expert, for all the help he has given toward the tank project.

## 5. Question and Answer

The owners of the restaurant in town asked about outside watering. The chair explained that we need to watch the project timeline. Increased water conservation will be needed during the times we have only one tank to supply water. Large lawns and sprinkler systems will need to limit the amount of and frequency of watering this summer. We need to treat our water supply as if we were in a drought this summer and keep drinking water on hand. The board understands that the restaurant is most vulnerable at this time and they will make all efforts to keep the owners informed during the construction process. The chair will also contact Graeagle Fire Department and Forest service to see if water tankers are available.

## 6. New Business

There are two new requests for Will Serve Letters for new home construction. A Will Serve Letter states that the district has the capacity to provide water to a new home. There is a \$500.00 refundable application fee and a \$5000.00 connection fee. There was general discussion about the lots in question. The Chair asked that a motion be made to accept the application for the two requests for Will Serve letters and that the JPUD provide a Will Serve letter to the applicants after the fee has been received. Director LaTourrette made the motion to approve the acceptance of the Will Serve applications and

Director Fregulia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0, with the following roll call vote:

David Piepho            Aye     Nay

Jon LaTourrette       Aye     Nay

Don Fregulia           Aye     Nay

7.     The next meeting will be in June by teleconference and there will be a meeting in person before the 4<sup>th</sup> in July.
  
8.     The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.