

SOUTH UTAH VALLEY ELECTRIC SERVICE DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting
September 24, 2018

South Utah Valley Electric Service District (SESD) held a Special Board Meeting on Monday, September 24, 2018 at the SESD office, Payson, Utah at 4:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Nelson Abbott, Joel Brown, Blair Hamilton, Ray Loveless, Paul Meredith, Wendy Pray, and John Youd.

Also present were: Ryan Bagley, Brook Christensen, Dan Ellsworth, Jennifer Hatcher, and Mark Holdaway – SESD
Ron Crump – Payson City Power
Kelly Peterson – Spanish Fork Power

Blair Hamilton acknowledged guests and welcomed everyone to the Special Board meeting; he called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Joel Brown offered a prayer and John Youd led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

No public comments.

Incident Command Team (ICT) Update – Bald Mountain and Pole Creek Fires

Wendy Pray expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the SESD Crew & Staff. She stated that without the hands-on support from SESD the evacuation situation would have been much more difficult; the emergency response coordination efforts of Duane Curtis and Mark Holdaway were notable. Wendy also mentioned that Salem City and Spanish Fork City were very supportive during the evacuation efforts and collaborated, without contention, with Woodland Hills, Elk Ridge, and SESD.

Mark Holdaway stated that working with the ICT was a good experience;

Nelson Abbott mentioned accolades for Duane Curtis from the firefighters; the firefighters were pleasantly surprised to have the additional help needed to keep the power on to pumps that kept water flowing.

September Billing

Blair Hamilton opened the floor for suggestions on how to aid the evacuated communities through reduced or delayed September billing.

Nelson Abbott expressed his desire to treat all of SESD's customers equally – not just those who live in the evacuation areas. Nelson stated that just keeping the power on during the week-long incident was a benefit to the customers; freezers remained on and homes remained secure.

Wendy Pray presented the idea of charging all of the evacuated customers the lowest tiered rate for their entire bill regardless of usage.

Dan Ellsworth stated that a billing reduction or credit only impacts the billing cycle, and would be quickly forgotten. In contrast, helping to fund generators through resource grants and in-kind contributions would make a lasting, long-term impact on the Woodland Hills and Elk Ridge communities. He recommended creating a team with key members from each entity to collaborate the efforts; Jennifer Hatcher has grant writing experience, and SESD can offer labor for services in place of a financial contribution.

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September Billing (continued)

Paul Meredith expressed a concern with spending a significant amount of money on something that will not be used; the unlikelihood of another catastrophic event similar to the recent wildfires does not warrant the high cost of purchasing multiple generators.

Wendy Pray clarified that the money would come from a Federally Funded grant.

Joel Brown suggested giving each community a lump sum to fund a community celebration or aftermath dinner for the citizens.

The board discussed other options for assisting customers and emphasized the need to leverage the media and social media to ensure there is a clear community-centered message; any efforts need to support our Public Relations efforts.

Nelson Abbott also reiterated that it is important to treat all of our customers equitably.

Wendy Pray expressed a concern that the evacuation order is still in effect for Covered Bridge – and if the situation in that area gets worse, the board may need to make a more significant contribution to the Covered Bridge residents.

The board concluded that September billing statements should be sent, as scheduled and late penalties and tag fees would be waived for all SESD customers through the month of October; no additional efforts will take place to placate or compensate the evacuated customers or communities at this time.

Dan Ellsworth stated that he and the staff would research grant opportunities and share additional information regarding pre-disaster mitigation efforts and funding available through grant opportunities.

CLOSED SESSION [UT Code 52-4-205(d)]

Blair Hamilton stated that there was no need for a closed session.

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting will be a Regular Board meeting held at SESD on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Paul Meredith made a motion to adjourn.

Blair Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Blair Hamilton, Chairman

Mark Holdaway, Clerk

Date Approved

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