

Monument Sanitation District, May 7 and 19

New district manager selected; attorney acts ahead of board's direction

By Allison Robenstein and Lisa Hatfield
During a special meeting on May 7, the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board unanimously voted to hire Mark Parker as the district manager. Two spe-

cific actions taken by the district's attorney caused one board member alarm. And the board decided although masks are not required in board meetings anymore, they will still be required to enter

the district office.

New district manager begins employment

Parker, who formerly worked as the Superintendent for Donala Water and Sanitation District, was selected as the new district manager during a special meeting May 7.

Background: MSD has been without a full-time district manager since Interim District Manager Erin Krueger was terminated in September. Earlier, MSD board President Dan Hamilton had announced that, as of July 20, 2020, District Manager Mike Wicklund no longer worked for MSD. See <https://ocn.me/v20n9.htm#msd>.

Parker's at-will contract includes three months of pay and insurance should the board terminate his employment with or without cause. Director Laura Kronick noted a job description wasn't attached to the contract, so the board tabled its ratification.

Chairman Dan Hamilton said he would sign the contract with Parker later that day, so it was unclear if this would happen without the board's vote of approval.

Attorney Joan Fritsche confirmed after the meeting that Parker had officially been hired. "The issue is updating the district manager job description attached to his contract," she said.

Fritsche clarified after the meeting had adjourned that the MSD out-sourced operating contract with Donala will continue, as will the MSD out-sourced engineering contract with GMS Consulting Engineers.

Attorney acting without board direction

Kronick confronted Fritsche regarding two specific issues. First, Kronick had sent revisions for the special May 7 meeting minutes, but her comments were simply summarized by Fritsche. "The summary is misleading and inaccurate," said Kronick. The board decided to postpone approval of the minutes until next meeting with the intent to include Kronick's full statement regarding the hiring process.

Next, Kronick asked Fritsche why Parker's employment contract had been signed by Parker on May 6, yet the board did not meet to approve hiring him until the following day. "This really bothers me a lot," said Kronick. "This isn't the way

the board works." Fritsche simply replied, "Noted." No other board members commented. Board Treasurer John Howe and Parker worked on the job description before this May 19 regular MSD board meeting but had yet to complete it for review and approval by the other board directors, before formally voting to hire Parker.

Board finds accounting entries in wrong line items

Kronick noted the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures in the monthly Haynie and Co. accounting firm "Financial Statements and Accountant's Compilation Report April 30, 2021" reflects the wrong use of line items for expenses. Specifically, she said Engineering Fees, which listed an over-expenditure of 927% for April, don't reflect actual spending. Hamilton noted the Professional Fees line item, which shows a 5,145% usage for the month, should be reviewed. Accounts Administrator Cheran Allsup has been making an effort to place expenses into the correct line items but didn't have a district manager to rely upon with the authority to direct Haynie to make a correction to these line items. Board Secretary Marylee Reisig said of the budget, "this is all new territory."

Kronick and others have been asking Allsup to transfer excess cash from the Integrity bank account to the restricted Colorado Trust capital fund account. However, Allsup wanted to wait until a district manager had been named and could approve such a transfer.

Wakonda Hills lift station electrical box found under water

Parker said the Wakonda Hills lift station had a general alarm on April 28, resulting in operators having to clean one of the two installed pumps but finding the other installed pump completely unusable. He found replacement pumps in the district conference room to replace the faulty one. A third replacement pump has yet to be located in the storage facility. No customers were adversely affected.

The bigger issue, though, was that the electrical termination box, located in the wet well of the lift station, was full of water, shorting out the pumps. Parker recommended moving the electrical junction box and running all new wiring. Also, he suggested doing the same with the second lift station as a 2022 budget request. He brought a quote of \$3,027 for one station. The work will be done by Sun Valley Electric Inc. The board directed Parker to get both stations rewired and not to exceed double the quoted cost of \$3,027.

Board member pleads for better remote connectivity

Kronick made a plea to Hamilton to use Zoom rather than Google Meets for the monthly board meetings. She said the public should at least hear what is being said, "and have a good ability to understand what is going on." Hamilton said the problem wasn't platform-based but device-based. This reporter and others have asked numerous times to be able to see the participants in the meeting, but the board will not purchase a camera. Instead, the board decided to raise the conference call Polycom unit up above the table to possibly decrease the sound of paper shuffling that causes noise distortion. No vote was taken.

Liquor license for tenant could cause building issues

Kronick said she attended the Monument Board of Trustees meeting on May 17 and learned that MSD's tenant Black Forest Foods Café and Delicatessen had been approved for a liquor license. She learned they have ordered a refrigerated unit for outside the facility where the tenant intends to keep alcohol. Specifically, she said there will be a lockable walk-in freezer that stands 8 feet tall, with a 6-by-

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