FORESTHILL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Business Meeting of the
FORESTHILL PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Foresthill Elementary School, 24750 Main Street, Foresthill, CA 95631
www.foresthillpud.com

Wednesday	March 11, 2026	6:00 P.M.

Any person may access and comment during the meeting by doing the following:

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82837681166 Meeting ID: 828 3768 1166

1. **OPEN SESSION - CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM** ***President Dowling called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM***

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** ***President Dowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.***

3. **ROLL CALL**

_____ President Chase Dowling	***Present***
_____ Vice President Mark Bell	***Present***
_____ Treasurer Ron Thompson	***Present***
_____ Director Roger Pruett	***Present***
_____Director Dianne Foster	***Present***

Henry N. White, General Manager, was in attendance. District Counsel, Eric Robinson arrived at 6:55 PM.

4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA WITHIN CATEGORIES-** ***No adjustments were made.***

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   - Members of the public may provide comments to the Board on items that are not on the agenda. We welcome and encourage your comments as the Board takes them into consideration in our deliberations.
   - Speakers are limited to a maximum of three minutes.
   - The Board may not respond to, discuss, or engage in any type of dialog regarding any public comment; however, the President may direct questions to staff for a later response or future consideration by the Board.
   - Appropriate and respectful language and behavior is vital to the functioning of a public meeting. We ask the Board, staff, and members of the public to speak courteously and respectfully. Therefore, the Board prohibits disruptive behavior.

Public Comments: ***Patty Wade provided her thoughts on hiring an outside attorney to research the General Manager's contract extension.***

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** All items listed under the Consent Agenda are routine in nature and may be approved by one motion

   1. Approval of February 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes
   2. Receive and file combined financial reports for January 2026

Board Action: ***President Dowling made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice President Bell and carried unanimously (5-0) after a roll call vote.***

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

7. **OPERATIONS ACTION ITEMS:**
   7.1. Approve proposal from Verdantas Engineering to provide professional services for the design of a potable water welded steel storage tank to replace existing bolted steel tanks in an amount not to exceed $250,000
   Recommended action: Approve proposal and authorize General Manager to execute appropriate agreements for the design of a welded steel storage tank
   Public comment:

Board Action: ***Vice President Bell made a motion to approve the Verdantas Engineering proposal and to authorize the General Manager to execute appropriate agreements to complete the design of a welded steel storage tank to replace the existing bolted steel tanks. The motion was seconded by Director Pruett.***

Public Comment: ***Patty Wade provided her opinion regarding replacing the tanks and approving the proposal.***

Board Action: ***After a roll call vote, the motion failed 2-3 with Treasurer Thompson, Director Foster and President Dowling voting no.***

8. **BOARD MEMBER ACTION ITEMS:**
   1. Submitted by Dianne Foster
      a. Category: *Agenda item regarding interviewing applicants for Finance Manager*
      b. Title: *Interview applicant for Finance Manager*
      c. A three to five sentence description: *One applicant for Finance Manager, Lori Stringer, is a local resident with a good resume. She deserves an interview by the Board. The interview process allows the Board to gain in-depth information of her qualifications. Meeting an applicant personally can reveal if the applicant is a good fit for the FPUD. To dismiss the interview process should not be an option.*
      d. Requested outcome: *The Board approve scheduling an interview with Lori Stringer as an applicant for an in-house Finance Manager position which has been vacant for nearly three years.*
      e. Supporting documentation: *L. Stringer Resume.*

Board Action: ***Vice President Bell made a motion to reject all unselected candidate proposals for further review. The motion was seconded by President Dowling.***

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

Board Action: ***After a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-2 with Treasurer Thompson and Director Foster voting no.***

N.B. Lance, Soll & Lunghard LLP was selected to continue Finance Manager duties during February 11, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

9. BOARD MEMBER POLICY ACTION ITEMS:

1. Consider revised job description for the Treatment Plant/Distribution Operator II position
   Recommended action: Approve revised job description
   Public comment:

Board Action: ***President Dowling made a motion to accept the revised job description as presented. Director Foster seconded the motion.***

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

Board Action: ***The motion carried unanimously (5-0).***

2. Submitted by Dianne Foster
   a. Category: *Board Policy 5060*
   b. Title: *Revision of Board Policy 5060*
   c. A three to five sentence description: *The policy requires updating. New addition is video recording meetings. Policy needs a specific timeline for posting minutes. Policy needs a timeline for posting video. Current postings lack transparency and lacks usefulness to the Directors for future use.*
   d. Requested outcome: *The Board approve the revisions*
   e. Supporting documentation: provided

Board Action: ***Vice President Bell made a motion to revise Policy #5060.11 to the following language:***

> ***"Copies of a meeting's draft minutes will be distributed to Directors no later than Wednesday of the following week. The draft minutes will also be included as part of the agenda packet for the subsequent meeting, at which time the Board will consider approving the minutes as presented or with modifications. Once approved by the Board, the official minutes shall be kept in a fireproof vault or in a fire-resistant, locked cabinet, and will be posted on the District's web site."***

The motion was seconded by President Dowling.

Public Comment: ***Patty Wade commented on her interest in the number of views the video recordings had received.***

Board Action: ***The motion carried 4-1 with Director Pruett voting no.***

Board Action: ***Vice President Bell made a motion to revise Policy #5060.12 to the following language:***

> ***"An audio or video recording of regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be made, unless prevented by technical difficulties or equipment malfunction. If a recording is made, it shall be posted on the District's website or designated online platform by District staff no later than Wednesday of the next week."***

The motion was seconded by President Dowling.

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

<u>Board Action:</u> The motion carried 3-2 with Treasurer Thompson and Director Foster voting no.

<u>Board Action:</u> President Dowling made a motion to revise Policy #5060.22 to the following language:

> ***"Summary Record of Public Comment – This policy requires that the minutes include a short summary of public comments made on matters on and not on the agenda, along with the names of the individuals who provided those comments. The purpose is to ensure the public record reflects that comments were received and what general issues were raised."***

The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

<u>Board Action:</u> The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Submitted by Dianne Foster
    a. Category: *Review the SCADA project*
    b. Title: *Review the SCADA project for the quality of construction as well as review of the CSI Metrics 2024 contract.*
    c. A three to five sentence description: *Going back to Oct. 2024, the board had not received or given the opportunity to review the CSI Metrics contract proposal to design and implement the Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) Project. Specifically there needs to be a better understanding of why new phases were added after the initial project was approved by the Board in Oct. 2024, and whether or not the parts to implement the project are new or used such as the PLC panel (Phase 3 & 4) which normally costs over $50,000 and this cost is not reflected in the CSI Metrics itemized chart. The PLC panel monitors and controls water management and therefore should be new equipment.*
    d. Requested outcome: *Provided to the Board the list of past bids for this project, along with providing the Board the CSI Metrics <u>contract and</u> examine the quality of the parts installed (new or old), and revisit why the phases 6 & 8 appeared when not in the original Oct. 2024 Board approved project.*
    e. Supporting documentation:

<u>Board Action:</u> None

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

District Counsel Eric Robinson cautioned the Board that placing items of this nature on a public agenda without prior consultation with legal counsel may expose the District to significant civil liability.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Future agenda items are to help the General Manager and Board President craft the next month's agenda. Unless otherwise voted upon, the future agenda will comprise of no more than one new board member action item and no more than one new policy action item. Now is the time to discuss which items the board would like to see first to help prioritize efficiency.

11.1. FUTURE BOARD MEMBER ACTION ITEMS

11.1.1. Submitted by Chase Dowling

11.1.1.1. Category: *Board member action item*

11.1.1.2. Title: *Discuss and hire attorney found by ad hoc committee*

11.1.1.3. A three to five sentence description: *This action item is to bring forth the attorney that the ad hoc committee found and hire*

11.1.1.4. Requested outcome:

11.1.1.5. Supporting documentation:

<u>Board Action:</u> President Dowling made a motion to place this item on the April 2026 regular Board meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

President Dowling invited public comment; no comments were offered.

<u>Board Action:</u> The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

11.2. FUTURE POLICY ACTION ITEMS - None

11.3. FUTURE DISCUSION ITEMS - None

12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT - ***Received***

13. DIRECTORS' ITEMS/INFORMATION ONLY - ***Received***

<u>Board Action:</u> President Dowling made a motion at 7:58 PM to continue the meeting past the two-hour limit required by Policy #5025. The motion was seconded by Vice President Bell and carried unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 7:59 PM

14. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Gov't Code Section 54956.9) One Potential Case (Placer County Grand Jury Information Request)

15. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION – ***At 8:38, District Counsel Eric Robinson reported that during closed session, the board made a decision to provide information to the Placer County Grand Jury.***

16. ADJOURNMENT ***President Dowling adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM***

Submitted by:

Chase Dowling, Board President

Attest:

Henry N. White, Clerk and Ex-Officio Secretary