

Vin:

Let's call this meeting to order at 5:02. And thank you for your patience. Let's start with our safety moment. It is Mental Health Awareness Month. Despite progress in our health initiatives we still suffer in this country from a lack of access to comprehensive high-quality care. According to the NCMW, one in five US adults experience mental illness each year. One in 20 US adults experience serious mental illness each year. One in six US youth have a mental health condition. But only half receive treatment and 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 24. Taking action by focusing on what you can control in your own well-being is the path forward here. So there's a link here that you should all click on when you have time and read.

All right. Let's move on to our next item on the agenda, which should be approval of our minutes. You should all have had an opportunity to review our minutes. And is there a motion to approve?

Tom:

So moved.

Vin:

Is there a second?

Tim:

Yes, I'll second.

Vin:

Thank you for that. There's a motion that's been seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All those in favor say aye.

Committee Members:

Aye.

Vin:

Anyone opposed? Any abstentions? All right, it's unanimous. Thank you.

All right. Next we're going to move on to a discussion initiating the compensation study. If we need to go into executive session, we could do so upon a two-thirds vote of the body. Okay. So again, this is a discussion regarding the initiation of a FMA study. Anyone have any comments that they would like to make? Or is there a motion to initiate the FMA compensation study? So we'll get an issue on the floor.

Tim:

Okay, I'll move that to get it on the floor. It's Tim.

Vin:

Thank you for that, sir. Thank you, Tim. Is there a second?

Jamie:

I'll second.

Vin:

All right, there's been a motion to initiate the FMA compensation study, that's been seconded. Is there any discussion on the motion? Hearing none. All those in favor of ... Actually it's on the floor for discussion, we're not voting yet. So thank you. Is there any discussion? You should have had in your packages information regarding this.

Tim:

Michelle wants to make a ... Michelle has a comment.

Vin:

Go ahead.

Rochelle:

Just want to mention that we did do some level of research, and if we are going to pursue this, we do have some potential firms.

Vin:

Okay, great.

Mark:

Some potential what? I'm sorry. Potential what?

Firms to do a new study.

Vin:

Firms.

Tim:

Now here's, the point of discussion I'm assuming at this point, are we landing on a position that we have to do a study or are we discussing whether we think we should do a study or a combination of both so we can come to the conclusion?

Vin:

Right. So that's a very good question. I think that's part of the discussion that we need to have is do we think it's appropriate? Because if we initiate it then we'd go out and hire a firm to do the study.

Tim:

Exactly.

Vin:

Right. The question is, is it necessary?

Tim:

And the timing of that.

Vin:

Does management have any input?

Tim:

I do. I think, in my view, I think it's really kind of premature in a sense, we're not landing in a terrible place. We know what we may have to do. We talked about a solution for the extra workload that the body took this past year and going forward. And I don't know that we have to advance a study at this stage. I just think it's kind of almost premature as you're building what you have now and have to start on another.

Tom:

If I could, I would just-

Vin:

Yes, Mr. Clifford.

Tom:

Yes, thank you. I would agree with Tim. Look, the RPB, we're comprised of people from different disciplines across really the landscape. I have a general reluctance to paying someone to do a compensation study when I think we're perfectly capable. At the end of the day, we're going to have to make the decision anyway after we spend the money for a consultant to come in and tell us what I think we have a pretty [inaudible 00:09:28] on. I'm not just off the cuff rejecting this. But I have a reluctance to approve it. Simply because, you look at people, we're from education or government or labor or industry, I think we're perfectly capable to make our own recommendations as to what we think might be appropriate level of compensation.

Having served on the nominating committee for the five member authority, there's never been a question on the compensation. What we do is we look at the field of expertise, what the needs are, et cetera, and then we move from there. So I just want you to know, again, and I'm just speaking for myself, it's just a general reluctance to go out and have a study commissioned. And at the end of the day, we're going to have to approve it or reject it. So at least that's my view. I wanted to give you my two cents.

Vin:

Thank you, Mr. Clifford. Any other person who'd like to make any comments out here?

Jamie:

I'd like to make a comment.

Vin:

Go ahead. The floor is yours.

Jamie:

I concur a hundred percent with Attorney Clifford. And I also think we've tossed around the idea of compensation sort of as a stipend for additional work. Maybe instead of going out for a bid looking at

compensation, maybe we should have a working group to look at alternatives that could be done and present back to the finance committee.

Vin:

Okay. Anyone else?

Mark:

If I may say as a non-member [inaudible 00:11:35], Mr. Chairman.

Vin:

Hold on, I think I heard Mr. Jaser. Jaser, did you want the floor?

Jay:

I spent a lot of time in finance and banking, and since I've been on a board, we've never been questioned what we did based on compensation. It seemed that it was no one ever came to me or any board member that would say they wanted another way or they were unhappy or anything else. And I think what we have is a good program going on and we should stay with it until we feel otherwise by the members of the board. And it seemed to me in my banking career, when you hire somebody from the outside, it's going to be more of a [inaudible 00:12:54] of a position of another expense which is not needed or wanted based on the consistency of what we've done on our own. I think we have enough people on our board to, with the intelligence and the background and I would like to say I would stay with it.

Vin:

Thank you. Mr. Jaser

Carolyn:

I have a question.

Vin:

Go ahead.

Carolyn:

Hi, I have a question. Has there ever been a compensation study done before this?

Vin:

Yes.

Carolyn:

How long ago?

Vin:

It was in your packet. Hold on a second.

Committee Member:

Was that a 2008?

Vin:

Yes.

Carolyn:

Okay.

Vin:

Okay. Mr. Levine, the floor is yours.

Mark:

I know I'm not a member of your committee, but I have to agree with Mr. Clifford. I mean, we're intelligent people, we should be able to figure this out ourselves, we have comps. I'm sure somebody can call around to the other utilities and find out what those board members are getting paid, put it through our brains and come up with something. I don't think it's necessary to go out and get a study. That's my opinion.

Vin:

All right, thank you for your opinion. Anyone else? All right. So we could put in, there's been a motion, it's been seconded, we can vote on that motion. And if you vote in favor of it it would be to proceed. If you vote against it would be not to proceed. And I guess if you abstain, you have no opinion. So are there any other comments? Are there any other comments? Are there any other comments? Go ahead. I hear a comment.

Jamie:

Is our attorney on the call? I can't see him from here.

Vin:

Attorney that was with many of us, Attorney Clifford.

Jamie:

No, our OCA, our counsel of record.

Vin:

Jeff?

Jeff:

Yes, I'm here.

Jamie:

I don't know if he would like to add anything?

Vin:

Jeff, do you have any thoughts?

Jeff:

I mean, I could go either way on it. I think there was a compensation study that was done, as you just indicated, in 2008. I certainly believe and agree with Attorney Clifford a hundred percent that there's adequate talent on the RPB. [inaudible 00:15:50] I think you don't have to identify whether you're going to have this discussion now or whether you're going to wait and see if Bluedrop is approved and then you have a different scope of responsibilities entirely for the FMA, which becomes the EMA. So I don't see this going out and getting a compensation study done now as a good expenditure of funds.

Vin:

Okay. Any other questions or concerns?

Tim:

I just have one question. Because I obviously supported this as well, but there was the conversation about a stipend for extra effort if you will. That's not a fair way to place that. Is that something that would be done outside of this motion and it would be a new motion to review at a date?

Vin:

That would be outside the scope of this agenda item. So I think what we would have to do is add that to the agenda.

Tim:

So, would that have to be a new agenda item for another meeting, would that be for another meeting then?

Vin:

Yes.

Tim:

Okay.

Vin:

Yes. If the body wanted to bring it up, we could put it on next month's agenda.

Tim:

Okay. Thank you.

Vin:

You got it. All right. Are there any other questions, comments or concerns? Hearing none. Again, if you vote in favor of this motion, then you're voting to advance the study. Against the motion, you're voting that we don't proceed. And if you abstain, I guess you have no opinion. All those in favor? All those opposed?

Committee Member:

Aye.

Vin:

All right. And any abstentions? It sounds like it's unanimously no.

Okay. Thank you for your input and discussion on that subject. All right. Let's see. Proposed FY 2026 budget discussion. Rochelle, would that be you?

Rochelle:

I think that ordinarily the committee, as well as Jeff, would probably talk about it. And whether you're [inaudible 00:18:08] support it with a full on [inaudible 00:18:10]

Vin:

If that's all you need, I just wanted to make sure we started with you and then ... All right. Is there any discussion amongst the body regarding fiscal year 2026 budget?

Tim:

I think as presented-

Vin:

Go ahead.

Tim:

Just as presented, I thought the budget was well presented, well-fortified with important information that would guide us appropriately or steer where it could be, reasonable. I think they did a good job. And I certainly would support it if they need that kind of cred. That's my [inaudible 00:18:50]

Vin:

Right. Understood. Anyone else? So I suppose if we wanted to, not necessary, but we could make a motion to recommend the adoption of the budget.

Tim:

I can make that motion.

Vin:

All right. Excellent. Is there a second to that motion?

Rochelle:

I don't think we can adopt it.

Vin:

No, it's a recommendation-

Tim:

We can support it.

Vin:

It's a recommendation to adopt, for the adoption of it. What we can do is make a recommendation.

Tim:

Budget as proposed.

Vin:

Exactly.

Rochelle:

I think we really want to support it because not sure adopt is the proper word.

Vin:

Right.

Tim:

Just a reminder, years ago the finance committee after the budget presentation used to write a letter on how, what we're just talking about, how ... that they were very happy in the presentation and how well it was done and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. That used to come from the finance committee, just to [inaudible 00:19:54].

Right. So in a manner of speaking, we could say that we fully support it. I mean, I made some comments myself. You could probably cobble together some kind of statement that basically is supported by the members of the finance committee as a measure of support.

Usually it's some resolution that's presented not to adopt but to support.

Right.

Vin:

Okay. So Jennifer, do we have language from years past that we can look to?

Jennifer:

I can put something together.

Tim:

And you would just more or less share that with us?

Jennifer:

Yes.

Tim:

Yes. Okay, fine. That makes sense.



Vin:

All right. So Jennifer, you'll get that circulated amongst the committee?

Jennifer:

Yes.

Vin:

Yes. And then, all right. So how about then we make a motion to forward a resolution to the RPB in support of the proposed budget as drafted.

Tim:

So moved.

Vin:

Right. Is there a second to that?

Jay:

Second.

Vin:

Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All those in favor?

Committee Members:

Aye.

Vin:

Anyone opposed? Any abstentions? Okay. It passes unanimously. All right, then moving on to consider and act on the completeness, mode and date of the public hearing for the application to construct electrical improvements at the Lake Gaillard water treatment plant and Lake Saltonstall water treatment plant. All right. I see ...

Rochelle:

This is that the committee is accepting the application?

Vin:

Correct. Right. And has everyone had a chance to review it for its completeness? Let me turn to Attorney Donofrio, did you have any issues with the completeness of the application?

Jeff:

No, I did review the application and it is complete.

Vin:

All right. So based upon that thank you for that Attorney Donofrio.

Jeff:

Sure.

Vin:

Is there a motion?

Tom:

I'll move it.

Jamie:

I'll second.

Vin:

Thank you, Mr. Clifford. Thank you both. All right, there has been a motion, determine, again, we're just talking about the completeness of the application. Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All those in favor?

Committee Members:

Aye.

Vin:

Any opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it. Thank you for that.

Okay. Get to my agenda here. All right. Now we are looking at the attendance at the Authority meeting May 22nd will be Mr. Jaser. Mr. Jaser, thank you for that.

Is there any new business to come before the body? No? But Jennifer, if we can make sure we include that item on next month's agenda regarding the compensation of the members.

Jennifer:

I got that.

Vin:

All right, you got that.

And now our next meeting will be June 9th at five o'clock and it will be our hybrid format. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Tim:

I'll move.

Vin:

Is there a second? It's a beautiful day out there.

Tom:

Second.

Vin:

Don't be upset about going outside. All right. There's been a motion and it's been seconded. We will stand in recess at 5:22 PM. Thank you for your attention and attendance.