

North Prairie Regional Water District

May 22, 2024, Special Meeting

Hawthorn Suites by Wyndam

Directors Present: Lisa Krueger, Tara Shannon, Darrel Loftesnes, Crystal Hendrickson, Lori Flaten, Kelly Drevecky. Directors Absent: Austin Hanson. Also present: Teresa Sundsbak Manager, Monte Rogneby Vogel Law Firm (Zoom), Public

Chairman Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:17.

Monte Rogneby presents resolutions for the board to consider concerning Director Hendrickson's actions as a board member and requests for records from the District. Monte Rogneby briefs board on resolutions, beginning with the first resolution censuring Director Hendrickson. The censure resolution indicates that Director Hendrickson's behavior is not acceptable and places Director Hendrickson on notice. The second and third resolutions are in response to the large amount of attorney expense and staff time due to Director Hendrickson's open record requests and requests for information. Monte Rogenby expresses his frustration in having communicated previously with Director Hendrickson and her refusal to accept legal opinion, the number of open record requests, and how those requests are made. The second resolution restricts Director Hendrickson's ability to access records as a director and restricts her demands on the general manager and staff unless the board approves. The third resolution limits Director Hendrickson's access to records under the North Dakota Open Records Law when requests by the same requestor disrupt office functions. Monte Rogneby gives his opinion that there is enough evidence for disruption of district business based on the drama, demands, and excessive number of requests by Director Hendrickson.

Motion by Flaten seconded by Shannon to discuss resolution to censure Director Hendrickson.

Motion by Flaten seconded by Shannon to pass resolution of the North Prairie Regional Water District Board of Directors censuring Director Crystal Hendrickson. Vote to pass resolution censuring Director Hendrickson, Flaten-Yes, Loftesnes-Yes, Drevecky-Yes, Shannon-Yes, Hendrickson-No. Motion carried.

Monte Rogneby states that the North Dakota Open Records Law makes it mandatory for certain records to be provided and makes it mandatory for certain records to not be provided. Not all records requests are simple requests and require legal interpretation.

Manager Sundsbak expresses to the board that Director Hendrickson's insinuations of embezzlement, illegal spending, and misappropriation of district funds are creating a hostile work environment from the public's distrust in the District, management, and staff. There have also been difficulties due to the small staff to continue with both the day-to-day operations and added workload from Director's Hendrickson's excessive requests.

Monte Rogneby states that Director Hendrickson's Watchdog page is problematic in that the public believes everything she posts to be true and is creating the impression that the users have certain rights that are being taken away, when those rights were not valid. Director Hendrickson is creating a false idea of what the law is which is inciting hostility and creating discord in the public. Monte Rogneby reiterates that Director Hendrickson's Watchdog page could create potential individual or district liability.

Motion by Flaten seconded by Loftesnes to pass resolution of the North Prairie Regional Water District Board of Directors limiting Director Hendrickson's access to the District's records and staff. Vote to pass resolution limiting Director Hendrickson's access to District's records and staff, Flaten-Yes, Loftesnes-Yes, Drevecky-Yes, Shannon-Yes, Hendrickson-No. Motion carried.

Motion by Flaten seconded by Loftesnes to pass resolution of the North Prairie Regional Water District Board of Directors limiting Director Hendrickson's access to the District's open records under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18(13). Vote to pass resolution limiting Director Hendrickson's access to the District's open records, Flaten-Yes, Loftesnes-Yes, Drevecky-Yes, Shannon-Yes, Hendrickson-No. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08.

Tara Shannon Secretary