

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPEN HOUSE/TABOR  
PARACHUTE/BATTLEMENT MESA PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT  
Thursday, January 23, 2020 6:00 p.m.**

Grand Valley Recreation Center, 398 Arroyo Drive  
Battlement Mesa, CO 81635

**ATTENDEES**

- Directors present: Adam Ford, Secretary  
Chuck Hall, Vice President  
Jerry Mohrlang, President  
Amber Palcer, Asst VP  
Ken Seidel, Treasurer
- Others present: Judy Bertrand, MDM (PBMPRD District Manager)
- Employees present: Doug Choate, Director Golf Superintendent & Parks Mgr.  
Chuck Curtis, Director Golf Course  
Samantha Smith, Director Rec Center& Programs
- Public present: See Sign-in Sheet

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
MATTERS**

Attendance and Agenda: The meeting was called to order by President Mohrlang at 6:30 p.m. and a quorum was noted.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: The Board had previously been informed of the Colorado Revised Statutes to disclose potential conflicts of interest to the Board of Directors and Secretary of State. No Board member stated they had a conflict of interest in any discussion.

Open House Presentation: The District Manager, Judy Bertrand gave a PowerPoint presentation on the justification for the Rec Center rate increase; discussion of the 2019 financials; charts that showed the Rec Center and Programs only brought in enough revenue to cover 25% of expenses and provided an explanation of assessed values, mill levy and impact of a 4.000 increase in mills by home value. The increase in mill levy would increase property taxes to residential properties by \$27 per year for each \$100,000 value of home.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Mr. Riley asked how raising rates was justified and stated they can't pay more taxes.
- Ms. Keller asked how the Board arrived at the new Rec Center rate increases.
- Mr. Wood mentioned the Park & Rec District owning land that is never used and suggested a solar farm. He stated that the District needed a local manager that knew what was going on.
- Ms. Koning commented on the rec center revenue budget reflecting \$396,000 and questioned the 2,400 rec center members. She questioned the future irrigation pond at the Rec Center.

- Ms. Underwood discussed oil and gas diminishing and said the District should reduce expenses.
- Mr. Jay said the mill levy was dumped on the public a month ago and they feel the District should have known the problem 2 years ago.
- Mr. Creech said oil and gas life span is around 12 years. He suggested getting rid of the grass at the Rec Center to cut expenses.
- Ms. Leonard asked when the Board would make a decision and how the public would be notified.

President Mohrlang stated that the public was informed as soon as possible when the District learned of the potential decrease in oil and gas production.

Asst VP Palcer said the Board was not here 20 years ago and you get what you pay for. Ms. Palcer said with the District Manager's expertise they would never find someone local to do the job; especially at the price they are paying for management, accounting and finance. Asst VP Palcer said we always apply for grants when possible.

Garfield County Assessor Jim Yellico stated PBMPRD is the only park and rec district in the entire county. Mr. Yellico said that the assessed value for oil and gas (which comprises the majority of property taxes) is comprised of 50% production and 50% assets. He told the public that they were lucky to live in Colorado which has TABOR; as in other States the District would be allowed to increase the mill levy without approval of the voters.

President Mohrlang said that if the rec center and golf course were not funded that it would hurt everyone and property values. Mr. Mohrlang mentioned the scholarship program that is funded by donations and helps economically disadvantaged youth. He asked the public to consider contributing and 'paying it forward'.

Asst VP Palcer stated that the increase in Rec Center rates was our best guess at what we need. Ms. Palcer said she would not vote to incur debt in order to fund the District, but if we used up all reserves that the only option could be to close the Center. Asst VP Palcer said the Board understands the increase is large but it is the only way to keep the doors open.

President Mohrlang reminded people that Board meetings were held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, President Mohrlang adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Grand Valley Recreation Center, 398 Arroyo, Battlement Mesa, CO.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Bertrand, District Oversight Manager

**THESE MINUTES APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL JANUARY 23, 2020 MINUTES OF PARACHUTE BATTLEMENT MESA PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE & TABOR DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**  
**(Signed copy in possession of the District Oversight Manager)**

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Adam L. Ford, Secretary

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Chuck Hall, Vice President

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Jerry Mohrlang, President

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Amber Palcer, Asst VP

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Ken Seidel, Treasurer