

**Kern County Cemetery District**  
Minutes for  
May 18, 2023

Regular Board Meeting  
Shafter Memorial Park Office  
18662 Santa Fe Way, Shafter, CA

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Braun, Chairman Braun led flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call: In attendance was Barry Braun, Chairman of the Board; Belton Banks, Vice-Chair; Jerry Ezell, Secretary of the Board.

Employees: Eliza Caudillo, District Manager; Denton Carender, Superintendent; Alicia Reveles, District Secretary.

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Consent Calendar: Includes the approval of the agenda for the current meeting and minutes of the regular Board meeting for April 2023. The payroll warrants for 23/08 through 23/09 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports April 2023 were approved. This was done by approval of the consent calendar by motion of Trustee Banks and seconded by Trustee Ezell; 3 ayes, unanimous.

Management Update

- We had 14 services in Shafter and 7 services in Wasco for the month of April 2023. This gives us 255 services for the fiscal year to date. We are at an 18% cremation rate.
- Brian Perez was hired on May 1, 2023, to replace the recent vacancy of a Groundsman.
- Fonseca Tree Service trimmed the trees at the entrance of Shafter Cemetery.
- At the last meeting, the Board authorized the purchase of a Bonander Trailer. While researching the cost of trailers, Superintendent Carender negotiated a trailer comparable to the Shafter trailer at \$12,370.34, tax included. The trailer also included bars to build up the sides and a spare tire. Manager Caudillo reported the purchase at the May 2023 Board meeting.
- Manager Caudillo and Trustee Braun attended the CSDA Legislative Day event in Sacramento. Bills and initiatives concerning Special Districts were discussed. Vince Fong, Melissa Greene, Cole Karr, and Blair Knox were the Legislative and CSDA members they were able to confer with regarding topics pertaining to the Kern County Cemetery District.

Employee MOU Negotiations

Manager Caudillo brought to the Board a request for consideration for a potential COLA, an extension of the current MOU for another 3-year term, with changes in regard to the \$100K travel and AD&D insurance policy which is no longer feasible to extend to Board members and staff. During the June 2021 Board meeting, the Trustees established a Negotiation Committee to facilitate salary negotiations of salaries according to the current MOU with the employees. The Board requested that the negotiation committee meet on May 24, 2023, and bring back the Negotiation Committee's recommendation for potential COLA, MOU, and AD&D Insurance concerns. Manager Caudillo also discussed with the Board the need for salary payout for employees Carender and Garza. Carender and Garza have not been able to take a vacation and are at risk of losing accrued vacation time. The Board authorized the payment of 80 hours to each employee. But they expressed the need for

these employees to take vacations in a timely manner. The Negotiation Committee meeting will be posted, and a Trustee stipend will be paid.

*The motion to authorize a vacation payout for Carendar and Garza.  
This motion was made by Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Bank. 3  
ayes, unanimous.*

*The Board also instructed the Negotiation Committee  
to meet on May 24, 2023, and bring back a  
recommendation in regard to the Employee MOU and  
possible COLA's.*

#### Trustees Comments

Trustee Banks: Regrets the loss of new employee Erik Castellanos. Banks empathize with the cost of doing business vs. income reality. He will work diligently at the negotiation meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> to reach a realistic compromise.

Trustee Ezell: Feels it is urgent and necessary for employees to take their earned vacation time. Staff should work to fulfill the vacation requirements.

Trustee Braun: Would like staff to focus on prioritizing upcoming projects, focus on direction, and begin the process of timely completion of these projects. Namely: Conversion to the automated irrigation system at Wasco Cemetery, New shop at Wasco Cemetery, Develop the next burial section at Shafter Cemetery: research solar panels, and possible grants for funding projects.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm by Chairman Braun. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2023.

Signed,

Eliza Caudillo  
District Manager

