

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA
July 28, 2008
9:00 a.m.**

The Board of Directors of Groveland Community Services District met in regular session on the above mentioned date with Directors Richard Lennen, President, John Gray, Vice President, Gus Allegri, Wesley Johnson, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, District Council David McMurchie, Fire Chief Shane Warner, Secretary to the Board Vicki West, and Administrative Staff Member Lena Spilman.

President Lennen called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Agenda Approval

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Perreira, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment

Members of the public spoke on the following items:

- The July 25, 2008 article published in the Union Democrat referencing an \$84,000.00 debt owed to GCSD by Yosemite Club Partners in connection with the proposed Long Gulch Ranch Project. Members of the public were informed by District Counsel David McMurchie that this debt consists largely of legal fees.
- In light of the recent decision to lease District land to Southside Senior Services, Inc. (SSSI) for The Gathering Place, a member of the public urged the Board to consider concerns raised in the 1999 legal opinion given by then District Counsel regarding the District's sale of the Groveland Library property to Southern Tuolumne Historical Society. General Manager Goodrich reminded the public that no action would be taken on The Gathering Place until SSSI has raised all money necessary to complete the project and the SSSI business plan has been accepted by the District.
- A member of the public claimed GCSD was at fault for a water line break at their residence and requested reimbursement for damages to personal property due to flooding. Members of the Board informed the customer that in order for the issue to be put on the agenda and any action to be taken, they would need to provide the Board with adequate evidence of fault, an itemization of personal losses, and two weeks notice to place the item on the agenda.
- A member of the public expressed concern regarding the timing of Director Gray's resignation and the procedure by which a replacement would be found.
- A member of the public stated that Pine Mountain Lake Association has experienced a large increase in their uncollectible debt fund due to the number of recent foreclosures, and inquired as to whether GCSD has experienced similar

problems. General Manager Goodrich stated that expenses had been cut, and a decrease in property tax revenue was incorporated into the FY 2008-09 budget in anticipation of this situation. Admin/Finance Manager Vicki West also informed members of the public that all delinquent accounts are put on the property tax rolls in August of each year.

Action Items

Consent Calendar

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the consent calendar.

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Waive Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions except by Title

Public Hearing on Continuation of Fire Assessment for Fiscal Year 2008-09

President Lennen opened the Public Hearing at 9:40 am

Blair Aas from SCI Consulting Group gave a brief overview of the Fire Assessment which, approved in 2002, must be annually adjusted and re-levied by a vote of the Board. When originally approved by voters, the assessment allowed for an annual adjustment to the tax based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), never to exceed 3%. Due to the fact that the CPI was above 3% this year, SCI Consulting Group recommended a 3% increase in the Assessment. As this Assessment comprises approximately 25% of the Groveland Fire Department's revenue, Chief Warner gave the Board and the Public an update on Fire Department expenditures. He highlighted the steadily decreasing insurance rating for the Department from a 9 several years ago, to a 5 currently. Chief Warner also briefly explained the success of the Reserve Program and the safety concerns prompting the need for a new fire engine. Director Perreira suggested several changes to the Assessment that were set aside until the hearing was over.

President Lennen closed the Public Hearing Closed at 10:10 am

Approve Resolution 6-08 Approving Engineer's Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment, and Ordering Levy of Assessment for Fiscal Year 2008-09 for the Groveland Fire and Rescue District

The Board was asked to approve the engineer's report and order the levy of the new Fire Assessment for fiscal year 2008-09. Although some Board members and members of the public expressed dissatisfaction with the original engineer's report, no change can be made in the methodology used to levy the assessment until which time the Assessment expires or a new one is approved by the voters. Given this situation, Director Perreira suggested several amendments to the Resolution, which would remove all declarations of satisfaction with the report.

Director Perreira moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously, to strike "and found to be sufficient in every particular" from the third paragraph of the Resolution and to adopt the Resolution as amended.

Direct SCI and Staff to begin Drafting and Design for Fire Assessment Survey to be Conducted in September/October of this Year for a Possible May 2009 Assessment Ballot Proceeding.

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General Manager Goodrich explained that the proposed survey would be a necessary first step in any effort to place a new Fire Assessment on the ballot. The survey would be designed to measure the threshold of support within the community for a new Fire Assessment. In addition to proposing an alternative method of calculating the assessment, the survey would evaluate the level of importance placed on increased fire protection. Blair Aas spoke as a representative of SCI Consulting Group, explaining that a copy of the survey would be sent to all property owners within the Fire and Rescue District.

Mr. Aas recommended to the Board that the survey present a choice between a continuation of the current assessment and one other alternative to be determined. In response to concern regarding the limited selection of alternatives to be offered to property owners, Mr. Aas stressed the importance of keeping the survey simple and easy to understand. He proposed the possibility of circulating another survey based on the results of the first, if necessary. Director Perreira expressed his desire that the survey include a clear explanation to property owners of the level of service and benefit accompanied by each alternative, and that it also include an explanation of the reasons for increasing the current assessment. Director Johnson spoke in support of the proposed survey, stating that it would be an excellent method of reaching and receiving input from members of the community that don't regularly attend the GCSD Board meetings.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously, to Direct SCI and Staff to begin drafting and design for a Fire Assessment Survey to be conducted in September/October of this year for a possible May 2009 assessment ballot proceeding.

Adopt Resolution 7-08 Approving the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Agreement

The Groveland Fire Department was selected for a fourth consecutive year to receive a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant. The Board was asked to approve the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Agreement. The 50% matching grant amounts to \$7,080.00, and will be used to upgrade and expand the Department's communications systems, and to purchase new equipment and supplies for the volunteer firefighters.

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt Resolution 7-08 approving the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Agreement.

Consider Adoption of Section 600—Facilities Development, as the District's Comprehensive Set of Policies and Procedures Regarding the Processing and Evaluation by the District of Developers/Owners Requests to use GCSD Services

The Board continued the discussion concerning Section 600—Facilities Development Manual from the previous meeting. Amendments were made to the document, and the item was continued to the next meeting.

Information Items

Staff Reports

A. General Manager's Comments

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General Manager Goodrich requested the formation of an *ad hoc committee* to explore the possibility of implementing a program to address the childcare needs of District employees. Directors Perreira and Johnson volunteered to sit on the committee. The first committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week in August. General Manager Goodrich also informed the Board and members of the community that by mobilizing the reserve and volunteer firefighters, the Groveland Fire Department has been able to send a strike team to Sonora to cover the Cal Fire Station in addition to maintaining an engine here in Groveland.

B. Finance Report

The Board and members of the public received the final copy of the finance report for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Admin/Finance Manager Vicki West informed the Board that staff has sent letters to all delinquent customers in preparation for placing many of those accounts on the property tax rolls in August.

Adjournment

Director Gray moved, and the motion was seconded by Director Allegri, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

APPROVED:

Richard Lennen, President

ATTEST:

Vicki L. West, Board Secretary