

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA  
August 25, 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, Wesley Johnson, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, Assistant Fire Chief James Burdick, District Engineer Randy Klaahsen, Secretary to the Board Vicki West, and Administrative Staff Member Lena Spilman. Absent: Vice President to the Board John Gray, Director Gus Allegri, Groveland Fire Chief Shane Warner and District Counsel Dave McMurchie.

President Lennen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

***Agenda Approval***

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

***Public Comment***

President Lennen announced that the Board would begin enforcing Section 6.4.1 of the Groveland Community Services District Board of Directors Policy Manual, pertaining to public input. This section states that the Presiding Officer, unless overridden by a majority of the Board, may allot a maximum amount of time for each speaker and to each subject matter. President Lennen informed members of the public that in order to focus and organize public input, each speaker would be afforded one opportunity to address the Board and other members of the public for a maximum of 5 minutes for each agenda item.

The Board took comments and input from the public, and no other issues were brought forth.

**Action Items**

***Consent Calendar***

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

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 28, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Waive Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions except by Title

***Consider Proposal to Create Dog Park on GCSD Land near Leon Rose Ball Field***

Jim Knudsen, member of the all volunteer committee Friends of the Groveland Dog Park (FGDP), addressed the Board concerning the proposed 2-acre off-leash Dog Park on GCSD land, as described in the District's Land Use Study. The Dog Park would

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consist of two fenced areas of land in which dogs and owners could socialize and exercise in a pet-friendly setting. Mr. Knudsen proposed amenities such as disposable bags and refuse containers, rules and regulations signage, and drinking fountains for both people and dogs. Some of these amenities would be provided for through the collection of annual park use permit fees for all pet owners. Permits would be administered by GCSD and would require, among other things, current rabies vaccination documentation, signed acceptance of all applicable rules and regulations, and a signed waiver of responsibility on the part of the pet owner. According to FGDP the fees would be more than adequate to pay for the supplies (mainly refuse bags) needed to maintain the Park.

Mr. Knudsen assured the Board that the FGDP would supply much of the funding necessary for the creation of the Park, and would thereafter provide the required labor for development and monitoring in conjunction with GCSD. Fundraising efforts will be coordinated by the FGDP Volunteer Committee utilizing service clubs, community funds from County open space grants, the Sonora Area Foundation, and personal donations from the community and local businesses. FGDP proposed that construction would not begin until all appropriate funds are in place.

Mr. Knudsen completed his presentation by listing the various benefits to the community from the establishment of a Dog Park in Groveland. It was stated that the Dog Park would not only increase socialization opportunities for pets, but it would promote responsible dog ownership, serve as a tool for realistic enforcement of dog control laws, provide an opportunity for safe dog exercise, and the support public health and safety.

Director Johnson questioned whether or not aggressive breeds of dogs would be excluded from participation, and whether prior history of reported aggression could be taken into consideration during the permit process. Mr. Knudsen responded that while it would be unfair to exclude certain breeds, as there is variation within any breed, an investigation into a past history of aggression would be something that the FGDP would be happy to consider including in the permit process.

A member of the public asked whether or not un-neutered dogs would be allowed at the Park. Mr. Knudsen stated that un-neutered dogs would not be specifically banned, and that the decision whether or not to bring them would be left to the owner, but also included that suggestions as to proper Dog Park etiquette would be provided to each owner.

Director Perreira voiced concern that the Dog Park would not represent a broad community benefit, suggesting instead that the creation of a Groveland Dog Park would constitute too narrow a special purpose to justify taxpayer support. Director Perreira continued that while he had no objections to the use of GCSD land for this purpose, he would like to see GCSD reimbursed for all maintenance and staff related expenses incurred. Mr. Knudsen explained to the Board that while FGDP was willing to provide most of the funding and labor necessary to create the Park, the park has always been intended to become a part of the GCSD Park system. Just as Mary Laveroni Community Park, Leon Rose Ball Field, the Basketball Court, and the Skate Park are

operated and maintained by GCSD with some volunteer assistance, so would be the Groveland Dog Park.

General Manager Jim Goodrich explained that due to insurance restrictions GCSD staff would be required to do all heavy equipment maintenance (including mowing), and that while this maintenance would be of some cost to the District, the District would be gaining an asset at minimal cost, which could also be used as additional spray fields for recycled wastewater.

*The item was continued to the September 8, 2008 regularly scheduled meeting.*

***Approve Release of Bid for Purchase of a New Type I Fire Engine to Replace Engine 786***

Assistant Fire Chief James Burdick addressed the Board, to request permission to release the Request for Bids for a new fire engine for the Groveland Fire Department. Assistant Chief Burdick explained that he has been working closely with vendors to narrow the specifications included in the Request for Bids. He explained that they have researched the needs of the District's new Fire Engine. With the 1959 Van Pelt virtually inoperable and the reality of eventual higher emission standards and increasing costs for steel, new urgency has been added to this process. He assured the Board that the utmost importance has been placed on cost-effectiveness, with many costly but ultimately unnecessary amenities being excluded from the specifications. Assistant Chief Burdick explained that the Fire Department will accept bids for 30 days. We will likely receive bids that may offer slight modifications to the specifications provided. Emphasis was placed on the fact that all bids would be considered and evaluated.

Director Johnson asked Assistant Chief Burdick what had been done with the old equipment from the retired 1959 Van Pelt to be Engine. Assistant Chief Burdick answered that all the re-usable equipment from the Van Pelt is currently in use on other engines, and that the new engine will need to be equipped.

Director Perreira asked the Assistant Chief whether any consideration had been given to purchasing a used vehicle, and what if any savings might be had by such a purchase. Director Perreira was informed that early research had shown that used vehicles didn't decrease much in price.

Director Perreira also questioned Assistant Chief Burdick on the availability of replacement parts for the estimated 20-year lifespan of the vehicle. The Assistant Chief assured the Board and members of the community that in response to this concern the specifications include a requirement that the entire vehicle be made by one manufacturer. This requirement would make parts easier to locate and purchase in the future.

*President Lennen moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously, to Approve Release for Bids for the purchase of a Type I Fire Engine for the Groveland Fire Department to replace Engine 786.*

***Consider Request from Property Owner Janna Minty for Relief from Fixed Rate and Water Bond Charges at PML Unit 2, Lot 446***

General Manager Jim Goodrich informed the Board that the District had received a letter from property owner Janna Minty requesting relief from her fixed water rate and water bond charges. All other utilities to the residence have been discontinued, and it is likely that the house will be repossessed by the bank in the near future. The property owner has been informed that under the present ordinance, as long as the water meter remains in place and operable, there is no choice but for the owner to continue paying the water fixed rate and bond charges in the amount of \$50.10 per month. She has expressed concern over the hardship that these charges impose on her, and has asked the District to waive them in light of the fact that the house is no longer occupied.

Director Goodrich explained to the Board that the Ordinance provides for such variance only in exceptional circumstances that prevent habitation or use of the residence. He further informed the Board that the District has been faced with a number of foreclosures in recent months, and it is our experience that many of the final expenses incurred after the homeowner has vacated the premises are often paid by the bank during the foreclosure process.

*Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Perreira to comply with the current Ordinance and deny the request for relief from water fixed rate and water bond charges at PML Unit 2, Lot 446. The motion passed unanimously.*

***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 item was continued to the September 8, 2008 regularly scheduled meeting.*

**Information Items**

***Staff Reports***

***A. General Manager’s Comments***

General Manager Jim Goodrich announced that the District had turned 55 years old on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Other announcements included the establishment of a District-wide employee newsletter intended to keep GCSD employees up-to-date on District events and activities. General Manager Goodrich also informed the Board and members of the public that due to its low loss ratio, GCSD had been chosen as the large District recipient of the Special District Risk Management Authority McMurchie Excellence in Safety Award for the Worker’s Compensation Program.

***B. Engineering and O&M Reports***

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen informed the Board that the concrete slab for the basketball court at Mary Laveroni Community Park was successfully poured and completed on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many volunteers showed up to help with the project, including GCSD Board President Dick Lennen and Vice President John Gray. The Groveland Fire Department barbequed for the volunteers. Work on the hoops and striping is set to begin this week.

Mr. Klaahsen informed the Board that startup, testing and commissioning for the Alternative Water Supply Treatment Plant began July 7<sup>th</sup>, and that everything is going well and the contractor is currently working on a preliminarily punch list of items.

Lift station upgrades are also moving along as scheduled. Lift Station 1, located on Lower Skyridge Drive, is tentatively scheduled for completion by the end of September. In addition to successfully staying on schedule with the upgrade projects, GCSD staff has estimated that the project is currently well under budget.

*C. Fire Department Report*

Assistant Chief James Burdick updated the Board and members of the public on various Fire Department activities, and reported that the Fire Department volunteer and reserve activity is increasing in response to an ever increasing call volume.

***Adjournment***

President Lennen moved, and the motion was seconded by Director Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

APPROVED:

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Richard Lennen, President

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. West, Board Secretary