

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA
November 17, 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, Gus Allegri, Wesley Johnson, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, District Engineer Randy Klaahsen, Secretary to the Board Vicki West, and Administrative Staff Member Lena Spilman.

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

Agenda Approval

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously, to move item #3 to #1 and to approve the agenda as written.

Public Comment

A member of the public suggested that the Board consider filling the Board vacancy through a special election, possibly in conjunction with the potential Big Oak Flat Unified School District Board recall.

Action Items

1) Rescind the award for the purchase of the new fire truck to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. until the District receives word from FEMA about the award of the fire engine grant. 2) If the District receives the FEMA grant, authorize the General Manager to re-bid the purchase of the new fire engine. 3) If the District does not receive the FEMA grant, authorize the General Manager to award the purchase of the new fire engine to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. using their original bid.

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented the item to the Board. Mr. Goodrich explained that on November 10, 2008 the GCSD Board of Directors awarded the purchase of a new Type I fire engine to Pierce Manufacturing. However, on December 12th the Fire Department learned that FEMA had placed the Groveland Fire Department on the short-list of applicants for a \$275,000+ grant towards the purchase of a new fire engine. To be considered for this award, the District cannot have signed a contract for the purchase of the fire engine until after the award of the grant. The District has not yet signed a contract with Pierce Manufacturing. If awarded the grant, the District would also be required to re-bid the fire engine.

Given the new information that has come to light regarding the FEMA grant, Mr. Goodrich recommended that the board rescind the award for the purchase of the fire

engine. He explained that Staff expects the grant to be awarded by the end of the year, at which time the District could determine how to proceed.

Groveland Fire Chief Shane Warner spoke on the item, explaining that the Staff had been working very hard on this grant since March. Mr. Warner emphasized that the Fire Department has applied for this grant for the last four years with no success, and that this is the farthest that they have ever gotten in the process. Although there has been no final word yet, Mr. Warner stated that the Fire Department is very excited at the possibility of receiving this grant.

Director Johnson asked whether there was any indication on November 10th, when the Board awarded the purchase of the fire engine to Pierce Manufacturing, that GCSD was close to receiving the FEMA grant.

Mr. Warner responded that there was no indication on November 10th that we were this close to receiving the grant.

Mr. Goodrich explained that there was nothing at that time to suggest that we were any closer to receiving the grant this year than we have been in our previous four unsuccessful attempts.

Director Perreira read a prepared statement (attached).

Director Johnson spoke in response to Director Perreira's statement, officially disavowing himself from any adverse criticism of the State's fire plan or the firefighting capability of its firefighters.

Director Lennen moved, seconded by Director Allegri, and the motion passed unanimously to 1) Rescind the award for the purchase of the new fire truck to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. until the District receives word from FEMA about the award of the fire engine grant. 2) If the District receives the FEMA grant, authorize the General Manager to re-bid the purchase of the new fire engine. 3) If the District does not receive the FEMA grant, authorize the General Manager to award the purchase of the new fire engine to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. using their original bid.

Approve Amended Categorical Exemption for Fire Fuel Reduction Project on District Property

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented this item to the Board. Mr. Goodrich explained that on November 10, 2008 the Board approved a Categorical Exception for a Fire Fuel Reduction Project on District Property. Later that day Mr. Goodrich met with Alan Peters, the Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Manager. Mr. Peters agreed to assist the District in getting a 100% grant for conducting the fire fuel reduction. During this meeting, Mr. Peters mentioned that the District could partner with private land owners who abut District property to conduct fire fuel reduction on their property as well. Mr. Goodrich informed the Board that the property owners had already been contacted, and had agreed to participate in the project.

In order to move forward, Mr. Goodrich stated that the Board must authorize an amended form of the Categorical Exemption to include the inclusion of neighboring property before the notice is posted at the County offices. After posting the CEQA documentation, if no challenges have

been received by the end of the 30-day challenge period, then the district plans to begin the fire fuel reduction on December 22, 2008. Furthermore, Mr. Goodrich reported that Staff will put the forest mastication contract out to bid and will bring the award of that bid back to the Board in early January, assuming the District has received funding at that time.

Director Perreira stated that he would not support this item based on the principle that public funds should not be used on private land.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed to Approve Amended Categorical Exemption for fire Fuel Reduction Project on District Property
Ayes: Directors Lennen, Allegri, and Johnson Noes: Director Perreira

Authorize General Manager to Execute Documents with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Related to Proposition 40 Grant for the GCSD Fire Fuel Reduction Project.

General Manager Jim Goodrich presented this item to the Board, explaining that because the District is seeking a 100% Proposition 40 grant to conduct fire fuel reduction on its property and some adjacent properties, the state requires that the Board authorize one person in the District to execute documents associated with this grant and for the project. Staff recommends that this person be the General Manager. Mr. Goodrich explained that, if approved by the Board, the President of the Board must sign an authorization letter and both the letter and the signature must then be notarized.

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed to Authorize General Manager to Execute Documents with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Related to Proposition 40 Grant for the GCSD Fire Fuel Reduction Project.
Ayes: Directors Lennen, Allegri, and Johnson Noes: Director Perreira

Information Items

Director's Comments

Director Perreira spoke regarding information previously provided on firefighting techniques used in fighting the San Francisco fire of 1906.

Adjournment

Director Allegri moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

APPROVED:

Richard Lennen, President

ATTEST:

Vicki L. West, Board Secretary