

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA
February 9, 2009
9:00 a.m.**

The Board of Directors of Groveland Community Services District met in regular session on the above mentioned date with Directors Wes Johnson, President, John Graham, Vice President, Dick Lennen, and Steve Perreira being present. Also present were General Manager Jim Goodrich, District Engineer Randy Klaahsen, Fire Chief Shane Warner, District Treasurer Vicki West and Board Secretary Lena Spilman.

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

Agenda Approval

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

Public Comment

A member of the public inquired as to the status of the Long Gulch Ranch Receivable. General Manager Jim Goodrich responded that District Counsel Dave McMurchie was preparing a report for the Board regarding this matter.

Director Perreira inquired as to whether the Board President has the authority to amend the Board's public comment policy. Director Johnson commented that he had assumed concurrence when he presented the new public comment policy, as there were no Board member objections. Director Perreira voiced concern over the requirement that members of the public address the Board from the podium. Director Johnson responded to this concern, agreeing that if a member of the public suffers from a physical condition that prevents them from being able to make it to the podium, they may be permitted to address the Board from their seat.

Action Items

Consent Calendar

Director Graham moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed to approve the consent calendar:

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 26, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Waive Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions except by Title

Ayes: Directors Johnson, Graham, and Lennen

Noes: Director Perreira

Consider Request from Property Owner to Waive Sewer Fixed and Variable Charges

General Manager Goodrich presented this item to the Board. He explained that on December 15, 2008 the District received a written request from Mrs. Dawna Evans to waive the sewer fixed rate and variable charges for her property at 20296 Lower Skyridge Drive, Groveland. Mr. Goodrich explained the District's policy regarding sewer charges, and asked Mrs. Evans to present her case to the Board.

Mrs. Evans explained to the Board that her family purchased the property in 1977, and began construction in 1984. She stated that while she and her husband are trying to complete the project as quickly as possible, the home is still not completed. Mrs. Evans noted that although there is minimal water usage at the property, the house is not yet plumbed and so there is no sewer usage. She asked that the Board acknowledge that they already pay sewer fees at the campground where they currently live, and waive the sewer fees at the Skyridge property until construction is completed.

Director Graham asked Mrs. Evans when she expected construction to be completed, and she responded that they hoped to complete the home by this summer.

Director Johnson asked Mrs. Evans about a 2004 report from Tuolumne County Environmental Health of an illegal sewer connection on this property. Mrs. Evans stated that her children completed the sewer connection, and were unaware that the District would need to inspect and approve the connection.

Director Perreira stated that often times a builder gets into a situation where he must connect to the sewer before he is able to sell the house. Although unfortunate, in those situations the builder is forced to pay the sewer fees until he can sell the house. Director Perreira also stated that as an owner-builder he understands how difficult it can be to finish a house, but that paying those fees until you can finish the construction is just a part of the process. He commented that the District rarely makes exceptions in these cases, and that everyone is subject to the same fees.

Director Lennen moved, seconded by Director Perreira, and the motion passed unanimously to deny the request from property owner to waive sewer fixed and variable rate charges.

Authorize the General Manager to Release the Request for Proposals for Assisting the District with the Preparation of a 5-year Strategic Plan

As requested by the Board, General Manager Jim Goodrich prepared a request for proposals to assist the District with the preparation of a 5-year strategic plan. Mr. Goodrich stated that the goals presented to Staff several years ago are nearing and completion, and it is necessary to revisit the District's goals and objectives for the next five years. Mr. Goodrich also distributed a written statement submitted by Director Perreira to the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

Director Johnson opened the item for public comment, and as there were none, the item was brought back for Board deliberation.

Director Johnson stated that he was in complete agreement with the views expressed in Director Perreira's written statement. He commented that the District would be better served to utilize competent District staff to identify goals and objectives, rather than hire an outside consultant to tell us what we already know. Director Johnson proposed that rather than hire an outside consultant, the General Manager be directed to create a committee comprised of Board members, staff, and interested members of the community.

Director Perreira stated that there may be members of the community that have excellent experience to offer, but that a few community members on the committee would not be representative of the community as a whole. Director Perreira suggested that a survey may be a more effective method of receiving community input. He argued that it is important to find out what services the public desires, and what the public would be willing to pay for those services.

General Manager Goodrich agreed with Director Perreira that asking the public what services they would like without including the anticipated costs would be pointless. He also agreed that District employees may have valuable ideas to contribute, and noted that there is currently a District wide suggestion program in place.

Director Perreira stated that he hoped a survey would be considered, and that the costs of such a project should be explored further. Mr. Goodrich responded that it would be wise to contact some professional surveyors for advice first.

Director Perreira stated that he doesn't think that employees can give an accurate report of what the community is thinking. He offered that although the employees may deal directly with the public, many members of the public are likely hesitant to offer honest opinions during face-to-face interactions.

Director Lennen commented that there is a lot of experience and talent within our community and that he could not justify hiring an outside service to identify the goals and objectives of the District.

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously to continue the item and direct the General Manager to form a committee to evaluate the District goals and objectives and report back to the Board at a future date.

A) Approve Energy Services Contract with Chevron Energy Solutions, B) Authorize the General Manager to Decrease District Employee Headcount by One Position, C) Direct Staff to Work with CES to Prepare a Facilities Financing Agreement for Board Approval

Mr. Goodrich stated that staff was not prepared for the Board to take action on this item, but that both staff and CES representative Kevin Bell would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen explained that no action is recommended at this time is that in order to certify the revenue to expense ratio as required by the District's loan agreements, staff must wait for the District's 2008 Audit Report.

Kevin Bell from CES addressed the Board regarding the status of the financing options for the project.

Director Perreira asked Mr. Klaahsen several questions regarding the testing methods for the new automated meters.

Director Johnson moved, seconded by Director Lennen, and the motion passed unanimously to continue the item to the earliest possible date.

Information Items

Staff Reports

A. General Manager's Comments

None.

B. Engineering Reports

District Engineer Randy Klaahsen reported that the Lift Station Upgrade at Lift Station 14 began in January, and is almost 50% completed. Director Perreira asked Mr. Klaahsen to clarify what constitutes an emergency requiring an after hours call-out.

C. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Shane Warner reported that the Joint Basic Fire Academy (JBFA) is going very well. The first responder medical training should be completed by the end of February. Groveland Fire Department Training Officer Jon Rock is doing a great job in hosting the JBFA. Mr. Warner also gave the Board an update as to the status of various grants the Department is currently pursuing. He informed the Board and members of the public that there is an informational DVD at the front desk for those who wish to learn more about Pierce Manufacturing and how a fire engine is manufactured.

Director's Comments

Director Perreira distributed a written statement regarding the CalPers program, and urged the public to be aware of the current issues facing the program.

Adjournment

Director Graham moved, seconded by Director Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

APPROVED:

Wesley Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Lena Spilman, Board Secretary