



Volcano Community Services District
P.O. Box 72
Volcano CA 95689

PUBLIC MEETING
Virtual Meeting thru a Zoom Meeting
Covid-19 protocol
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 8, 2021

Directors: Nancy Bailey- President
Jane Norcross – Vice President
Nick Rubini - Director
Gerald (Skip) Schippers - Director
Wendy Cooper – Director

The Agenda was posted at the Armory Hall, Store, and Post Office on, 04/05/2021. President N. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. J. Norcross and W. Cooper were absent. **A motion was made by N. Rubini, to approve the consent agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, S. Schippers 2nd and all ayes.**

STAFF REPORTS/ITEMS:

Billing Secretary/Treasurer's/Secretary's Report: S. Owens: – February & March: Checking Balance: \$, CD1 \$6,656.31, CD2 \$27,491.15, CD4 \$24,733.54, CD#5 11,573.97 *Income* \$4,950.83 *Expenses* \$4,114.49 *Net Income* \$836.34, see February & March Treasurer's report.

STAFF REPORTS/ITEMS:

Billing Secretary, Treasurers/Secretary Report: S. Owens

District Engineer's Report – N. Lawson and J. Mottishaw

Water capacity/, flow, and maintenance – Well #1 is producing milky water and well #2 only produces 4 gpm. The board chose not to repair well #2 for now. The lab determined the cause of the milky water, which is calcium carbonate. The pump may not be at the bottom of the well, so raising the pump may not be a solution. The goal is to determine what can be done to use the water, possibly a filtration system. S. Schippers will work with N. Lawson to identify possible solutions. The Amador water agency and the California Rural Water may know of options. S. Schippers will reach out to D. Wyckoff as well.

2015 Survey Study requirements: At each meeting there will be a review of the water flow and water consumption. S. Owens will make copies of the study for all board members and district engineers. Cleveland tunnel readings - how much water is being treated and much is coming over the weir/raw water supply. S. Schippers and N. Lawson will discuss how to proceed with obtaining readings. There are two numbers, basic data, what is coming in and what is going out. This procedure needs to be included in the District Engineers' contract.

Operation and proposal – N. Lawson & J. Mottishaw – N. Lawson agree to start reporting the water supply and use data for the board at each meeting. N. Rubini feels that the board needs to do what is necessary to keep the water running and do what is necessary. The water is a priority. It may be time for change. M. Gottstein asked for a clear understanding for duties and all requirements of the contract are laid out. The main scope of the proposed contract will have additional items from the previous contract. Items from the survey study will be included. N. Lawson said they take a lot of pride in their work and feel that the contract is a good thing all around and the high-quality work with the additional items will be a positive move for the district. For an AWA employee to contract with the VCSD, the district will need to contract with AWA for emergency repairs and situations, when the district engineers are not available. The AWA will also support the district with information about grants and other opportunities. S. Schippers and N. Rubini are pleased with the idea of having AWA as a partner.

N. Bailey made a motion to the AWA agreement "AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMADOR WATER AGENCY AND VOLCANO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A WATER SYSTEM", this agreement is for services when the district engineers are not available, the final document will be set for approval at the next regular meeting, S. Schippers 2nd, and all ayes.

N. Lawson and J. Mottishaw agreement: The board wants the previous engineer contract and the proposed contracts combined to build a unified document. The board will clarify expectations and approve the financial obligation at a special meeting. The new contract will include hydrant flushing, curb stop work, and data collection. The proposed contract will have a significant increase in the operating engineer costs. The duties, state requirements, and job scope have greatly increased over the years. **S. Schipper made a motion to accepts combining the two contracts and include items from the survey study, and other mentioned items, and to approve the cost of insurance and the increase in fees, N. Bailey 2nd and all ayes.**

Well Repair proposal – Jack Dunn wells will come out but have not been able to get out there. N. Lawson is working to get someone out there.

Redwood tank repair idea – Joel had an idea to fix the redwood tank but has not had time to make a site visit to see what the possibilities are. The guy is a local contractor. The materials must be state approved for the board to approve.

Ca Water Board Inspection Report – The state is not like the county; they are more certain about what they want to do. They included some items that need to be completed quickly to get the permit. Fences around the wells for security reasons. The spillway needs to change, the way it dumps. They want it to have an air gap, easy fix. The plant needs to shut off when the tank fills, this will be an expensive fix. There is no power and communication to the plant. N. Lawson believes the VCSD will need a grant to do, as that will be costly. The main concern of the state is the plant running all the time. The water is going to go into the ground regardless. Water is always leaving the tunnel; either over the tank or over the weir, but the cost is expensive for no real benefit. The board would like to send a response to the state asking for the state to reconsider this requirement, as the cost is more than the district can manage. M. Gottstein will supply S. Owens with a starting point.

Tree removal near the water treatment building – No report.

Backflow device certification – All properties need to be recertified and the St. George hotel needs to have a device added. The hotel uses the 2nd source for irrigation during the summer months. The dilemma is where to place the backflow device. How far from the meter can it be? The meter is in the path. N. Lawson knows a couple guys and will create a list of guys that can do the job.

Curb stops – exercise them – Most of them are frozen and need to be exercised every year. Tools are in the pump house. The new proposal includes valve exercising, curb stop exercising and hydrant flushing.

Capital Improvements:

- **2014-2018 Capital Improvement Plan – no report**
- **Long Term Strategic Plan - no report**
- **Hydrant addition/repair & Hydrant survey – no report**
- **Increase water storage supply – possible grant funding – no report**
- **Fire Hydrants flush – not yet but will do soon.**

Hall/Park Manager's Report – A. Macheel

Armory Hall Items:

- a. **Covid-19 pandemic – Hall & Park rentals/Usage** –
 - i. **Update COVID protocol** – Nothing open, the board opted to wait until June to consider opening the hall and park. The latest infection numbers in the county are still high.
- b. **Sign for park for no BBQ's** – The sign is back up.
- c. **Hall Storage** – J. Norcross and N. Bailey did not check but will soon. The VCA feels all VCA items have been moved to the shed.
- d. **Hall stairs – metal strip replacement and painting of steps** – N. Rubini will work on.
- e. **Reservation update** – no updates.

Regular Meeting AGENDA ITEMS Current:

1. **Restroom arrangement with the Country Store** – All is going well; the restrooms are open during the store business hours and has been kept clean.
2. **VCA – Ellie Rutt** – The VCA cleaned up the cemetery. Thank you VCA!! They will ask to use the Peacock resident hose for burning and will obtain a burn permit.
3. **Cemetery Maintenance & Headstone replacement**– The VCSD does not have funds to replace headstones, or for maintenance. Amador county had some ability to help in the past but has not helped in a very long time.
4. **Insurance Restroom & Water Tank and other items**- N. Bailey will can get more detail on item #2, the water tank insurance, what is insured, the housing or housing and tank.
5. **Late payment policy** – no report – S. Owens reported the lowest outstanding balance in many years.
6. **Annual Budget draft proposal** – The proposed budget included the increase in the engineering costs and reflects the lower cost of the hall, with no rentals, the hall has greatly decreased expenses. There is an idea to keep the hall has a community resource and only rent at a very high rate. The board will adopt a final budget at the June meeting.
7. **Rate Increase** – The system is a mostly a fixed cost system, making increases to the variable rates a challenge for making the budget work. Due to prop directives, raising the tier rates is not desirable. Grants will be needed for updates to the distribution system. California Rural Water will help apply for a grant to get a median income study completed which, can help determine what types of grant finding are available to the district. The VCSD cannot afford to pay for a study on their own as, they are very expensive. A base rate increase, monthly \$1.25 will increase income by \$1,000 annually. The board will adopt a rate scenario for the following three years at the June meeting. The thought is an increase to the base rate for each of the next three years. The increase could be \$7.50 for the first year, \$7.50 for the second year and \$2.50 for the third year. This would make the needed increase occur over three years.
8. **Annual Audit** – no report

Adjournment

N. Rubini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48pm, N. Bailey 2nd and all ayes.

Submitted

Sharon Owens, Secretary