

**SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #870  
JULY 28, 2020**

*Agenda with board packet and staff reports is available at the following link:  
<https://www.svpsd.org/board-agenda-july-2020>*

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance.** President Dale Cox called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Directors Present:** Directors: Dale Cox, Katy Hover-Smoot, Bill Hudson, Fred Ilfeld, and Victoria Mercer

**Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Thomas Archer, District Counsel; Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Mike Geary, General Manager; Danielle Grindle, Finance & Administration Manager; Dave Hunt, District Engineer; Allen Riley, Fire Chief; and Josh Wilson, Operations Manager.

**Others Present:**


Carl Davis; Jean Lange; Pippin Mader; Kat Smolen; and David Stepner.

President Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Community Informational Items.**

- B-1** Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC) – Katrina Smolen stated that the FOSC will start construction of the creek restoration project in early September. She invited staff and the Board to attend a meeting on Thursday (7/20/20) which will provide an overview of the project and water monitoring efforts. Ms. Smolen provided a brief project overview and noted that FOSC would hopefully host a site tour once the project was completed. The Board thanked FoSC for the hard work and stated there has been noticeable improvement to the creek and meadow. There was a brief discussion about the discoloration and smell of water near the S-Turn, which is a natural place for wetland pooling.
- B-2** Friends of Squaw Valley (FOSV) – None.
- B-3** Squaw Valley Design Review Committee (SVDRC) – None.
- B-4** Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council (SVMAC) – None.
- B-5** Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company (SVMWC) – David Stepner said the SCMWC election will be at the first meeting in September. The MWC is preparing bid packages for four construction projects.
- B-6** Squaw Valley Property Owners Association (SVPOA) – None.
- B-7** Mountain Housing Council of Tahoe Truckee (MHC) – None.
- B-8** Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) – President Cox provided a brief update. All waste discharge requirements were met in June. The Carollo Engineers, Inc. report on T-TSA plant operations is nearly completed. Carollo’s experience as a consultant in the water and wastewater sector was reviewed. Mr. Mader said he had a concern that the employee survey in the Carollo report had not been Board approved or included in the contract. Sewer flows are unseasonably high. Mr. Geary said he is not aware of any planned or completed COVID-19 testing in wastewater at the County level or at T-TSA.

**APPROVED**

SIGNATURE:   
DATE: 8-25-2020

**B-9** Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) – Ms. Grindle stated that the Committee would meet this Thursday (7/30/20) at 4:30 p.m. to discuss next year’s application and review process. Applications are expected to be ready in August. Mr. Geary said he would work with the Squaw Valley Business Association, Squaw Valley Resort, the Resort at Squaw Creek, and Placer County to determine if there are projects that the District can support or apply for, including bench installation along the bike trail.

**B-10** Firewise Community – Mr. Stepner provided an update. The Firewise Council applied for a CalFire Foundation Grant. The funding would hire a consultant/forester to apply for a CalFire grant to underwrite the cost of creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), however the grant cycle was advanced and may result in a timing issue. A project was approved by Boy Scouts of America to have an Eagle scout candidate help the Council with public outreach and advocacy. The National Firewise Council provided a sign identifying the Firewise Community and Mr. Stepner has submitted an encroachment permit to the County to hang the sign on Squaw Valley Road.

**C. Public Comment/Presentation.**

Pippin Mader and Carl Davis commented on matters related to T-TSA. Issues raised included personnel issues, staff compensation, Truckee River water discharge violations, employee retention, Director benefits, Board oversight, and outdated infrastructure. The SVPSD Board was urged to investigate the issues presented and the District’s representation at T-TSA.

**C-1 Recognition of Service – 25 years – Sal Monforte, Fire Captain**

Mike Geary explained that this recognition follows the District’s personnel policies and procedures offering an incentive reward of \$250.00 for 25 years of service. Chief Riley expressed Mr. Monforte’s appreciation of the Public Service District and Fire Department’s support.

**D. Financial Consent Agenda Items.**

Directors Hover-Smoot and Mercer convened with staff on July 27, 2020 from approximately 3:00 – 3:40 p.m. to review items D-1 through D-10 and other finance related items on the agenda. Ms. Grindle, Director Mercer and Director Hover-Smoot provided a summary and noted that there were emergency repairs to Well 3 which totaled just under \$15,000 and would be discussed as part of item G-3, Engineering Report.

Public Comment – None.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion to approve the financial consent agenda which was seconded by Director Mercer. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ifeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

**APPROVED**

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 8-25-2020

**E. Approve Minutes.**

**E-1 Minutes for the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of June 30, 2020.**

The Board reviewed the minutes, accepted public comment, and approved the minutes for the Board of Directors regular meeting of June 30, 2020.

Public Comment – None.

Director Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of June 30, 2020 which was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ifeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

**F. Old & New Business.**

**F-1 Community Update – SVPSD Response to COVID-19**

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Mr. Geary provided an update on the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District continues to follow guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health and Placer County Public Health. The administration department staff continues to work remotely when feasible, however workload related to annual billing has increased the need for some staff to work from the office. Staff has been wearing masks, keeping six-foot distance from one-another and having meetings outside. There was a brief discussion about opening windows, though, it can interfere with the HVAC system. Staff have installed a drop box at the District's front door. The Fire Department is installing child safety seat by appointment and on a case-by-case basis. The COVID-19 Business Operations Plan and Training and requirements of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act have been implemented and are ongoing. Suspension of notary services and community use of the board room continues. No feedback has been received, positive or negative, regarding responsiveness or the change in operations. Ms. Grindle and Ms. Gueissaz now have Mitel on their cell phones to answer District phone calls with each other as backup. There was a discussion about employee stress and morale during the pandemic.

Public Comment – None.

**F-2 Declare Fire Department Items as Surplus and Authorize Sale, Donation or Disposal of Items.**

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, declared the items identified by staff as surplus equipment, and authorized staff to conduct a sale, donate and/or dispose of the items.

Chief Riley reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None.

Director Hudson made a motion to declare the items identified by staff as surplus equipment, and authorized staff to conduct a sale, donate and/or dispose of the items. The motion was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

## **G. Management Status Reports.**

### **G-1 Fire Department Report**

Chief Riley reviewed the report and provided an update on the defensible space inspections and crews on wildland fire strike teams.

*The power went out throughout the region. Many of the attendees had to re-join the meeting on telephones rather than through the internet/videoconference. Rollcall was taken and all Directors were present. Staff attendance was taken, and all staff re-joined the call.*

### **G-2 Water & Sewer Operations Report**

Mr. Wilson reviewed the report.

### **G-3 Engineering Report**

Mr. Hunt reviewed the report and provided an update on the current projects including the West Tank Recoating Project and 1810 Roof Project. Mr. Trojan's last day was on Friday. A job offer was extended to Alexa Kingsinger to fill the Junior Engineer position, she will start on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hunt explained the Well 3 Emergency Rehabilitation Project.

### **G-4 Administration & Office Report**

Ms. Asher reviewed the report. Ms. Asher noted that she worked with the incumbent directors to file candidate filing paperwork and encouraged Directors to begin the filing process if they have not yet.

### **G-5 General Manager Report**

Mr. Geary reviewed the report. Mr. Geary revisited the discussion about the discoloration and smell of Squaw Creek near the S-Turn. Mr. Wilson said this water has not been sampled. Staff and Directors discussed that the discoloration and smell are due to water leaching into the meadow from iron-rich Hidden Lake; some history was provided.

### **G-6 Legal Report (verbal)**

None.

### **G-7 Directors' Comments (verbal)**

The Directors inquired about the public comment related to T-TSA and requested that this item be

placed on the agenda. Mr. Geary said that the discussion will focus on the “T-TSA Act,” how our membership in the agency is legally administered, rules to appoint the District’s T-TSA representative, and background on the noted violations. Mr. Archer and Mr. Geary noted that it is not within the District’s jurisdiction to discuss T-TSA’s personnel issues however public documents related to labor disputes can be provided for the Board’s review. The Board requested that the General Manager provide any written policies on the District’s representation and responsibilities related to T-TSA as well as guidance on how best to address the concerns raised in public comment. Mr. Geary said he will send the Directors the requested material, information on the reported violations, and direction on how the SVPSD Board can best approach this concern.

Director Mercer questioned why the agenda did not include a discussion on changing the District’s Name as requested. Mr. Geary responded that the item was deferred to provide staff time to prepare and to benefit from seeing Squaw Valley Resort’s community presentation. Two Directors asked that the item be agendized next month and that the District’s decision regarding name change be made independently of the ski area’s decision. There was consensus that there is robust communication to the constituents so that residents can be involved in the discussion. There was a brief discussion about the effort staff is making to determine the process, and associated workload, to change the name.

The Directors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of considering a name change on the agenda and it was determined that the item should be placed on the August agenda as an information only item. The Board would like to understand the cost and process of changing the name, consider background research, and begin discussing it with the community. Mr. Geary said the provided costs will be qualitative. The Board asked if staff could determine the costs of doing a community survey like what was done with the Olympic Meadow Preserve. Staff will try to acquire the Resort’s slideshow and presentation.

**H. Adjourn.**

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Ilfeld to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

By, J. Asher