

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #878
MARCH 30, 2021**

*Agenda with board packet and staff reports is available at the following link:
<https://www.ovpsd.org/board-agenda-march-2021>*

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; Brandon Burks, Operations Manager; Mike Geary, General Manager; Danielle Grindle, Finance & Administration Manager; Jessica Grunst, Account Clerk II and Human Resources Specialist; Dave Hunt, District Engineer; Allen Riley, Fire Chief.

Others Present: Michael Carabetta; Jane Davis; John Johnson; Jean Lange; Joe Pick, Firefighter Burn Institute; David Stepner.

President Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Community Informational Items.

B-1 Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC) – None.

B-2 Friends of Squaw Valley (FOSV) – None.

B-3 Squaw Valley Design Review Committee (SVDRC) – There was a brief discussion about the Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows Base to Base Gondola.

B-4 Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council (SVMAC) – Mr. Stepner said the agenda for the next meeting includes being provided information about the newly formed North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District (NLT TBID) and how the NLT TBID, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA), and Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) will interact. There was a brief discussion about the proposal for micro-transit in the Tahoe City vicinity and the desire for the service area to include Olympic Valley.

B-5 Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company (SVMWC) – Mr. Stepner said the SVMWC is preparing a \$1.2M bid package, primarily to replace water distribution lines within Sandy Way. Well 2 is currently offline due to pipe damage. Two planned projects are being delayed, saving funding for the potential intertie with OVPSD and allowing coordination with future development.

B-6 Squaw Valley Property Owners Association (SVPOA) – None.

B-7 Mountain Housing Council of Tahoe Truckee (MHC) – Director Ilfeld provided a brief update on the policy committee and their support of recent legislature, such as the eviction moratorium bill.

B-8 Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) – President Cox reviewed the T-TSA Board Meeting summary and COVID-19 Rate Relief for commercial entities.

APPROVED

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 4/27/21

- B-9** Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAP) – Ms. Grindle said that the CAP has been discussing transportation related projects such as the resort triangle plan, micro-transit, a reversible third lane for public transit, and paid parking.
- B-10** Firewise Community – Chief Riley said the Firewise Community is focused on community education regarding defensible space and home hardening. David Stepner said that CalFIRE has released applications for \$170M in fuel mitigation grants over the next two years. The Council is working on the annual recertification. The Friends of Squaw Valley is hoping to sponsor a chipping day. The Department will initiate work on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with Deer Creek Resources in April.

C. Public Comment/Presentation.

Jane Davis provided comments regarding T-TSA.

C-1 Recognition of the Olympic Valley Fire Department by the Firefighter Burn Institute

Joe Pick with the Firefighter Burn Institute presented the Fire Department with a plaque and expressed their gratitude to the Department for raising money during the annual Boot Drive which is used to improve burn treatment and burn recovery programs, fund camps and retreats for young adults and children, and expand survivor support groups. Chief Riley and Director Cox expressed gratitude to Captain De Deo for organizing the fundraiser.

D. Financial Consent Agenda Items.

Directors Hover-Smoot and Mercer convened with staff on March 29, 2021, from approximately 3:00 – 4:25 p.m. to review items D-1 through D-8, F-4 *First Draft of FY 2021-2022 Budget and Rates*, and other finance-related items on the agenda. Ms. Grindle and Director Hover-Smoot provided a summary of the meeting.

Public Comment – None.

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

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

E. Approve Minutes.

E-1 Minutes for the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of February 23, 2021.

The Board reviewed the minutes, accepted public comment, and approved the minutes for the Board of Directors regular meeting of February 23, 2021.

Public Comment – None.

APPROVED

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

J. Deo
4/27/21

Director Ilfeld made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of February 23, 2021, which was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Yes

F. Old & New Business.

F-1 Community Update – OVPSD 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 Administration and Operations staff have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Tier 1B *Emergency Service Workers*. Those that decided to be vaccinated will be fully vaccinated by April 12, 2021 and those that chose to receive the vaccine in the Fire Department are already fully vaccinated. After April 12th, 2021, the District will consider removing the requirement to wear masks in common areas for those that have been vaccinated, while the building remains closed to the public. The building will remain closed to the public until community transmission has decreased. The Operations Department continues to work in two separated cohorts. The District will continue to follow guidance from the California Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The State passed supplemental sick leave related to COVID effective yesterday, March 29, 2021 through September 30, 2021. Management and Human Resources are working to understand and then share this information with staff. Chief Riley added that the Fire Department continues to participate in the regional vaccination clinic at Sierra College and has started to perform more commercial inspections.

Public Comment – None.

F-2 Fuels Management Program

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Mr. Geary and Chief Riley reviewed the staff report and Five Creeks Drainage Proposal. Staff firmly believes that a Fuels Management Program is needed to achieve the goals of reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest health, and reducing the risk of property damage or loss. The District's Mission Statement supports wildfire mitigation work; however, funding is nonexistent to support the scope necessary to make a difference in the management of forest fuels within our service territory. Staff requested direction from the Board on whether initial research should be completed to establish the framework and a funding plan for a Fuels Management Program or if the District should take the position to defer this responsibility to CalFIRE and neighboring jurisdictions.

There was a discussion about public and private coordination. Mr. Geary said that the District may be an attractive partner to neighboring agencies due to the amount of the land in the jurisdiction. Chief Riley noted that private entities may have an opportunity to provide meaningful help through

matching funds for grants. Mr. Stepner discussed the cooperative effort between community, the Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows, and the District to fund the CWPP and noted that all entities who own significant land in the Valley will be involved in the preparation of the CWPP.

The Directors agreed that this work is important and within the District's purview and directed staff to move forward with initial research to develop a framework for the program. The Directors cautioned that it would be important to understand financing mechanisms and discussed wanting to ensure that the management work is done in an environmentally responsible way.

Mr. Geary said staff will start developing the Fuel Management Program framework and will provide updates on progress, along with the CWPP project updates, to the Board and to the Fire Committee.

Public Comment –

Mr. Stepner reviewed information he learned talking to neighboring Districts and the Town of Truckee about fuels management. He noted that in speaking with the County, most agencies in the area are in a similar position of trying to do fuel management without financial resources. He echoed the Director's words about the importance of this issue and acting now and further discussed details regarding matching funds. Mr. Carabetta asked if the District could assist the Firewise Council with continual outreach efforts, Mr. Geary responded that the District would include information, including a link to sign up with the Firewise Council, in our next e-newsletter.

F-3 Fire Department Annual Report

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Chief Riley reviewed the staff report and the annual report including impacts due to Coronavirus, daily routine and workload, and call volume. Chief Riley provided highlights from the EMS, Fleet and Facilities report provided by Captain Rytter, the Fire Prevention report provided by Captain De Deo and the Training Report provided by Captain Chisholm.

The Directors thanked the Chief and Captains for their thorough reports. They noted that they understand current staff does not have spare bandwidth to support the Fuels Management program.

Chief Riley said that call volume in the winter is higher due to car accidents, chimney fires, ski accidents, and propane issues. Most of the calls in the winter are to Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows. Chief Riley reviewed patient care and the role of the Paramedics in ski injuries.

Public Comment – None.

F-4 First Draft of FY 2021-2022 Budget and Rates

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Ms. Grindle, Mr. Geary and Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report and first draft of the FY 2021-2022 Budget, which was reviewed with the Finance Committee yesterday.

Mr. Geary reviewed that the District is in the fifth year of its Prop. 218 notice which will trigger a cost-of-service analysis that the District intends to start this fall. The 2021-22 rate increases (e.g., 4% for water, 5% for sewer, and 3% for Garbage) are in line with the prior Proposition 218 notice. Last year, there was no increase in sewer rates and water rates were increased less than the Proposition 218 notice as there were concerns due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Director Hudson asked if we could see the rate increases as percentage increases year over year in the budget reports.

Ms. Grindle reviewed the method to approximate Ad Valorem property tax revenue which is estimated to increase 0.3% from the anticipated 2021 revenue, for a total of \$3,738,000. Most of the tax revenue will be allocated to the Fire Department.

Mr. Hunt reviewed highlights of the capital improvement and replacement projects planned for the coming year including planning and design of the intertie with the Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company; preparation of plans and specifications for the Pressure Zone 1A project; the water meter replacement project; the west tank recoating project; sewer system rehabilitation; the purchase of a Zone 3 portable generator and water tender.

Ms. Grindle reviewed the CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Pension Liability (UAL). The Miscellaneous group is expected to reach the targeted 90% funding level as of the June 30, 2021 valuation. This is due to an additional \$1,000,000 payment made in Fiscal Year 2020 as well as an additional \$600,000 payment made in Fiscal Year 2021. The Safety group is expected to reach a 90% funding level in Fiscal Year 2025. This will require additional annual payments of \$200,000 for the next four years. This may be funded with an inter-company loan from the Utility Department if Strike Team revenues are insufficient. Mr. Geary reviewed the concept of starting an "endowment" fund for future variability in the UAL.

Mr. Geary reviewed diversified revenue sources including the operations and maintenance agreement with Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company, the bike trail snow removal agreement with Placer County, strike team revenue (which is not included the budget); and potentially providing Advanced Life Support services in the future. Mr. Geary discussed a study included in the budget to analyze the impacts of providing ambulance services which will be cost-shared by OVFD and two neighboring Departments.

Mr. Hunt reviewed grants. The District has received a grant for \$55,000 for the pressure zone 1A project from the Placer County Water Agency Financial Assistance Program (PCWA FAP) and \$38,000 grant from the Integrated Regional Water Management Program for the water meter replacement program. An application was completed for PCWA FAP funding for the water meter replacement project and for an emergency intertie between the Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company and District's water distribution lines. This year's grant funding cycle is awarding significantly more funds than normal, and staff is hopeful that the District's projects may receive some funding. There was a discussion about the Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company Intertie. This project would include a hydraulic analysis to allow the systems to be operated together as opposed to just an emergency connection at the closest physical connection, as previously designed.

APPROVED

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Mr. Geary reviewed debt financing including the status of the CalPERS internal side-fund, building, and property loans.

Ms. Grindle said the cost of workers compensation insurance is not expected to change next year. Property and Liability Insurance is expected to increase 25-35% next year. Ms. Grindle has spoken with alternative insurance carriers and expects to get quotes back in mid-April.

Ms. Grindle reviewed the budgeted contributions to Fixed Asset Replacement Funds (FARFs).

The Directors questioned if the Budget should include funding for staff positions to progress the Fuels Management Program. Staff responded that the CWPP will inform the Fuels Management Program and future staffing, and this process can be managed internally. While funding this position sooner could potentially be helpful, there would need to be reductions to the current budget to make room for those costs. There was a discussion about whether a potential parcel tax could offset homeowner's insurance costs including the California Fair Plan. Chief Riley said that at this point he does not anticipate fuel management projects affecting insurance rates until the state legislature puts more constraints on insurance. There was a brief discussion about concerns related to future parcel taxes.

There was a brief discussion about the PlumpJack well, which is budgeted in 2023. Mr. Geary said that this timing is appropriate as the well is not needed to meet existing water demand and it will benefit the District and community to coordinate efforts with the Village at Squaw Valley development.

Public Comment – None.

F-5 Painted Rock Water Line Replacement.

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2021-03 authorizing the execution of a Water Line Extension and Dedication Agreement with David Peter Frederick Hess and Carlos Ramirez.

Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report. Mr. Geary discussed the advantages, disadvantages and staff time related to developer driven projects such as this water line extension. Mr. Archer added the dedication agreement is protective of the District and similar to historical agreements. Staff confirmed that the District will inspect the project and provide oversight from the Operations and Engineering Department to ensure that the project is constructed in accordance with the District's standards.

Public Comment – None

APPROVED
SIGNATURE: J. Archer
DATE: 4/27/21

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03 authorizing the execution of a Water Line Extension and Dedication Agreement with David Peter Frederick Hess and Carlos Ramirez. The motion was seconded by Director Ilfeld. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

- Cox – Yes
- Hover-Smoot – Yes
- Hudson – Yes
- Ilfeld – Yes
- Mercer – Yes

F-6 Flexible Benefit Plan Amendment.

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2021-04 approving the Flexible Benefit Plan Amendment with Beniversal, Inc.

Ms. Grindle reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None

Director Hudson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04 approving the Flexible Benefit Plan Amendment with Beniversal, Inc. The motion was seconded by Director Mercer. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.

- Cox – Yes
- Hover-Smoot – Yes
- Hudson – Yes
- Ilfeld – Yes
- Mercer – Yes

F-7 Election of Special District Representatives to the Placer County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO)

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, requested this item be deferred until the April Board Meeting, and directed staff to determine if the ballot can be cast for only one candidate.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report.

Director Ilfeld discussed his concerns with being an *alternate* Special District representative. The Directors thanked Dr. Ilfeld for being open to this responsibility and agreed it would be beneficial to have a representative from the East side of Placer County on the Commission.

The Directors considered nominating only Dr. Ilfeld and voiced support for Rick Stephens and Joshua Alpine.

Public Comment – none

APPROVED

SIGNATURE: J. Asher
DATE: 4/27/21

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion to defer this item until the April Board Meeting and directed staff to determine if the ballot can be cast for only one candidate. The motion was seconded by Director Mercer. A roll call vote was taken. 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. The Department continues to help with the Regional Vaccination Clinic at Sierra College. There have been significant number of construction inspections recently. The Department received notice that they maintained the ISO rating of a 2, which is excellent.

G-2 Water & Sewer Operations Report

Mr. Burks reviewed the report. Mr. Burks provided an overview of the water level in the aquifer, which is at an adequate stage, however, statewide water conservation awareness is rising as drought conditions increase. Staff said they would explore providing aquifer levels compared to recent averages on future reports. The annual water system flushing with chlorine is planned for April 9th.

G-3 Engineering Report

Mr. Hunt reviewed the report. There was a brief discussion about the Resort at Squaw Creek projects including the pressure reducing value station and well 18-3R, the Carville Single Family Residential project, the West Tank Recoating project, and the Sewer Inspection project.

G-4 Administration & Office Report

Ms. Asher reviewed the report. Ms. Grindle provided detail on the NLT TBID.

G-5 General Manager Report

Mr. Geary reviewed the report including providing a summary of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Trainings “Board and Manager Connection” and “How to do it for Special Districts with Revenue Needs.”

G-6 Legal Report (verbal)

None.

G-7 Directors’ Comments (verbal)

The Directors briefly discussed the fuels management program; voiced their desire that T-TSA would independently resolve the issues being brought to the OVPSD Board; asked if the District could consider dark-sky compliant lighting in the District’s parking area; and requested that the Board consider rescheduling the District’s meeting when it conflicts with the Board of Supervisors meetings in person in Kings Beach so that OVPSD Directors could attend the Supervisor meetings.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Ilfeld to move to Closed Session. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Absent

H. Closed Session – Performance Evaluation of General Manager.

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957 et al regarding the performance evaluation of the General Manager. Only the action on the agenda, the General Manager’s performance evaluation was discussed, no action was taken.

I. Closed Session – District Labor Negotiations.

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957 et al regarding District labor negotiations. Only the action on the agenda, District Labor Negotiations with the Fire Department, was discussed, no action was taken.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Ilfeld to move to Open Session. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Absent

Possible Action Resulting from Closed Session.

Mr. Archer said no actions or decisions were made in closed session and only items on the closed session agenda were discussed.

J. Adjourn.

Director Ilfeld made a motion, seconded by Director Hover-Smoot to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes

Hover-Smoot – Yes

Hudson – Yes

Ilfeld – Yes

Mercer – Absent

By, J. Asher

APPROVED

SIGNATURE: J. Asher

DATE: 4/27/21