

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
IN JOHNSON VALLEY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.02 pm

Present: David Cooper, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen

Absent: Adrienne Bishop, Dale Fredenburg, Alan Rasmussen

Delegate list approved with changes

Guests: Dave Benfield, County Fire; Maryan Barkley, FHCA; Mike McBride, FHCA/Bighorn; Lary Callander, Ed Cronin, Deborah Roberts, Michael _____, YMIA; Becky Unger, High Desert Star; Stacy Doolittle, TransitionJoshuaTree.org

Agenda approved unanimously

Minutes of August meeting, posted to www.hvccsite.org in draft form, approved unanimously

Treasurer's report: Tory Preston-Beginning Balance 2,576.66, Ending Balance 2,773.02.

Council approved HVCC make up deficit in Marine Fund 127.61

Treasurer Report approved.

1. Guest Comments: Lary Callander asked if response had come from Element Power, but HVCC waiting to hear response to Save Our Desert. Ed Cronin thanked everyone for attending YMIA 50th Birthday. Asked if we could get Special Districts CFO Randy Booker to speak to Council, or have special town hall meeting on roads, TV district. Get questions ready in advance. Jim will talk to Alan about a special meeting perhaps in January. School presentation to the HVCC meeting in November in Yucca Mesa. Stacy Doolittle discussed Transition Joshua Tree two-day workshop on weekend of October 15, \$40, to study to start a transition to a more sustainable way of life.

2. SB County Code Enforcement - Mike Romage – unable to attend

3. SB County Fire Dept – Battalion Chief Dave Benfield

Dan Munsey moved to Victorville, Gary Bush replaced him, Dave will also be moved. Busy fire season with exception of Homestead Valley; very busy in Hesperia area. Budget cuts, pay cuts over entire county; told to prepare to take 10% more out of budget. New Division Chief John Salvate, running Mountain Division and Division 5. Agenda item 6 moved up

6. Assembly Bill X1-29 Fire prevention Update- Dave said they were surprised about fee. For prevention only, State Responsibility Area, state responsible for wild land, County does structure protection. Local fire departments unable to cover firefighting costs, property taxes pay for structures. County protects houses, CalFire puts out wildfires, perimeter control. County fire already cut to bare bones, may have to cut staffing, defer maintenance and equipment purchases. County Fire Budget, \$150 million year; Morongo area \$10 million, must cut 10%. Dave could not speculate how cuts would be made.

Discussed criteria used to establish SRA, what impact on County Fire. State would help under “mutual threat.” Flamingo Heights, Landers not included in SRA. Hwy 247 is arbitrary boundary line.

State Board of Equalization charged with setting up collection of the fire tax, cost over \$6 million first year.

Only area of appeal, is structure habitable. One million habitable structures estimated. Bill changes every week. Letter to HVCC from Supervisor Janice Rutherford thanked us for opposing Bill. Supervisors all united on this. Senator Ted Gaines petition drive, too short a time to gather enough signatures.

Howard Jarvis Committee will oppose. Discussed moving SRA boundary to higher altitude at more risk.

4. Committee Reports

-Audit-Jim Hanley, Tory Preston-Earlene present as former treasurer. All in order.

-Fund raising / Events: Earlene McCloskey-Wine & Cheese Party Oct 22 in Flamingo Heights. 25 tickets to be sold

by each organization. \$10 per person. Betty to do flyers. Each organization to donate good raffle prizes. Betty and Joanna to do stem wraps for raffle wine glasses. Jim harvey to buy wine. Christmas Toy Drive, December 17. Need to invite Neil. Location Landers. Nancy, Jim, Linda, Dave, Earlene, on committee.

-Advisory Committee: no meeting

-Community Outreach-e-mail notifications of the meeting to radio. Newspaper, Fire Dept, Code Enforcement. Letter to Lucerne Valley Girl Scout Troop 926 thanking them for the cookies donated to the gifts for the Marines, along with a copy of the HVCC newsletter with pictures of the packing party, and a thank you letter from Afghanistan.

-Community Services /Improvements /Cooperation grant approved for highway signs when HVCC paperwork in order. Money for printing and some to install; each community identified as a Homestead Valley community.

-Hwy 247/OWS scenic/historic project-Barbara Harris unable to attend. Betty has given her handouts to sign up sponsor organizations, since Barbara is to be at several events such as at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum. Current Historical Society board has several active members. Cherry Good of Save Our Desert has also taken handouts since their goals jibe with Scenic 247 Committee goals. Discussed signing up individual supporters for website listing as well as organizations such as Chambers of Commerce etc. Deborah Roberts reports Rand McNally has 247 marked as a scenic highway.

5. Pipes Canyon Windmills Update/Element Power letter-Rick's committee drafted a response, but Cherry recommended we delay it until after Element responds to Save Our Desert. Also new information has come in on wind farm failures. Several points in Element letter are inaccurate. Discussed timing of HVCC response, Save Our Desert responded in August. Environmental Impact Report done only for the test towers. Discussed transmission corridor. Deborah Roberts researched "contingent corridor S" designation for Hwy 247, has map and specs on corridor, which affects all communities in Homestead Valley and Lucerne Valley. Could be discontinued. BLM requests solar or wind applicant to focus on existing "planning corridors." Protesting early and often discourages investors in industrial scale renewable energy projects. LADWP used 247 to plan route for Green Path North. HVCC asking SCE to come and talk about 10-year plans; no acceptable response yet.

7. Homestead Valley Community Maps- Johnson Valley revisions done, other revisions by next month

8. President's report-recommended HVCC write letter congratulating YMIA on their 50th birthday.

9. Action Items and Community Reports List –

- Raffle prizes for Wine & Cheese, one from each community
- 50th Birthday letter

10. Adjourn 5:12 - Next meeting in Landers Monday, October 17, at 3:00 p.m.

Betty Munson, Secretary 760-364-2646