

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING IN YUCCA MESA MARCH 15, 2010**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3:00 pm

Present were Maryan Barkley, Adrienne Bishop, Phyllis Burns, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Judy Kemp, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Carl Schmitt, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen

Guests: Nancy Ako, Barbara Bowman, John Bradford, John Burkhardt, Terry Burkhardt, Lary Callander, David Cooper, Michelle Corbin, Larry Coulombe, Olivia de Hauleville, Grey Hill, David Loeper, Pam Vandervoort

Delegate List approved unanimously.

Agenda was approved unanimously with the removal of Item 6.

Minutes of February meeting, posted to the Website in draft form, approved unanimously

Treasurer's report: Earlene McCloskey.

Beginning balance 5,730.33; Income 15.03; Expenses 51.04; Balance 5,694.32

1. Guest Comments: none

2. US Census Bureau Presentation-José Velez - Emphasized importance of everyone being counted, stated it means money coming back to our communities. 2010 form only 10 questions, addressed to the home. Everyone in home on Apr. 1 to be listed, includes camps, mobile home parks. Stater Bros and other places will have forms for those who do not receive one by Apr. 1. Will not be mailed. If not answered by May 1, there will be a followup visit by Census worker. José asked us to spread the word about the Census, to neighbors, employees, even to undocumented residents.

3. San Bernardino County Special Districts Department- Pam Vandervoort presented overview of department and some of the things it does.

A County Department, it receives nothing from general property tax. It offers municipal services to areas that do not have them, such as road maintenance: thousands of miles of roads not maintained by county. Other services available: TV, water, sewer, police.

Paid for as special assessment on property tax bill. Sewer, Water Districts charge user fees.

All districts administered are governed by the Board of Supervisors. County Service Areas and Improvement Zones offer different levels of service based on needs of communities.

Other districts include Assessment Districts and Community Facilities Districts formed to do such things as pave primary roads, paid for by bond sales.

Community Service Districts (CSDs) are not administered by this department, they are self-governed, financially self-supportive. Formed by LAFCO.

Some details of local County Service Areas (CSAs): Landers road grading system \$20 yr on tax bill, grading of primary, secondary and on-call roads as requested by the community. Own a grader.

Flamingo Heights pays \$20 yr, County grades all of the roads in the district though a contractor.

Road maintenance schedules are posted on www.specialdistricts.org.

Level of service provided as the community requests and wishes to pay for. Questions? Call number on tax bill.

New districts formed every year. Considered a tax; must be voted on by a majority of property owners or 2/3 of registered voters.

Proponents must identify area to be served, the bigger, the more cost-effective, and identify the service required.

Usually decided by a registered voter election by mailed ballot, much less expensive than going to polls. \$1000 formation cost.

First step circulate petition in the area.

Each district has its own budget. Property tax collected for the district stays within the district. Unspent funds accumulate for the financing of next year's services, reserves for emergency work.

Speaker from Special Districts can meet with communities at no cost, like this meeting with HVCC.

Discussion of grader owned by Landers district, loan for grader paid back over 5 years. One full time county employee splits time between Wonder Valley and Landers. Possibility of rental of grader discussed; legal, insurance requirements.

Consolidation of districts possible, a lot of work, but more cost effective. Flat rate per parcel. Could establish any district boundary residents want.

Parcel = what is on the property tax bill; any size. "Lots" are for Land Use purposes, "parcels" are for tax purposes.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

-Fund Raising / Events:

Discussed Poker Run in April, each organization committed for events. \$15 per person/\$25 per couple. Visit all the different communities, get breakfast, lunch, ice cream social. Each organization to donate 4 memberships for raffle or door prize. Four tickets per delegate. Meeting on Thursday.

Discussed setup for March 20 Windmill Documentary showing. Will discuss AB811 afterwards. Jim Harvey brought maps of wind and solar projects to show delegates. 50,000 acres proposed renewable energy development in the Homestead Valley area. Discussed possible Treasure Hunt for Spring 2011: Earlene has a Laughlin weekend donated for a prize already.

-Advisory Committee: No meetings this month. Possibility of future meeting to revisit our Standing Rules, whether a delegate must be a member of the community association before being delegated by association. Any resident would then be eligible to apply to the association for any delegate seat.

-SOI Committee: Carl told Jim Harvey he was absolutely right in his assumptions of what would happen at the LAFCO hearing. He suggested to disband SOI Committee. **Victory.**

-Hwy 247 Zoning: Phyllis reported that there was to be a meeting in San Bernardino. Alan commented there is an exception developing to what we were told, because of one 5-acre parcel, already commercial zoned, possibly still open to development. He will talk to Judy Tatman about it.

-Public Outreach Committee:

Betty reported excellent circulation e-mailed flyer for the windmill documentary; two which had been forwarded back to her came from Olivia de Hauleville's mailing list, and Chuck Bell's list for the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association. The documentary was also publicized in the newspaper columns. Rick Sayers also circulating HVCC news.

Discussed newspaper columns; Charlie McHenry now writing Yucca Mesa column. Hi-Desert Star has expressed the attitude, they do not want column to be a mouthpiece for association events, they want it to be community-wide. Takes a big effort to change reporter, supposedly an employee of the paper. Difficulties with Landers column discussed.

Website continually being updated, with information links. Has best exposition of AB811 available.

-Community Services/ Improvements/Cooperation: Rick Sayers reported on 2+2 meeting with Yucca Valley Town Council trying to get support for Night Sky Ordinance. Recommendation from the committee that HVCC somehow try to coordinate our efforts regionally for policy for night lights. Current County Code based on wattage. Lori Herbel of the Town Council suggests that be changed to lumens: how much light a fixture actually emits. Question: who would enforce it? Two municipalities, rural County enforcement would be involved. Alan thought request for County Code change was reasonable. Currently 60W, but now we can get much more light from 60W. Code Enforcement does stick test at border of property to check shadow. Discussion of retaliation for complaints; need some method of informing violators that lowering light level is for the good of the whole community. Possibilities for education for community awareness; having very bright lights actually does not improve vision beyond perimeter of light; lowering light level improves night vision. Also lack of availability of fixtures to conform to this; present to Home Depot, Barr Lumber. Dark sky is a resource for Homestead Valley. IDA website shows shielded fixtures. Discussed contacting County to see if code can be updated, starting with wattage. Administrative fee for Code Enforcement now available for quick action. Tabled for further study.

(Full notes on 2+2 discussions, including AB811, Windmill documentary, are included in the Agenda Packet for March.)

5. Vice President position - now vacant since the resignation of Mike McGrath. Three months till elections. Vice President conducts meeting if President not present. Rick Sayers unanimously elected to finish out Mike's term.

Nominating committee to be formed at next meeting, preferable one member from each association

6. President's report:-Jim attended all four board meetings this month. Discussions included HVCC eligibility; LAFCO definition of community; bulk rate mailing permit. However, Linda says Landers has since reversed itself about permit use at this time. Maryan suggested other communities print extra newsletters for Landers to help with expenses. Back to original discussion of including HVCC newsletter. HVCC paid \$185 for permit, need audit of Landers mailing, will revisit next month. Newsletter considered helpful to acquaint association members with HVCC activities.

- The withdrawal of Green Path North project; one more issue we can set aside. **Another victory.**

7. Items for next Agenda: April 19 meeting in Johnson Valley

- Item 6 removed from this month's Agenda concerning Yucca Mesa community definition.

- HVCC Nominating Committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 pm

Betty Munson, Secretary 760-364-2646