

**AMWC Board Meeting  
October 16, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 16, 2006.

Members present: Lewis McConnell, Elfriede Geiger, Bob Tomko, Ron Coombes,  
Joanne Schneider, Ken Kuencer (Fire Chief)

**Minutes of May 23, 2006 and June 29, 2006 Meetings:**

Bob made the motion to approve the minutes, Ron seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob distributed copies of the June 30, 2006 Financial Statements prepared by Van Tassell & Paegel, CPAs, and reviewed his written report, showing the status of bill payment, property owners who are delinquent in their AMWC payments and balances in the AMWC accounts. There was discussion of the former Thompson property and agreement that the lien placed on the property by the AMWC was valid and would require a new owner to make the requisite payment to obtain clear title. Bob shared copies of the May 28, 2002 letter from AMWC (signed by Lew, Bob and then-Secretary Dave Tanksley) regarding the separation of AMWC accounting into three expense categories for funds collected from members. There was discussion of the effort to allocate AMWC collections appropriately to the water and fire activities. Bob also noted that he had provided a written summary of the phone lines and expenses in a 7-29-06 e-mail to the Board members (additional copies of this e-mail were distributed). Elfriede asked about the date of renewal of the Eastern Sierra Community Bank CD. Bob advised that it was renewed on September 9<sup>th</sup> for 9 months at a rate of 5%, the best then available. The Washington Mutual CD is not yet ripe for renewal.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Ken advised that the Jeep had been placed in the Jordan's garage for the winter. He noted that, for some reason, the brakes in the Crown engine were not maintaining pressure as in the past. He indicated that it would be necessary to increase engine RPMs (1500-2000) for a few minutes to get the pressure up. The exhaust hose should be removed while doing this (or it will remove itself!).

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Fire hydrants on Cataract and Sage not draining:** Lew handed out a map showing Tract 1 and 3 fire hydrants, which were made by Kennedy. The map indicates not only the locations but also the age of the hydrants, which vary from 1962 to 1981. Ken indicated that two of the hydrants (one on Sage and the other on Cataract) are not draining. Jeff of Dean's plumbing has made an intensive effort to find parts for the hydrants so that they can be repaired. Lew took pictures of all the hydrants and Jeff will send them to Kenney to request assistance. The question was raised whether used Kennedy hydrants might be available as replacements. Elfriede suggested that an internet search might be useful for locating parts/replacements.

**Delinquent bills:** This item was discussed as part of the Treasurer's report. Three parties remain delinquent.

**Budget 2006:** Elfriede indicated that she had prepared a revised budget, a copy of which was given to Lew. The budget was revised to move the repair of the hydrants to the fire department. She reiterated that the fire company expenses exceed fire company income (\$7800).

**Dumpster:** Ken indicated that there had been a couple of occasions when the dumpsters were overfull and the lids could not be closed. He said that he had been successful in compressing the contents so that the lids could be closed, which is important to prevent unwanted visitation by animals, as well as unsightly nuisance conditions. Ken suggested that it would be advisable to address this matter in Lew's upcoming newsletter. Lew indicated that he thought that it might be necessary to extend the period with two dumpsters to include all of October. The Board agreed.

As an aside, Lew requested that the Board members provide any additional suggestions for the newsletter.

**Fire training:** Ken stated that regular fire training is scheduled for the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The location will be posted on the fire house door. Ken also expects that additional fire training will be provided on weekends during the summer to provide opportunities for visiting part-time residents. Ken reiterated his offer to provide training upon request by residents.

Lew reviewed the titles of fire training-related VCR tapes that are available.

**Training sign-up sheet regarding Worker's Compensation:** Ken noted that the fire training sign-up sheets had included a statement regarding liability, to address possible worker's compensation concerns. The recent sign-up sheets did not include that statement. A prior sign-up sheet was located that included this language. This language will be included on future sign-up sheets.

**Push lock for fire house:** Ron Coombes suggested that the Board consider installing a push lock for the fire house. The lock could be opened with a password; a key option could also be included. There was discussion of concern about inappropriate sharing of the password. Ron will investigate the costs of such a lock.

**Recoating of Aspendell sign:** The recoating and covering of the Aspendell sign was discussed. Ron indicated that Bill Donaldson normally assumes the responsibility to cover the sign for the winter. Since the Donaldsons are apparently away, Ron offered to ensure that the sign is covered.

**USFS Fire Engine:** Lew reported on the status of the request for an excess USFS engine. After numerous phone calls, he determined that AMWC has been awarded an excess engine. The engines are allocated by the California Department of Forestry. The engine is residing in a yard somewhere in San Bernardino (and has been there since about July 2005, due to CDF staff turnover). Lew indicated that the engine is a 1986 International Harvester Model 61 4x4 with 84,000 miles on it. Lew indicated that the USFS can and does cannibalize excess engines, taking parts that remain useful, so he

does not know what equipment will be necessary. However, he understands that the rubber hoses have been removed. Lew is hopeful that about \$3300 in previously approved BLM grant money will still be available to fund purchase of needed accessories. Lew is following up on the status of that grant money.

**County Bi-Annual Inspection:** Lew stated that a report on the bi-annual inspection of the water system had been received. The inspection was conducted in June 2006 by Kathy Barton, an Environmental Health Specialist with the County. The report recommended that the emergency notification plan be updated and submitted. Lew has done this (and provided copies of the updated emergency notification and list of phone numbers to call for assistance to the Board members.) The report also makes recommendations regarding dead-end flushing. Lew will converse further with Kathy on these recommendations, with the suggestions that adequate flushing could be provided by periodic use of water systems at the ends of water lines where occupants are not there full-time. Lew noted the comment at the end of Ms. Barton's report that "This water system is very well maintained and operated."

There was discussion of the need to properly winterize homes and of the need to run water for awhile after to prolonged absence. Lew will address these items in the newsletter.

**BLM grant funds:** Lew indicated that the 2004 BLM grant funds were to have been used by August, but that he had requested an advance, per the direction of BLM staff. Lew held off on use of these funds to see whether an excess fire engine would become available and what equipment might be necessary to make it fully operational. Lew indicated that he had been advised that the advance had been processed, but that the money had not yet appeared in the bank. Lew will follow-up.

**Authorization for Ken to drive snowblower:** Lew indicated that Linda Arcularius had advised him that the County is still working on this authorization, and that she supports it. Evidently, this matter has become part of a larger effort by the County to develop an on-call list of qualified people.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Leak by Tanksley's:** Lew indicated that Dave Tanksley had reported an apparent leak about a month ago but that the leak was not evident based on water usage information. Lew and Dave conducted additional investigation and determined that there is a leak. Lew stated that he had arranged for a backhoe and plumber to try to fix the leak on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Sale of Jeep fire engine:** Lew requested ideas on how to sell the Jeep engine. It was agreed that there would be interest in purchasing the engine; there are fire engine and Jeep collectors. E-Bay was suggested as a means to determine probable value and to seek purchasers. It was also suggested that local parties, e.g., South Fork might be interested in the purchase.

**Action with fire hazard homes:** Lew will include an item in a spring newsletter reminding residents to clear growth around their homes, for the protection of their homes

and those of their neighbors. The potential liability that might accrue to property owners who fail to provide proper clearing was discussed.

**Re-forming APOA Board:** Joanne reported that this remains a work in progress. Charlene and Tim Reed have agreed to co-fill one of the Board member positions. Joanne indicated that other inquiries are in progress.

**County Snow Removal Plan:** Lew noted that the County Board of Supervisors would be considering a draft snow removal plan at their meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Both Bob and Joanne indicated that they had already submitted comments. Lew identified the concerns that (1) the policy needed to address snow removal to maintain clearance at fire hydrants; (2) the proposed operational procedure of ceasing snow removal operations once 2 feet of snow had accumulated until it had stopped snowing would virtually ensure that the roads would become impassable; (3) that there was no apparent rationale for the procedure identified in the draft policy of using the snow blower only in daylight hours. Joanne agreed to identify these concerns in an e-mail to County representatives, including Linda Arcularius. Lew suggested that this reiterate the request for Ken to operate the snow removal equipment (note: this e-mail was sent on October 16, 2006 and Linda replied subsequently that the comments would be considered as the Board of Supervisors further reviews the draft policy.)

**Other:** Lew distributed the new emergency notification list and the list of parties to contact in case of needed repairs/assistance.

Joanne noted items raised at the annual meeting, including the recommendation that an additional person become certified to run the water system. Lew indicated that he would be taking the certification exam in Ontario on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. He indicated that Ken would be the logical choice to become certified and that, based on discussion with Kathy Barton, it is possible that the certification exam will be held locally in the future. This would save the expense of travel and accommodations for Ken.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Joanne Schneider  
Secretary