

**AMWC Board Meeting
May 24, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on May 24, 2007.

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

Minutes of October 16, 2006 and January 5-7, 2007 Meetings:

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

Treasurer's Report: Bob distributed copies of the December 31, 2006 and March 31, 2007 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. Elfriede expressed concern with the Van Tassell & Paegel accounting procedures, in which funds were charged to totally wrong accounts, overstating gas and electricity expenses for the year by \$5,345, and understating water maintenance accounts by the same amount. Bob discussed his serious concern about the ongoing delinquencies of three property owners and recommended that the Board take strong action. It is a matter of fairness to the members of the AMWC who are paying their assessments in a timely manner. Bob distributed information pertaining to the bankruptcy of one of the property owners. He recommended that the Board send letters to the three seriously delinquent property owners (there is a fourth delinquent property owner, but the delinquency is only for six months) to advise them of pending Board action should the delinquencies not be addressed promptly. Bob requested comments on one draft letter that he distributed at the meeting. Joanne made the motion to send the letter; the motion was seconded by Elfriede and unanimously approved. Lew made the motion to approve the preparation of the other two letters and their transmittal upon Board review and concurrence. The motion was seconded by Joanne and approved unanimously. The situation for each of the property owners differs slightly, and the letters will be tailored accordingly. In the most egregious case, the property owner will be advised that the water rights will be withdrawn and that there will be a \$2000 assessment to re-establish those rights. Bob indicated that he had reviewed prior correspondence from the AMWC attorney, who confirmed that the AMWC has the right to turn water off and revoke water rights. Ken noted that the removal of the water rights would need to be recorded in the property title. Bob indicated that he would take care of this. Relative to the \$2000.00 fee to reinstate the water rights, Bob will check with our attorney Peter Tracy before mailing the letters via Certified Mail, return receipt requested.

Fire Chief's Report: Ken reported that fire training had been held consistently over the winter; it is scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The location for

each of these sessions is posted in advance on the fire house door. Additional opportunities will be provided during the summer months for hands on training, particularly for part-time residents. Ken noted that that had been a temporary problem with the maintenance of air pressure for the brakes in the Crown engine, but that that problem had resolved, for unknown reasons. Air pressure is now holding well for about a week; Ken checks regularly and assures proper pressure.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire hydrants on Cataract and Iris not draining: Ken reported that the fire hydrants were OK through the winter. Lew reported that Dean's Plumbing had contacted the manufacturer about the hydrants, but that the manufacturer claimed that they had not made such hydrants. Photographic evidence to the contrary was sent to them. Dean's Plumbing replaced one or more hydrants in Bishop at a cost of about \$8000 each. Lew noted that there are continuing efforts to identify less expensive alternatives.

Delinquent bills: This item was discussed as part of the Treasurer's report

Operating Costs 2006/ Budget 2007: Elfriede distributed a balance sheet dated December 31, 2006, with a spreadsheet comparing the projected 2006 budget to the actual budget for the year. She indicated surprise that the costs of insurance were lower than projected. Lew will talk with the insurance agent about this. Elfriede pointed out that the budget summary should be distributed to the AMWC members with their bills. It was noted that absent donations and grant money, the fire department budget would show a loss. Lew stated that the Board must come to terms with the basic costs of running the fire department so that the AMWC members are charged appropriately. Elfriede stated that she would prepare a budget for 2007. She noted that some owners were being assessed based on lots, although homes have been built on the lots. Lew indicated that he would contact Van Tassel & Paegel to address this. Bob requested that the Board members provide relevant information to him about such changes so that he can address it in a timely manner.

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. He also noted that there had been one or two instances of improper disposal of construction materials (sheet rock). An additional dumpster should be brought up the week of May 28, 2007 for the summer months. Bob indicated that the cost has risen to \$61/month (from \$58), but that this is a very worthwhile expenditure.

Joanne indicated that she had obtained information about recycling. A bear-proof recycling bin can be brought to Aspendell, with periodic pick-up. Joanne stated that she is awaiting cost information. A concern is that their may be mis-use of the recycling bin and that monitoring is not practical. There will be a need for training and signage. Pending receipt of cost information, it was generally agreed that it would be worthwhile to try to make this opportunity available. Joanne indicated that she expected to have the cost information soon.

Fire training – training aids: Lew indicated that BLM had provided, free of charge (!), a number of fire training tapes. He has reviewed some of these tapes and finds them helpful. They can be used as a part of the regular fire training.

Training sign up sheet regarding Worker's Compensation: Lew wants to ensure that the fire training sign-up sheets include the appropriate caveat that the AMWC does not provide Worker's Compensation in case of injury. Ken said that that statement is included on the sign-up sheet; additional copies of the sign-up sheet need to be made for future training events.

Re-coating of Aspendell Sign: Lew stated that he proposed to include this item on the agenda for the annual meeting, with the hope that someone would volunteer to undertake this task.

USFS fire engine: Lew reported that the "new" engine, on permanent loan to the Aspendell Volunteer Fire Department, will be delivered to the sign business on Tuesday. Ken will arrange transport to pick it up in Bishop and bring the engine to Aspendell.

Water testing: Lew reported that the quarterly testing had been completed, with good results. There was a question about the billing for this testing. Lew will check into this with Kathy Barton at the County.

BLM grant funds: The available balance of grant funds (about \$3400-3500) was used to purchase new tires, etc. for the "new" fire engine. All grant funds awarded to the AMWC have been expended.

NEW BUSINESS

Leak by Tanksley's: The extensive and very costly effort to fix the leak by the Tanksleys' home was discussed. A summary of the events and their costs will be included in the newsletter that will go out to members with the billing.

Sale of Jeep fire engine: Lew discussed the interest expressed by South Fork residents in joining the Aspendell Volunteer Fire department and purchasing the Jeep engine. He recommended that consideration of selling this engine be put on hold, pending the outcome of discussions with the South Fork residents.

Action with fire hazard homes: Lew stated that he had walked around the community and had identified 3 or 4 homes that pose a serious fire hazard due to the growth of vegetation in close proximity to the homes and/or old shake roofs. Bob made the motion that Lew and Ken survey the community and send letters to the appropriate property owners to advise them of the hazardous conditions and to remind them of the need to address the situation.

Re-forming APOA Board: Joanne reported that Sharon Ford had agreed to assume a Board position. Lew requested that Joanne provide a status report at or after the AMWC annual meeting. There was discussion of the difficulty of finding individuals who are willing and able to serve on the APOA Board and that it may be necessary for the Board

to reform at reduced numbers (3) so that Board activities can go forward, even though the usual complement of 5 members may not be available for some time.

Testing of Crown pump: Lew reported that Ray Saguine had again declined to assist the Volunteer Department with testing the pump. Steve Silcott, a permanent resident of South Fork and former fireman, advised Lew that annual testing may not be necessary; he will check into this. Lew stated that he had discussed the matter with Linda Arcularius, who suggested that commercial firms may be able to do the testing. Ken suggested that we try to have the testing done in Bishop, rather than Aspendell, since the Aspendell altitude would adversely affect the result.

South Fork fire support interest: Lew reported on discussions with Mike Johnston and Steve Silcott, who own homes at South Fork, about providing fire support to the South Fork community. Mike and Steve indicated interest in purchasing the Jeep engine; a siren would be installed at South Fork and the sirens in both Aspendell and South Fork would be triggered in response to 911 calls. Lew indicated that the Aspendell Volunteer Fire Department obligation would be to mount up the Crown engine with at least two people and head over to South Fork in the event of a fire emergency there. Additional engines/people would be dispatched if and as available. Lew indicated that South Fork would collect the assessments (the same as those paid by AMWC members) and give AMWC a check. If all parties are agreeable to this arrangement, an attorney would need to prepare appropriate documentation. It was noted that Steve Silcott is a retired fireman who will help us with training. Ken noted the significant advantage of Steve's involvement in cases of fire emergencies.

Verizon phone lines: Some of the 4 lines that AMWC pays for (for the security system) are giving trouble and Verizon is in the process of repairing them.

Addition to fire house: Lew distributed a hand-drawn schematic of a proposed expansion of the fire house to accommodate the "new" fire engine and to provide space for training/meetings, etc. Lew requested approval to investigate costs/engineering consultants, etc. Joanne made the motion to approve that request; it was seconded by Elfriede and unanimously approved.

Annual meeting agenda: A draft agenda for the annual AMWC meeting scheduled for July 7, 2007 was reviewed and additions/revisions were made.

Newsletter: Lew distributed copies of a draft newsletter that will go out to the AMWC members with the semi-annual bills. Minor changes were made.

Reminder: Lew distributed a reminder sheet that he had prepared and that will go out also with the semi-annual bills. The purpose is to advise the membership of upcoming events, including the fire hose testing party on June 16th and the annual AMWC meeting, fire training and Archer picnic/potluck scheduled for July 7th. The reminder also advises of the brush pick-up date for this year (June 30th).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Joanne Schneider
Secretary