

**AMWC Board Meeting  
July 3, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 3, 2007.

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

**Minutes of May 24, 2007 Meeting:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob reported that he had moved \$7000 from the checking account to the CD at 4.89% and that the current AMWC cash assets total \$197,153.55. In response to a question about the CD that matured in June, Bob stated that he had rolled over \$100,000 at 5%; the balance was placed in the Washington Mutual CD. Bob also reported that he had contacted other delinquent property owners; the total delinquent payments are \$7102. Bob recommended that we work with the attorney to take water rights from Property Owner B, who has not paid in five years.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Ken reported that he had fueled all the fire engines. Though the brakes on the International appeared to be pumping up better, Lew recommended that they be inspected by Bob's Auto and that a notice be put in the engine to remind users of the need to pump the brakes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Delinquent bills:** Lew reported that Property Owner A had agreed to a payment plan of \$100 per month, due on the first of the month. Van Tassell and Paegel will advise if each payment is not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Lew also reported that Property Owner D had paid the June 2007 bill in full. He indicated that he had spoken with Property Owner D, who indicated that they could pay \$100/month, due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Lew asked for Board concurrence that he draft a letter to Property Owner D to formalize this agreement. The letter will advise that if the payments are not received by the 15<sup>th</sup>, then the water will be turned off until the back payments are made in full. The payments must address both water bills and the cost of removal of the lien (\$250) before the lien can be removed. Joanne made the motion to write the letter; the motion was seconded by Bob and unanimously approved. See also Treasurer's report.

**Fire Department Operational Costs:** Elfriede reported that her analysis showed that the basic costs for operation of the fire department are \$15,000 per year. There was

further discussion of this matter in conjunction with agenda item concerning the South Fork interest in joining the fire department (see New Business).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sale of Jeep:** Lew reported that he had placed ads for sale of the Jeep (\$4000 asking price) in two local papers, the Inyo Register and the Sierra Reader. He said that the South Fork community was not interested in purchasing it.

**Fire Engine Operation Video:** Lew reported that Jim Blankinship, who is a professional video producer, will work with Roy Harthorn during August to prepare an operational video. We will need to produce a script.

**South Fork Interest in Joining the AMWC Volunteer Fire Department:** This matter will be discussed at the South Fork community meeting at 1 p.m. on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Lew will attend this meeting. Steve Silcott, a South Fork resident leading this effort and a retired fireman, will attend the AMWC meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Lew confirmed that the condition for South Fork participation would be payment in full every six months. Discussion ensued concerning the rates that would be charged both to the South Fork residents and AMWC members to meet the basic operating costs of the fire department (\$15,000). The concept is that South Fork would pay a proportional share for fire service only, not for capital improvements. Several options are available to meet the \$15,000 operational cost. Assuming that the South Fork community does not join the AMWC Volunteer Fire Department, then the fire protection assessment for each AMWC member would need to go from \$79 to \$140 per year. This could be accomplished in whole or in part by a shift of a part of the current assessment for water service; in other words, it would be possible to address fire protection deficits without an increase in the total assessment. If the South Fork community joins the Volunteer Fire Department, then the needed assessment to meet the basic fire department cost would be \$120/year/property. Were the Tract II residents to join as well, then the necessary payment would be \$100/year/property. Elfriede suggested moving \$40 of the current AMWC water service assessment to the fire protection side in case there is objection by the property owners to increase the fire protection assessment; then we could legitimately ask that the South Fork residents pay a \$120 assessment. Lew reiterated that what will be discussed at the annual meeting is (1) that the basic operational cost for fire protection service is \$15,000 per year; (2) that if South Fork joins the Volunteer Fire Department, the annual assessment for both South Fork those residents and the AMWC members would be about \$120; (3) for AMWC members, the increased fire protection assessment could be accomplished via a decreased water service assessment.

**Addition to Fire House:** Lew identified the problems he sees with the current fire house: there is no area for training (and training should occur where the equipment is), and access around the Crown is very difficult. Ken pointed out also that there is no place to store the new fire engine. Lew consulted with an engineer about adding on to the existing structure. The engineer pointed out that an addition would require re-engineering the remainder of the building and suggested that it might be preferable to put up a new building, e.g., a steel building. Lew has requested an estimate for a new building from Berg construction. A survey of the property is necessary (approx. \$1500). There was discussion of how we would pay for the building. Elfriede stated that she

estimated that each \$10,000 in cost would necessitate an additional assessment of about \$3/year/property.

**Fire training:** Ken reported that the fire training had been going well over the winter. Lew indicated that Roger Wilhelm will help with training on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Testing Crown Pump:** Lew reported that arrangements have been made to test the pump on the Crown engine. Lew noted that the ISO rating was based largely on the Crown, which can pump about 1500 gpm. He noted again the importance of training.

**Dumpster:** Bob commented that arranging for the dumpster(s) was one of the best things the Water Company had done. There was discussion of the possibility of making a large dumpster available once or twice a year for disposal of leaves. Bob committed to investigate the costs.

**Action with fire hazard homes:** Lew reiterated his concern about certain properties, e.g. Canters on White Pine, with extensive vegetation in close proximity to the homes. After discussion, it was concluded that the AMWC has no legal authority to take action.

**Other:** There was discussion of an alternative means of providing the consumer confidence report to AMWC members that might save some money, but it was concluded that administrative time and effort would likely outweigh the benefit. Lew noted that the water valve lids need to be painted. Ken indicated that he was going to do this as part of his "exercising" of the valves. Lew indicated that Terry Hall had advised that Verizon had provided some new lines and that there is a new probe at the reservoir. There was discussion of the costs the Board might charge for connection to the system. Finally, Lew indicated that there was a need for help at the fire house on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the annual meeting.

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

Joanne Schneider  
Secretary