

OCSD Meeting notes (5-14-19)

Call to order 7:05 pm with all directors present

Public comment: none

Meeting minutes: motion to approve by Gonnella, seconded by Brown, vote: 5-0 (with no corrections or additions)

Warrants: motion to approve by Gonnella, seconded by Brown, vote: 5-0 (with no corrections or additions)

Community Council: Fawn ^{Nekton}~~Gaffney~~ and Carol Schmitt presented the following report:

Representing the Occidental Community Council and the Bohemian Highway Corridor business group, they are meeting with Lynda Hopkins on Wednesday, May 15 at the Occidental Arts Center. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss various community wide issues and seek County help in solving identified problems. Among the issues to be discussed are: garbage accumulation in newly placed ADA receptacles, maintenance of Main St and street parking spaces, repair of landscaping from recent sidewalk construction and potential funding resources for possible community infrastructure improvements.

Also discussed was the desire to coordinate with OCSD in developing a united front to request that the County assume a greater responsibility for the maintenance of the County owned properties in the town's center and Supervisor Hopkin's help to retain a greater amount of County tax revenue that is generated by our community.

Paul Strange stated the need for the town (with the coordination of all community groups/organizations) to develop a list of community improvements and possible funding resources. Examples of needed improvements given were: public drinking fountain, public restroom facilities, EV charging stations, and public WiFi capabilities. It was suggested that these improvements could possibly be done under the powers of OCSD. President Lunardi stated that the funding required for these improvements currently does not exist in the OCSD operating budget. It therefore is necessary for the improvements to be revenue neutral to the District.

The idea of forming a subcommittee of representatives from the various community organizations to identify community wide issues and to coordinate possible solutions was briefly discussed. This item will be put on next month's OCSD agenda.

Water: No update or discussion of agenda items. RRU report: monthly water loss was 13.27%; Last 16 month water loss average was 13% with no fluctuation with the amount of water used.

Fire:

The chief will contact the company offering to donate air compressors to selected local volunteer fire districts to get more information on the program to see if it is compatible to OVFD needs.

March had 20 calls and April had 34 calls.

No additional progress to report on the CMVFD annexation.

Although ongoing talks continue, no additional progress on Region 5 realignment was reported. The ongoing discussions continue to consolidate Sonoma County's independent fire districts, with the current situation remaining in flux. It is the Chief's opinion that currently the best fit for OVFD is to consolidate with the fire departments from Graton and/or Forestville.

A discussion took place regarding the possible needs for the District to hire a tax consultant to advise the District on a tax increase on the District's 1256 parcels for this year's election. The Chief has had preliminary discussions with a tax consultant who has successfully helped other local Districts. He will have additional discussions with the consultant and report his findings at the June meeting. A request was made to place an item on next month's agenda to discuss and possibly approve hiring a tax consultant.

Community Services:

Michael Stusser reported that the Occidental Farmer's Market is scheduled to open Friday, June 7. A fundraising campaign has begun to raise funds to facilitate the market. The fundraising goal is \$20,000 with \$1500 raised on the first day of the fundraising drive. The money will be used for hiring a manager, public portable toilet, trash pickup and other operational costs. Michael presented a letter for the Board members to sign in support of the community market, but the item was not present on the meeting's agenda and thus no action could be taken. The action item will be placed on next month's meeting agenda.

A brief discussion took place regarding the legal requirement for certain OCSD business and actions to be posted online. This State mandated requirement could possibly be met by using the existing community council website or possibly with an OCSD stand alone website that is linked to other related sites. The item will be placed on next month's agenda to discuss and possibly take action on this topic.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gonnella, seconded by Martin and approved 5-0 at 8:30pm.