

**SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 25, 2003

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman

Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman

Jim Galloway, Trustee

Pete Sferrazza, Trustee

Bonnie Weber, Trustee

Amy Harvey, County Clerk

Katy Singlaub, County Manager

Madelyn Shipman, Assistant District Attorney

Paul Orphan, Utility Division

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the agenda for the November 25, 2003 meeting be approved.

03-42STM MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2003 be approved.

03-43STM AGREEMENT – COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT – U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – WELL NO. 9 ARSENIC REMOVAL WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Jerry Schumacher, South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) Local Managing Board, said subsequent to this item passing the Local Managing Board, issues have come forth that need to be addressed. He requested the Board table this item for at least 60 days in order to obtain a further study. He advised a committee has been appointed to work on this and several other STMGID matters. He requested, if this is approved today, it be conditioned that weekly status reports of the

water be made, including lab reports. He said spending \$80,000 for a 3,600 square foot building on the site for the project, which already has a building, seems excessive.

Commissioner Shaw asked whether the federal money would be jeopardized if this were postponed for any amount of time.

Commissioner Galloway stated he met with some people in the District regarding their concern about Well No. 9, and it appeared consensus had been reached that something needed to be done to that well. He asked what new information occurred that resulted in this change of position.

Mr. Schumacher stated that a group of citizens are concerned mostly about the boron content and its effect on plants. Another concern is that the people of the Virginia Foothills started STMGID and now find that Well No. 9 is tainted water that is only going to Virginia Foothills.

Commissioner Galloway stated he understood there was consensus that Well No. 9 or another well had to come on line or the District could not meet its water purveyor capacity.

John Busse, Virginia Foothills resident, supported Mr. Schumacher's comments. He requested this item be continued and consideration be given to a temporary treatment plan that could be moved to another well that might need treatment. He said the \$80,000 for a small building and \$7,000 for landscaping for the project site seemed high.

Ted Short, Virginia Foothills resident, provided background information concerning the formation of STMGID and the facility plan that includes Well No. 9. He said he believed it would help the residents of the District to table this item and form a committee where these issues could be fully discussed and attempt to find an equitable solution for everybody. He said that would stop a lot of apprehension by the District citizens by providing further explanation and information.

Willis Beasley, Virginia Foothills resident, said the citizens formed STMGID and have reaped the rewards of good water, which increased their property valuation significantly. Now they are receiving water from Well No. 9, which is perceived as bad water, and they feel their property values will decrease. He stated he objects to receiving water from Well No. 9. Chairman Humke noted that Colonel Beasley sent him a letter concerning this matter.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Shaw, Mr. Orphan stated he believed there was a high potential that the \$308,000 in donated equipment and services to be received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be lost if this was delayed. Staff made a commitment they would have a decision for them after the November 10, 2003 workshop, and they have other projects lined up for this donation. Mr. Orphan noted that, if this were to move forward and decisions were made to do

something else with Well No. 9, the donated equipment and services could be used elsewhere. He stated the treatment plant is not portable but the equipment could be moved.

Commissioner Sferrazza commented he does not believe the people of Virginia Foothills should be served by Well No. 9, and new development should pay for the cost of treating Well No. 9. Mr. Orphan responded that Well Nos. 1, 2, 3, 9 and 11 all serve the east side of the District. Well No. 9 is the last to come in during peak times. He stated Virginia Foothills is not the only area that is part of the original District and new growth on the east side paid their connection fees.

Chairman Humke stated he believes the request to continue for a 60-day period is reasonable. He noted that Water Resources has a public relations problem that needs to be addressed, and a special meeting should be held to explain all of the issues to the citizens of the District. He suggested a 30-day continuance with some good faith to grant another 30 days if it is necessary to satisfy citizen concerns. He then suggested that the Trustees appeal to the Director of the EPA not to kill the grant, although he really does not believe they would do that under the circumstances.

County Manager Katy Singlaub suggested a letter could be sent to the EPA indicating the Board would like to keep the acquisition of the equipment as an option. Public meetings are needed and, because of the holidays, she would suggest requesting the EPA consider allowing the Trustees to make a firm decision by the last meeting in January. She suggested staff be directed to discuss such a letter with the EPA and bring this back to the Board for a status report at the December 16, 2003 meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that this item be continued to the next STMGID Board of Trustees meeting in January, 2004; that a report come back to the Board on December 16, 2003; and that a letter be forwarded to the EPA, as outlined.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Shaw, Mr. Orphan advised that the Board of Trustees would likely see an item concerning the formation of the committee at the December 16, 2003 meeting.

Commissioner Galloway commented there is a public perception problem, if not a real problem. He had most of his concerns addressed and finds it hard to believe there is not a wider problem with Well No. 9 than plants that do not grow. He noted that Well No. 9 is only used for a certain part of the growing season; however, more discussion and facts need to be clarified for the general public, and he hopes resolution would occur in January 2004.

03-44STM MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2003

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that receipt of the District's management and financial reports for November, 2003 be acknowledged.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for public comments.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Galloway stated he issued a memo to the Chairman today suggesting that when he meets with the Mayors of Reno and Sparks on the rules for joint meetings, consideration be given to inviting the General Improvement District representatives to have a seat at the dais for those joint meetings.

* * * * * * * * * *

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
South Truckee Meadows General
Improvement District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Secretary, South Truckee
Meadows General Improvement District

*Minutes Prepared By
Barbara Trow, Deputy County Clerk*