

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held May 3, 2010 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old US Highway 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

- 1.* **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2.* **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was determined. Bill Elliott arrived at 7:02 p.m., forming a quorum of five members present.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), Debbie Sheltra, Mark Zane, Rod Smith, Bill Elliott
MEMBERS ABSENT – Bob Rusk (excused)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY 3, 2010** –Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the May 3, 2010 agenda. Rod Smith seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 1, 2010** – No action was taken on this agenda item.
- 5.* **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- A Community Forum will be held at Bowers Fire Station starting at 7:00 p.m. on June 7, 2010 to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss issues related to West Washoe Valley. An update from the April 13, 2010 Washoe County Commission Meeting will also be given. Discussion topics will include: fundraisers and requests for donations to the volunteer fire services in Washoe Valley, West Washoe Association's roadside clean-up in May and annual picnic in August, as well as ongoing updates on the Weston property and retaining current staffing at Bower's Fire Station. (Note: The Community Forum is not sponsored by either Washoe County or the West Washoe Valley CAB.)

Chairperson Countryman wished Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, well. She noted that Ms. Tone was on maternity leave and therefore, no report from Washoe County was available for this month. She reminded those present of the Community Forum scheduled for June 7, 2010.

At this point, Bill Elliott arrived at the meeting.

Board member Sheltra announced that the West Washoe Association Annual Clean-Up is scheduled for May 15, 2010. Volunteers will meet at Wilson Commons Park at 8:00 a.m. Twenty or thirty volunteers are needed. They are asked to bring gloves and any tools they need to assist in picking up trash.

6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

A. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items – Officer Mill Perry reported there have been no calls for service of any significance in the area over the recent past. He reported on issues with vacant residences including the theft of appliances, etc. and squatters in the structure, particularly youth. He encouraged residents to call the department if they see something in their neighborhood that doesn't look right. Officer Perry reported that the theft of copper wire continues to be an issue and vigilance by residents will assist in addressing this. He reiterated that even with the lower staffing levels, the department is still committed to providing the necessary level of service to the community.

Concerns/Comments

- Chairperson Countryman requested information on staffing levels. Officer Perry explained that he did not have exact staffing numbers available; however, staff is reduced because as officers leave the department, they are not replaced.
- Board member Sheltra requested that patrols still stop and check Wilson Commons and Davis Creek Parks to make sure that no one is parked there after dark. Officer Perry commented that this will continue to be done.
- Chairperson Countryman commented that it sounds like employee concessions within the department are going to be necessary. Officer Perry responded that there are three associations that need to enter into negotiations with the County. He noted that his bargaining unit has given concessions in the past years, and they are being requested to give more. The outcome is unknown.

B.* Fire Safety Issues – Chief Greene introduced Firefighter/EMT Vinny Murgolo. Firefighter Murgolo reviewed the calls for service from this station for the past month and the training underway.

Concerns/Comments

- Cheryl Bailey requested to know if it was possible to get a Burn Permit at this time. Firefighter Murgolo stated that a Burn Permit could be issued once personnel come to the site to assure that the burn pile meets regulations.
- Board member Sheltra asked that Firefighter Murgolo check to see why the department stopped putting up reflective numbers on houses along Franktown Road as they are really helpful in finding houses after dark. Tim Lunich commented that this was a fundraiser by Washoe County Volunteers, but there weren't many numbers available. He noted that they could look at the cost to buy more and let the CAB know.
- Chairperson Countryman reported that she attended the County Commission meeting on April 13, 2010. It was not a positive outcome as it pertained to the Fire District issues. The Commission voted unanimously to continue the contract, temporarily, with Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire, which is disappointing. She reiterated that if residents want to preserve the fire station and its current staffing, it is her opinion that you need to become involved and make your voice heard. Chairperson Countryman commented that there will be a meeting scheduled where this issue can be

more fully discussed. It was requested that this also be an agenda item for the next Community Forum meeting on June 7, 2010.

C. * Reno Emergency Communications – There was no one in attendance to present a report.

7.* UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS

A.* Liaison Report – Barbara Scott reported that a rummage sale will be held to raise money for the Washoe Legal Defense Fund. It will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. next to the Washoe Bar. Donations can be given by calling Gary Houk at 849-2149. Donations of children's clothing are requested, but no other clothing is needed. Volunteers are also wanted.

B. * County Commissioner/County Liaison Updates – No report was presented.

C.* I-580 Project – Chairperson Countryman commented that Board member Rusk was out of town.

D.* Weston Property Update – Chairperson Countryman reported that she has been requested to delay discussion of this item pending the arrival of Tom Hall.

8.* PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Ginger Pierce reported that a meeting was held on April 28, 2010 at the Pleasant Valley School regarding Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) assuming responsibility for the provision of water services for all of Washoe County. She commented that a concern to her was the two hundred acre feet of water underground at Lures Creek that will belong to TMWA, as well as the small number and location of wells for all of the Washoe Valley. Ms. Pierce noted that residents who have already dealt with TMWA were at the meeting as they had some major concerns.

B. Jayne Countryman stated that she also attended the meeting that Ms. Pierce was referring to. She reported that it was made clear that if your well fails and there is a water system within a certain distance, you will be mandated to sign up for the system. Permits won't be issued to deepen your well. She commented that the problem is that there will be wells in Lightning W, and if they pull down the existing wells, it could have an effect in the future.

C. Debbie Sheltra noted that she is aware of one well that went dry due to the pumping for other developments. Those residents went to the Compensation Board, but did not receive funding. She commented that TMWA did drill an additional well, but it was non-productive and no better than what they already had.

D. Cotter Conway introduced himself and stated that he was running for Reno Justice of the Peace, Department 4, which covers this area. He noted that he has been active in the community, and reviewed his background. Mr. Conway reported that he worked for Washoe County for fourteen years in the Public Defender's office.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Water Tender – Chief Greene or a CAB member will provide an update on the status of the replacement of the water tender utilized by volunteers. The Board will also hear concerns and input from residents regarding this matter. Following the update and discussion, the Board may take action to draft a letter to the Board of County Commissioners regarding this matter.

Chief Greene reported that an old water tender was received from Washoe County. It needs approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000 worth of work. The work could be paid for by the District, but the County is loaning the tender rather than giving it away, so that didn't seem like a feasible step to take. He reported that a business person wants to lease a 3,200 gallon tender to the District for placement in the station, and when it goes out and receives money from other entities for its use, the money could be split with the District. He has asked legal counsel to review this approach. After five years, if a certain amount of deployment is seen, the District could end up owning the tender.

Concerns/Comments

- Chairperson Countryman commented that this sounds like a good solution to the issue.
- Board member Sheltra asked if this would be done at the other stations also. Chief Greene replied that one will be used to start to evaluate the program. She asked if the tender would remain in Washoe Valley. Chief Green replied that it would be used in the Truckee Meadows if a large fire broke out, but it could be used during fire season in other locations in order to produce revenue.
- Board member Sheltra asked if there was a possibility that a grant request could also be written for a tender. Chief Greene replied that this would be researched. Chairperson Countryman commented that some fundraising might be necessary if the CAB wants assurance that it would stay in this community. Chief Greene commented that the cost for a new tender would be approximately \$153,000 once it was equipped.

6. ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS - Reopened

B.* Fire Safety Issues – Chief Greene commented that the District relies on approximately 75% of their revenue from property tax and 25% from sales tax. Therefore, the District has seen about a 6% reduction in revenue, which is less than the reductions being seen by other departments. This stable funding source should be considered when discussing possible mergers. He noted that he will be presenting at the meeting on May 25, 2010 to staff the the options for the Arrowcreek station. He noted that these options are still going through legal review, so he can't share them at this time. Chairperson Countryman commented that she would stay in touch with Chief Greene so that these options can be reviewed as soon as possible.

7.* UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS – Reopened

D.* Weston Property Update – Tom Hall reported that he serves as counsel for the West Washoe Association and the East Lake Property Owners. He reviewed previous actions which have been taken by Washoe County, the Regional Planning Board and Mr. Weston. Mr. Hall reported that a recent hearing was held at East Lake with local

community members present. A major concern was the promised open space. It was requested that some third party, such as the Land Conservancy, be given a conservation easement for this promised open space so that it could not be changed at a later date. The Weston property developers did not accept this and broke off all further communication. Mr. Hall reviewed the actions taken by the two associations in petitioning the court for permission to intervene and the responses from the other three parties involved. He pointed out that there has been discussion regarding who has the final decision authority – Washoe County or the Regional Planning Board.

10. NEW BUSINESS - Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.

A.* Washoe County Building & Safety Department Programs – Don Jeppson, County Building Official, from the Building & Safety Department will be in attendance to present two new Building & Safety Department Programs. The “Got Permits?” Program is to educate the public about when permits are required and the value of having required permits. The “Residential Amnesty” Program beginning May 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010 will allow homeowners to obtain permits without additional penalties for projects completed without a permit and to have information recorded about the unpermitted work against the property. Penalties for work completed without a permit will be significantly increased and strictly enforced after conclusion of the program. This item is informational only; no action will be taken by the CAB.

Don Jeppson introduced himself and reviewed his background. He reported that the staffing in his department over the past two years has gone from thirty-six down to thirteen due to revenue reductions. Current staff work a reduced work week of thirty-two hours. He reviewed the department's hours of operation and noted that the Incline Village office was closed. He reviewed the following departmental programs:

- EZ Permit – Provides a process whereby minor projects not requiring plans can be permitted the same day if the application is filed by 3:00 p.m. It can be filed via fax or e-mail as long as the applicant is available for payment processing.
- Residential Permit Amnesty – Is a program that waives penalties for homeowners who come forward between May 1, 2010 and October 31, 2010 to resolve any building, electrical, plumbing or mechanical construction or repair work done to their home without a permit. Normal permit fees will apply, but no penalties will be levied.
- Got Permits – Provides public education regarding why permits are important and common projects that require a permit. It also emphasizes the need to make sure that any contractors you might use get the required permits. He noted that there are different permit requirements through Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks.

Mr. Jeppson reviewed the department's funding source and reviewed their need to reduce staffing before earlier than similar departments in the Cities of Reno and Sparks reduced theirs.

Concerns/Comments

- Board member Sheltra commented that contractors will try to talk the homeowner into taking out an Owner/Builder Permit. This absolves the contractors from any responsibility if things go wrong, and the responsibility rests solely on the homeowner. She urged homeowners not to do this, and suggested that Mr. Jeppson include this information in his presentation.
- Tom Hall requested to know if there is a provision for anonymity for people who report violations. Mr. Jeppson replied that the department will consider anonymous complaints.
- Barbara Scott asked how long after the installation of a new hot water heater do department staff come out to make sure it is installed correctly. Mr. Jeppson commented that contractors are not too good at letting the department know the project is complete. If they do call it in, the inspection is done the next day if called in early enough. He noted that an audit program has been discussed, but has not been put in place. Ms. Scott asked if there is any rating system for contractors. Mr. Jeppson replied that there is not.
- Ginger Pierce commented that there are several structures in her neighborhood that have been turned into living quarters, and she does not believe that they had permits to do this. Mr. Jeppson responded that if he has the addresses or parcel numbers he can follow up.
- Board member Smith asked what happens if you have a situation such as the water heater breaks on Friday evening. Do you have to wait until Tuesday to get a permit before buying a new one and connecting it? Mr. Jeppson replied that this would be covered as an emergency situation, and you could connect it and then get a permit for it on Tuesday morning.

B.* Update on the Washoe County Hazards Mitigation Plan – Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager, will provide an overview of the Washoe County Hazards Mitigation Plan, to include the plan's goals, objectives and mitigation strategies. Mr. Kenneston will also discuss measures that all citizens can take to be prepared for emergency situations. Mr. Kenneston will answer questions from the CAB and the audience. This item is for information only and the CAB will take no action.

Christine Conti commenting that she would be presenting the Mitigation Plan in Mr. Kenneston's place. She distributed the Washoe County Hazards Mitigation Plan. She reported that FEMA requires that every five years a plan be developed to outline what steps could be taken prior to a disaster to mitigate it. This makes it easier to get FEMA funding following a disaster. This year it was decided that the county, the two cities and the two tribes would develop a regional plan versus each entity writing their own. Ms. Conti commented that after reviewing the plan, any questions can be e-mailed to her. Her contact information was provided. She gave a PowerPoint© presentation on

the thirteen disasters and what citizens can do to protect themselves. Ms. Conti encouraged residents to register for City Watch as this is a way for the citizens to be notified to evacuate if necessary.

C. Rescheduling of the July 5, 2010 West Washoe Valley CAB Meeting – The West Washoe Valley CAB will discuss and possibly take action to reschedule or cancel its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 5, 2010 due to the Fourth of July Holiday. If rescheduled, the CAB would hold the rescheduled meeting at the normal start time of 7:00 p.m. at the Bowers Fire Station

A discussion was held. It was decided to move the CAB meeting to July 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in this location.

11. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS – (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.)

Future agenda items: (a) Wind machines as it pertains to coordination with the South Valleys Area Plan, possibly with representation from Community Development; (b) Sierra Fire Protection District/Truckee Meadows Fire (action item); (c) Weston property update; (d) Under Fire Safety Issues, update on water tender and/or grant application for an additional water tender; (e) Under Fire Safety Issues, volunteer fire station fundraising update; and (f) approval of March 1, 2010 minutes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Rod Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Elliott seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.