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Board Meetings

At the District Office:
Friday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.
Friday, November 10, 8:30 a.m.
Friday, December 15, 8:30 a.m.

ASCWD

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NEW FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENT

With the retirement of Alpine Meadows' last volunteer firefighter and expiration of its current contract with North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) on December 31, 2006, the Alpine Springs County Water District considered several options for providing fire protection and emergency medical services to Alpine Meadows residents in the long-term. Among the options considered were: annexation to NTFPD, contracting for service with NTFPD or another local fire department and starting its own full-service fire department. The District reviewed the various options with the assistance of an outside fire consultant and concluded that the best course of action was to contract on a long-term basis with NTFPD. In July, after a series of all-day sessions of shuttle negotiations between the two Boards, the framework of an agreement was developed. The Boards of Directors for both Districts approved the framework. At this time, attorneys for both Districts are drafting language to memorialize the agreement between the parties.

The highlights of the proposed agreement are: (1) Scope of Service. NTFPD will provide the District with all fire and emergency medical service. Both Districts will adopt their own fire codes. The NTFPD fire chief will act as the District's fire chief. (2) Term of Agreement. The agreement will commence on January 1, 2007, and terminate on December 31, 2021, with the option for either party to terminate the agreement with three-year notice after December 31, 2018. The agreement will continue in perpetuity unless cancelled or breached by one party or the other. (3) Capital Assets. The District will transfer title to NTFPD of all apparatus and equipment. The District will lease the Alpine Meadows fire station to NTFPD for \$1.00 per year. NTFPD is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the fire station. When the agreement terminates, NTFPD will return title of all apparatus and equipment in similar condition. Prior to June 30, 2007, NTFPD will: make alterations to the fire station, with District approval, to accommodate two on-duty firefighters and a Type I fire engine and paramedic ambulance; and, complete a Capital Facilities Plan for fire services for Alpine Meadows. (4) Staffing. Between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, NTFPD will assign a two-person engine company to operate out of the fire station, 24/7, for at least four months during the year. After July 1, 2008, NTFPD will assign a two-person engine company to operate out of the fire station, 24/7, at least five months during the year. (5) Finances. During fiscal year 2007, the District will pay NTFPD the amount of \$100,000.00. During fiscal year 2008, the District will pay NTFPD the amount of \$320,000.00. During fiscal year 2009, the District will pay NTFPD the amount of \$360,000.00. In all subsequent fiscal years, the District will pay 80% of the District's gross property tax revenue to NTFPD.

The District looks forward to a long and satisfactory relationship with NTFPD.

FALL CLEAN-UP – DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Fall is a beautiful time of the year in Alpine Meadows. Cool nights, warm days, the smell of pine and dry leaves. It is also a time of the year to improve the defensible space around your home. Ground defensible space clearance is 100 feet; that is, a homeowner is responsible for maintaining a clearance from any structure to 100 feet or to the property line whichever is closest. Trees should be thinned to provide an average separation of 10 feet between crowns. Tree branches within 10 feet of a chimney, overhanging the roof, or in contact with your home should be removed. Low growing (less than 18 inches in height) native plants can be retained so long as they are kept healthy and vigorous. The vertical clearance requirement for tree limbs is 12 feet. "Clearance" means a break in the continuity of vegetation to slow the spread of fire. So, as you go about your fall clean-up and pruning, remember those clearance requirements. Cut those trees, shrubs and grasses back. It will also make for healthy growth in the spring. Remember, before removing any live trees, contact NTFPD. Also, if the tree is alive, approval from BCPC may be required – call Judy Friedman at The Paper Trail (530-581-5692).

The following is a fire hazard abatement check list: (1) Thin brush away from structures. (2) Clean all needles and leaves from roof and rain gutters. (3) Screen chimney and stove pipes with 1/2" mesh. Chimney installation should be vertical to prevent smoke damage. (4) Store firewood away from buildings. (5) Remove dead limbs within six-eight feet of ground level and within 10 feet of chimneys or overhanging structures. (6) Cut dead trees and remove from property. (7) Be sure your address number is visible from the street in all directions of travel (3" tall of reflecting material or 5" tall in contrasting color to paint.)

To remove branches and slash from your property, call NTFPD to take advantage of their FREE chipping service. The phone number for NTFPD's "chipper hot line" is **530-546-4347**. Leave your name, address, phone number, the best time to return your call, and whether you would like the chips taken away or left in a pile on the edge of your property. Here are the rules: (1) Chipping will occur within approximately a two-week window from the time of your call on a first-come-first-served basis. Priority will be given where multiple parcels are to be chipped. (2) All material to be chipped must be placed along the edge of the road with cut ends pointing towards the road. There is a 7" maximum diameter. (3) All materials chipped will be blown back onto the property to the left of the pile or left on the edge of the property unless you notify NTFPD that you want the chips taken away. The chipping service will continue until October 31 or the first snow.

NTFPD will be performing defensible space inspections in Alpine Meadows next year starting in late spring. If you have any questions regarding the defensible space around your home, please contact NTFPD.

LONG RANGE MASTER PLAN

Working with consultants, Lumos and Company, the District is in the process of preparing a Long Range Master Plan. The consultants evaluated the condition of the existing water and sewer utility systems and will provide recommendations for necessary improvements. A first draft of the Plan has been delivered to the District. The District expects that the plan, with recommendations for capital facilities improvements and financing those improvements, will be finalized by the end of the calendar year. There will be public hearings as the Plan progresses; community input is requested and needed. More information will be available as the Plan progresses.

ASCWD MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The District has implemented a cyclical preventive maintenance program involving the sewer lines and the water tanks. In each of the past two years, 20% of the sewer lines have been televised to detect leaks and stoppages and repair them. All the lines will be televised on a five-year cycle. In addition, this year, tank 4A (a 500,000 gallon redwood tank with a reinforced concrete base located at the AM Ski Area) was drained and inspected. The tank is in good condition and should get 30 more years of life. This fall, tank 5 will be drained and inspected. In addition, the District has approved three major capital projects for fiscal years 2007-2008: (1) spring 2 rehabilitation for a total cost of \$265,000; (2) rehabilitation or repair of spring 1 at a cost of \$18,000; (3) a variable speed drive for well R-1 at a cost of \$17,000. All these projects mean that the District's water and sewer systems will be more reliable and will less likely need major repairs or replacement in the short term.

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