

**ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Alpine Springs County Water District, was held Friday, February 8, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., District Board Room, 270 Alpine Meadows Road.

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

2 President Danz called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

3 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4 Those attending joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 **ROLL CALL**

6 Directors Present: Barbara Danz, President; Charles Nungester, Vice President;
7 Janet S. Grant; Jon Northrop; Virginia Quinan

8 Directors Absent: None.

9 Staff Present: John Collins, General Manager; Mike Dobrowski, District CPA (by
10 telephone); Jancis Martin, Recording Secretary

11 Guests Present: Andy Smith/property owner; Peter Poe/NTFPD; Steve
12 Hook/NTFPD; Pat Dillon/NTFPD

13 **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

14 None.

15 **The numbering of the following items matches the original order of the**
16 **scheduled items in the meeting agenda. However, to take best advantage**
17 **of meeting participants' time, the items were dealt with in a different order**
18 **during today's meeting, as seen below.**

19 **3. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION & ACTION**

20 **A. Financial Reports:**

21 Mike Dobrowski, District CPA, participated in discussion of this agenda
22 item by telephone. He reported that:

- 23 • The District's net income is greater than last year and its cash reserve
24 is building up. After final notices go out this month, accounts
25 receivable will be turned over to the County for collection, probably
26 next month.

- 27 • Director Grant asked what was reported in "Other Revenue" for
28 January to make it significantly higher than budgeted. Mike said it
29 was reimbursement from the ski area for power usage.

30 i. **January Financial Statements:** Director Northrop made a MOTION
31 that the Board approve the financial statements, dated February 6,
32 2008, as presented. Director Grant SECONDED the motion. All
33 Directors being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.

34 ii. **January Expenses Paid & Payable:** The Directors reviewed the
35 monthly check register. Director Nungester made a MOTION that the
36 Board approve the Expenses Paid & Payable (checks 23492 through
37 23538). Director Grant SECONDED the motion. In discussion,
38 Director Quinan asked why there were two checks made out to
39 Truckee Tahoe Propane; research revealed that the checks were for
40 two different monthly statements. Mike pointed out that the District, in
41 addition to paying its own propane bill, pays the firehouse bill and is
42 later reimbursed by NTFPD. All Directors being in favor, the motion
43 was APPROVED.

44 **B. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on January 11,**
45 **2008:**

46 Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the minutes of
47 the January 11, 2008, Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Director
48 Quinan SECONDED the motion. In discussion, the following corrections
49 were proposed:

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- Page 2, line 27: replace “the second Director” with “only one Director”,
- Page 2, line 28: add “but to postpone any change until next year” after “leadership”,
- Page 8, line 26: replace “Eric” with “Russell”.

Director Northrop amended his MOTION to include the corrections.

Director Quinan SECONDED the amended motion. All Directors being in favor, the amended motion was APPROVED.

E. General Manager’s Report:

John Collins, General Manager, provided a written report on his activities during the month of January, with discussion on the following topics:

- Modification of Well R-1:
 - Prepared and submitted the Application for Domestic Water Supply Permit Amendment to the State Department of Public Health (DPH).
 - Completed and submitted a DEQA environmental information form to DPH and requested a categorical exemption approval from DPH. It remains to be determined whether the District or DPH will be the lead agency for this step.
 - Partially reviewed the Lumos plan.
 - Evaluated alternatives to Sierra Controls, since Sierra Controls has become unresponsive recently to the District and other local agencies, due to being overly busy.
- Fire Services: The fire station addition is complete. He is preparing the final bill to submit to NTFPD and will be returning an overpayment to NTFPD.
- Agreement with Alpine Sierra Ventures: The ski area has indicated that it no longer wishes to pursue a master agreement with the District, apparently because its lender no longer requires it. Meanwhile, a draft of the agreement was prematurely sent by District counsel to the ski area’s counsel, immediately followed by a request sent by District counsel to the ski area’s counsel requesting that they not open it or forward it to their client.
- Snow-making equipment: In the snow-making well pump test data, the geological engineers recommended that the pump be run for no more than seven days at a time. Ski area personnel recently ran it for 14 days and were unhappy at being asked to stop running it, because they still needed it for snow-making.
- Easements: Staff sent the amended encroachment agreement for Lot 228 Alpine Meadows Estates (modified per Board direction at the December Board meeting) to Placer County to be recorded. The County did not record it because there was writing in the margin. This required that the document be signed and notarized again in order for the easement to be recorded before the end of escrow. The sellers sent Staff flowers and thanked the Board and General Manager for their assistance in the matter.
- Grant: Manager Collins has heard nothing from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
- TTSA: Manager Collins attended the TTSA member monthly meeting. Marcia Beals informed the group that Tahoe Donner has submitted an

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1 application to drill a well on TTSA property; Squaw Valley is also
2 looking at drilling a well on TTSA property. Squaw Valley hopes to lay
3 a trench to install a water pipeline back up the canyon; a natural gas
4 pipeline and DSL cable could also be run in the same trench. Marcia
5 expects to be presenting to the TTSA Board a plan for a combined
6 TTSA/Squaw well and asked if any other utilities were interested in
7 participating in the well project.

8 **H. Operations & Maintenance Department Report:**

9 Manager Collins presented Buz Bancroft's written report for the month of
10 January that included status updates on water, sewer, garbage and other
11 services provided by the District.

12 **F. Firewise Community Sign:**

13 The Board discussed the placement of a sign on District property stating
14 that Alpine Meadows is a Firewise Community. Manager Collins said he
15 and Buz felt it should be placed on its own pole near the Park entrance.
16 The project would cost a few hundred dollars in Staff time and materials
17 would be under \$100. Further discussion was postponed until the March
18 Board meeting; since the project will have to be handled as an
19 unbudgeted expense, the Budget & Finance Committee will have to
20 evaluate it before presenting it to the Board for approval. President Danz
21 asked Manager Collins to speak with John Moise, President of the Alpine
22 Meadows Firesafe Council, about placing the sign in some other location,
23 not on District property.

24 **C. Fire Department Report:**

25 Peter Poe, Steve Hook and Pat Dillon were in attendance for NTFPD and
26 discussed with the Board the following items:

- 27 • January Dispatch Report: Ten of the 15 dispatch calls were for EMS
28 at the ski area but there was also a fire in a dumpster by the District
29 office. President Danz suggested that a reminder be placed in the
30 March newsletter advising people as to how to safely dispose of
31 ashes.
- 32 • Fire Station Staffing: Peter said NTFPD would probably continue to
33 staff the station on the same schedule until June 30th and will probably
34 increase staffing for the President's Day weekend.
- 35 • Grant Application: Peter has heard nothing new.
- 36 • Fire Station Addition: Pat said all was going very well at the station.
37 The crews have done snow removal and have fired up the generator.

38 **D. Alpine Meadows Fire Ordinance (Ordinance 8-2007):**

39 The Board discussed the substance of the recently adopted Fire
40 Ordinance with particular reference to the sprinkler requirements for new
41 construction.

- 42 • President Danz reminded the Board that the purpose of today's
43 meeting was to decide whether or not the Ordinance needs to be
44 changed. If it is decided today that the Ordinance should be changed,
45 the actual modifications would be determined at a future meeting with
46 due notice and the scheduling of a public hearing prior to final
47 approval.
- 48 • Director Quinan asked the NTFPD representatives for their thoughts
49 on the sprinkler provisions. Steve Hook said the sprinklering was not

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1 only to protect the contents of buildings and nearby residences but
2 also to keep fires from spreading into the wild land.

- 3 • Director Grant said her understanding was that Alpine’s sprinkler
4 provisions were more stringent than those of other areas. Steve Hook
5 said he had not compared the ordinance with those of other local
6 districts. Northstar, Squaw Valley and NTFPD all have sprinkler
7 provisions in their fire ordinances. Director Northrop thought
8 ASCWD’s ordinance should not be more stringent than other areas.
9 President Danz disagreed, suggesting that it made more sense for the
10 District to decide for itself what provisions to put in place, rather than
11 copying other Districts.
- 12 • Director Nungester presented a hypothetical question to the NTFPD
13 representatives. If all the homes in the neighborhoods burned by the
14 Angora Fire had been equipped with sprinkler systems, would the
15 demand on the water supply have been so great that there would not
16 have been sufficient supply for the engines to fight the fire or would
17 the sprinkler systems have been ineffective due to excessive demand
18 on the water system. Peter Poe said sprinkler systems were not
19 intended to put out major wild fires, but rather were intended to
20 confine and suppress small fires before they got larger. Pat Dillon
21 said, if all homes had sprinklers, their simultaneous deployment would
22 impact water volume but, in fact, relatively few buildings have
23 sprinklers. He also said that he did not think the cost of sprinklers
24 should not be the deciding factor in whether or not to install them.
- 25 • Andy Smith said he is bothered by the fact that he could not afford to
26 live in Alpine Meadows today if he had not moved here in 1973. He
27 knows part of the cost is due to the scarcity of the land but a big part
28 of it is also the cost of building in the valley. He feels that the costs
29 just keep escalating and asked when enough is enough. The reason
30 Andy is staying involved with the topic at this point is because he
31 recently completed a couple of projects whose costs would have been
32 prohibitive if he had been required to sprinkler them. Andy agreed
33 with Director Northrop that the Board should consider what other
34 Districts are doing with respect to their own fire ordinances.

35 Director Grant made a MOTION that the Board take another look at
36 Ordinance 8-2007, especially the sprinkler provisions. Director Northrop
37 SECONDED the motion. Further discussion ensued:

- 38 • Director Nungester pointed out that NTFPD was being reasonable in
39 their approach to enforcing the Ordinance, since they were the ones
40 who pointed out to Andy that use of a breezeway negated the need
41 for sprinklering in his recent garage project.
- 42 • In response to Director Nungester’s reminder that Andy had
43 commented last month that water might be more of a problem than
44 fire, Steve Hook said he agreed but that NTFPD calls owners of
45 sprinkler systems during extended freezes to make sure they take
46 precautions to prevent systems from breaking and flooding. Steve
47 also pointed out that specially licensed contractors are required to
48 install sprinkler systems, rather than regular plumbers. He said there
49 have been very few problems.

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- 1 • Director Northrop asked what the primary causes of fire were. Steve
2 said they were ashes and kitchen appliances and uses, the latter
3 frequently constituting a lethal combination of ignition sources,
4 combustible materials and insufficient attention. Pat said the United
5 States has experienced more loss from fire than any other country in
6 the world. He said no house with sprinklering has ever had a loss of
7 life, although firefighters have died in structures whose sprinkler
8 systems were not enabled. He said fire agencies all over the country
9 are working hard to enact ordinances to put sprinkler systems in
10 place. Steve cautioned against changing the ordinance simply
11 because a local construction project is affected by a clause in the
12 ordinance.

13 Directors Northrop and Grant voted in favor of the motion, Directors
14 Nungester and Quinan voted against it; to break the tie Director Danz
15 voted against it. The motion was NOT APPROVED. The Ordinance will
16 therefore remain unchanged. President Danz told Andy the reason she
17 voted as she did is that, to abolish the sprinkler provisions would be a
18 step backward especially when the cost factor is not overwhelming. She
19 thanked Andy for his attention and concern and the NTFPD
20 representatives for their attendance and assistance.

21 **I. Committee Reports:**

- 22 i. **Budget & Finance Committee:** President Danz presented a written
23 report of the Committee's February 7th meeting with detailed
24 discussions of the following items:
25 a. **Status of investments/cash:** In January, the Board voted to roll
26 over a \$100,000 CD but due to an administrative error within
27 Wachovia, the CD was never purchased. Wachovia has agreed
28 to pay the difference between the interest rate at which the CD
29 should have been purchased and the lower interest rate at which it
30 was eventually purchased.
31 b. **Transfer of Park Fund to General Fund:** Manager Collins has
32 not received an estimate from the auditors so the Committee will
33 reconsider the issue next month. Director Grant said the Board
34 should seriously consider making the accounting change because
35 of potential loss of tax revenues to the State. Generally, the State
36 is reluctant to take revenues from General Fund uses. Director
37 Nungester said he supported Director Grant's position; however,
38 there would be the added cost from the auditors, who would have
39 to restate all of the prior year's financial statements. The
40 Committee and the Board will consider if the extra cost in the
41 auditor's time will be worth making the change.
42 c. **Revisions to Budget & Finance Committee policies:** President
43 Danz provided a detailed list of Committee policies with expected
44 changes (see Board packet).
45 d. **Future issues:**
46 • The Committee is preparing for the possibility of having to
47 respond promptly to a possible garbage rate increase. In
48 order to raise District garbage rates, notice will have to be

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- 1 provided, a public hearing scheduled and a revised ordinance
2 passed before June 30.
3 • In March, the Committee and Staff will be starting the
4 budgeting process for next fiscal year.
5 e. **Requests from customers for adjustments to their bills:** None.
6 f. **Requests for unbudgeted expenses:** None.
7 g. **Next meeting:** Scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at 12:00 noon.
8 ii. **Long Range Planning Committee:** There was no meeting.
9 iii. **Park, Recreation & Greenbelt Committee:** There was no meeting.
10 iv. **Administration & Personnel Committee:** There was no meeting.

11 **G. Review of Policies:**

12 The Board discussed which policies need to be revised:

- 13 • Budget & Finance Committee Policies: Previously discussed.
14 • Long Range Planning Committee Policies: Policies 8.0, Policy of
15 Operation, and 8.1, Water Resource, will need minor changes. Policy
16 8.5, Emergency Response Plan, should be reviewed by the Board.
17 Director Grant asked if the Board minded if a subset of her Committee
18 met to make the minor changes, rather than the full Committee; the
19 other Directors had no objection.
20 • Park, Recreation & Greenbelt Committee Policies: The Committee's
21 policies were recently revised and the Committee will soon be doing
22 its annual review of Policy 6.2, Park Use and Fees.
23 • Administration & Personnel Committee Policies: Director Nungester
24 came up with seven policies that the Committee will discuss before
25 next month's meeting. Policy 4.18, Water Treatment, should probably
26 be a Board policy.

27 **J. Open Items:**

28 None.

29 **K. Correspondence to the Board:**

30 None.

31 **4. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

32 Director Quinan asked when the Board would see the March Newsletter.
33 Manager Collins said it would be at next month's meeting. The Park pass
34 information will go in that newsletter.

35 **5. CLOSED SESSION**

36 None.

37 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

38 There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at
39 10:05 a.m.

40
41 Respectfully Submitted,

Approved w/amendments 3/14/08

42
43
44
45 Jancis Martin
46 Recording Secretary