

SPECIAL MEETING

PALOMINO VALLEY GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
9732 Pyramid Hwy #407, Sparks, NV 89441

Thursday, July 13, 2023

MINUTES

[Note: There were no attachments for this meeting]

Trustee Tom Baker called the special meeting of the Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID or GID) to order at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 21555 Pyramid Highway, Reno, Nevada.

1. **Roll Call:** Trustees present were Tom Baker, Greg Dennis, Dan Helton, and Don Otto. Trustee John Patterson was absent. Also present were Cathy Glatthar, Assistant to the Board (by phone); and Frank Flaherty, Legal Counsel (by phone).

2. **Public Comment:**

- Jim Currivan stated he found a handout at a prior meeting that listed a number of complaints received after Trustee Otto cut the locks at the equipment yard and took out a grader. Mr. Currivan said one complaint was from a person on Amy Road south of Wilcox Ranch Road who complained about the poor quality of the work Trustee Otto did. He mentioned the controversy over going after the weeds on the side of the road, those are really the property owner's responsibility, but on Whiskey Springs, Trustee Otto pushed up sage and other vegetation against a resident's fence, and he didn't know how long the vegetation had been left there. He opined that if they were "hankering" to get rid of our Road Manager, and Trustee Otto was "hankering" on taking over that job or do it on a freebie basis, then he didn't think we were getting a very good product. He opined that Shawn might be out for three-to-five weeks, but might be back in two weeks, and he suggested the Board be cautious about hiring a new employee, which would cost a lot more than just \$30 an hour; we'd have more employees, but what would actually get done on our roads?

Trustee Baker asked if there were any further public comments? Hearing no requests, he moved to the next agenda item.

3. **Discuss Actions to Continue Road Maintenance and Repair Operations During the Extended Absence of the Operations Manager and Equipment Operator, Including, But Not Limited to, Authorizing Board Members Possessing Necessary and Appropriate Licenses and/or Certificates to Operate District Equipment on a Volunteer/Uncompensated Basis:**

Trustee Baker opined that we needed to continue work on the roads; that we could not shut down for the summer. He stated both Trustee Otto and Trustee Helton have offered to do volunteer work. He said our Equipment Operator was getting better. He opined if our Operations Manager (OM) was back in two weeks, that the OM wouldn't be running any equipment.

In response to comments made by Trustees Otto and Helton, Trustee Baker said the OM's condition and when he can return and what he can do when he returns, "that's all about him and his doctors."

In response to Wayne Mortensen's comments about the resignation letter from the "employees," Mr. Flaherty advised the Board to not engage in discussion on this topic.

In response to Mr. Mortensen's comments about the PVGID's employees being Washoe County employees, Trustee Helton corrected the record and explained the PVGID has two contract workers, the Assistant to the Board and the Assistant to the Secretary/Bookkeeper, and two employees, the OM and the Equipment Operator.

There was some discussion about the question George Boyce asked as to whether or not the Trustees are covered by workers' compensation for any injuries sustained while doing volunteer work. Cathy confirmed that through our insurance carrier POOL/PACT, all Trustees are covered under a workers' compensation insurance policy, and all PVGID vehicles and equipment are covered under a liability insurance policy.

Trustee Dennis said he appreciated the Trustees' efforts, but when he looked at some of the roads Trustee Otto worked on in the past, he thought that they needed to think about how the work was to be done this time and formulate a plan.

Trustee Baker said the first thing he wanted to see done was where Trustee Otto pushed dirt and vegetation up onto the sides of Broken Spur and Whiskey Springs Roads needed to be cleaned up. Trustee Baker said he drove Amy Road, south of Wilcox Ranch, and he opined that it wasn't that bad. He thought roads should just be skimmed in order to smooth them.

Trustee Otto said no water would be used.

Trustee Helton said simple maintenance would be done, such as knocking down the washboard.

In answer to Trustee Otto's question, Equipment Operator, Chuck Blower (in the audience), replied that he did not know when he could drive a truck.

Trustee Otto said he wanted Mr. Blower to come to the yard and answer some questions about the equipment and other things. Trustee Otto said he wanted to take care of roads, such as Wild Horse, but if they didn't want him to, then he wouldn't.

Trustee Helton said, if needed, he could drive the water truck.

Trustee Otto said if time goes on, and if they could manage it, he'd like to improve Broken Spur.

Mr. Mortensen opined that water was needed and implored Trustee Otto to not dry-grade the roads.

Trustee Otto said there would be no water.

Trustee Helton opined that grading could be done without water in order to knock down the washboard.

Mr. Mortensen then stated that Trustee Otto made a mess of Amy Road without water.

Trustee Otto said no, he didn't.

Mr. Mortensen said he's paying his taxes and appreciated Trustees were willing to volunteer, but don't grade without water.

Trustee Helton reiterated that water was important, but they were limited and didn't have the ability to water the roads.

Trustee Otto opined that he could blade off some of the loose material and redo those roads when we get water.

Trustee Baker said there's one person here who doesn't want us to work if we don't have water.

Susan Ambrose spoke up and said there were other issues to consider if water wasn't used, such as roads don't hold up as long, so you're wasting time and fuel if grading dry.

Trustee Dennis said he didn't disagree. He said when he was President, he had discussions with the crew about water trucks and getting the right kinds of trucks for our roads. He said grading should not be done without first putting down enough water, then, after grading, compact the road surface; that roadwork method lasts a long time.

Trustee Otto said if you have rocks on top, you have to go deeper and pull up and mix the rocks in, and turn it over. He opined that if you just "sprinkle" a little base on top, you can't mix it without losing that base material that we've paid a lot of money to haul in.

Trustee Dennis said we've been successful with veneers of base; that we don't have the money to put down six inches of base. The veneers of base have lasted and outlasted what we used to do by months and months.

Trustee Helton agreed that the veneers have done an incredible job, but you can't retouch them.

Paula Taylor said she has seen the pictures of the dry grading Trustee Otto did, and it was a mess, and she was not in favor of allowing dry grading to be done.

In answer to an audience member's question, Trustee Otto said to drive the water truck, a CDL with a tanker endorsement was needed.

Trustee Helton reiterated that Trustee Otto should go out and get rid of piles of debris he left on the sides of the roads when he graded last time, and also, lightly grade areas that need it. He added that if there was a big area that needed to be graded, he would drive the water truck.

Trustee Otto said they talked in the past about running two graders when the situation came up that they could do it, but he said he found out that one of the graders has been red-tagged (don't run it) and he wanted to know why.

Trustee Dennis thought there had to be a good reason why it was red-tagged.

Trustee Baker said Shawn told him it won't run.

Trustee Otto said they needed an outside mechanic to come in and fix it. We can't run both machines even if we wanted to.

Trustee Baker asked Trustee Otto to get a mechanic to come out and look at the grader.

In response to an audience member's question, Mr. Flaherty advised that this discussion was tangential to this agenda item and could be talked about.

Trustee Helton made a motion to authorize Board members possessing necessary and appropriate licenses and/or certificates to operate District equipment for purposes of temporary road maintenance and repair during the extended absences of the Operations Manager and Equipment Operator on a volunteer/uncompensated basis. Trustee Baker seconded the motion.

Paula Taylor said there was nothing in that motion about making sure we're using a water truck when grading.

Trustee Helton said a lot of what they were going to do was clean up on the side of the roads without a water truck, especially at the bottom of Broken Spur where the piles are. Upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discuss Hiring Another Equipment Operator:

Trustee Baker said this also should possibly be temporary, or full time, but we needed somebody.

Trustee Helton interjected and said to start with temporary.

Trustee Baker said they should attempt to get somebody temporarily to run the water truck, so everybody would be happy and the roads would be done correctly. He said maybe put in the ad that the job could possibly become full time.

Trustee Otto asked if they were looking for a water truck driver or a full-time [equipment] operator?

Trustee Helton said both.

Trustee Baker said ideally, you'd want somebody who could run everything.

Trustee Dennis said it takes lots of money to add another employee. The Class E program was established as a way to extend the life of our road maintenance, and another employee will take away from purchasing material. Roads full of rocks need to be covered. He said he was in favor of hiring a temporary water truck driver.

Trustee Helton said we have trucks, equipment, a shop, and only two people. He suggested selling some of the vehicles.

Larry Chesney suggested advertising and get a temporary worker with a CDL.

Susan Ambrose opined that if you're adding to the workforce, the cost would have to include benefits and can we afford that?

Trustee Otto said it would be about \$150,000.

Trustee Helton said they would lose some of the paving we do or some Class E. He suggested allocating the funds from somewhere else because we need the benefits of having more manpower. He agreed that a permanent employee would be tough.

Mr. Chesney opined that a temporary employee would be best, and wait until later to consider a third, permanent employee.

Trustee Baker said we have two employees who have had major surgery, they'll come back, but won't be instantly at 100%.

Trustee Dennis made a motion to hire a temporary equipment operator with a CDL so this person could drive a water truck. Trustee Helton seconded the motion.

Jim Currivan asked what the salary range would be?

Trustee Dennis said from \$25 per hour to \$50 per hour depending on experience.

Trustee Baker said no less than \$25 per hour.

Trustee Otto asked if we were wording this as a temporary employee or a temporary water truck driver or a temporary [equipment] operator or ...?

Trustee Helton interjected and said all of the above.

Trustee Otto asked if they would skip the full time for now, and put both of those in the ad; a water truck driver with a CDL and an experienced operator?

Trustee Dennis said he was lumping it all into one basket to give Trustee Baker the ability to deal with it.

Chuck Blower said that finding an equipment operator with a CDL would be difficult; that the Board should advertise for the position that's need the most (water truck driver or equipment operator). He added that they needed to be sure the person with a CDL also has a manual transmission endorsement.

Upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment:

- Trustee Dennis thanked the audience members for coming out and for their comments.

Trustee Baker asked if there were any further public comments? Hearing no requests, he moved to the next agenda item.

- 6. Adjournment:** Trustee Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Trustee Dennis seconded the motion, and hearing no opposition, the motion passed.