

Greenhorn Creek Community Services District
A Firewise Community
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 6 PM
Greenhorn Fire Station
2049 Red Bluff Circle
Greenhorn Ranch

1. Roll Call:

The meeting is called to order at 5:58 pm. Chair Rebecca Herrin present, Vice-Chair Amanda Higgins present, Director Greg Neal present. Water Manager and Fire Chief Tyson Rael present.

2. Public Comment:

There are no public comments. Many members of the Road Association for Greenhorn Subdivision Unit 2 are present as their meeting starts after the District meeting. These members of the public participate in the discussion.

3. Board Comments and Reports:

There are no Board comments or reports.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2023:

M/S/C: Higgins/Neal/3-0.

5. Update on Replacement of Water System Manager and Fire Chief:

There is one applicant for the position of Water System Manager. There are no applicants for Fire Chief. Anthony Campbell is currently the Systems Manager for the Plumas Eureka Community Services District. He has distribution and treatment experience and the appropriate licensing.

Chair Herrin and Director Neal have interviewed Campbell by phone.

Herrin suggests that the District offer the position of Water System Manager to Anthony Campbell.

M/S/C: Neal/Higgins/3-0 to offer the position to Campbell.

6. Finance Reports:

A. The monthly financial reports are accepted as submitted.

7. Water Department: Water System Manager Rael reports that there were no water leaks this month. Concrete water boxes may be able to be installed if the weather warms up for about two hours. Norm Lambert is not able to install so Rael will find an alternative.

8. Fire Department:

A. Chief Rael's resignation is effective at the end of the year. There are no applicants to take over the position. Rael reports he currently has three firefighters. The Department is at the risk of being dissolved, which would have tremendous impacts on the homeowners and residents of the District.

Volunteer firefighters are needed to keep the station active. The Fire Chief position is also volunteer. Being a volunteer involves time commitments such as attending trainings every Tuesday evening in Quincy and attending fire academy in the Spring. The EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) requires training that is available online. The Department covers the costs of the training.

Drivers for the engines must have Firefighter 1 certification as a prerequisite to the driver training. FF 1A is a forty-hour course and FF1B for operations and pumping is another forty-hour course. All firefighters in the Department have driver/operator certification.

The Department responds to about fifty calls per year. Greenhorn has a mutual response agreement with Long Valley CSD (Cromberg). In addition, Greenhorn is a party to a county-wide mutual aid agreement.

The two-in/two-out rule requires that at least four firefighters respond to fight a structure fire. If two firefighters are in the building, two must also be outside to assist. These firefighters assume a defensive role in protecting adjacent structures as well as operating the pump. There have been times when firefighters have gone inside structures when there were not enough Department personnel, with backup from Quincy on the way.

The Department has an agreement with the State of California for wildfire response. The Department receives compensation for the use of equipment and firefighters are paid about \$60 to \$80 per hour.

8. Request to Initiate Consolidation of Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire

Department with Quincy Volunteer Fire Department: Chief Rael has written a draft letter requesting consolidation. Neal leads the discussion of possible consolidation with Quincy. Joining Long Valley CSD might be more advantageous as the Department already has a mutual response agreement in place.

The advantage of consolidating with Quincy is that the Department currently trains with Quincy and policies and procedures are the same. Long Valley trains with Graeagle. Neal adds that the District could consider making the Fire Chief position paid to provide incentive to find a new Chief.

There will be a special meeting to discuss the fire department volunteer shortage and to gather ideas regarding consolidation with Quincy or with another District. Neal offers to work on a letter outlining the situation and take it door-to-door.

Rael encourages everyone to be up front and honest when talking to people about the possibility of volunteering. The time commitment, training and regulations are discouraging to many people and some firefighters have quit midway through the process. The most firefighters Greenhorn has had in the past was twelve. The

Department must have staff even if consolidation with Quincy occurs. There would be more overlap in trained personnel with Quincy so that the same people would not be required to respond every time.

There is a Chief and Deputy Chief in Quincy. If a Battalion Chief could be utilized in Quincy, there might be a bigger resource pool.

Neal questions whether combining with Quincy might reduce grant opportunities. Rael responds that some grants are geared towards smaller Department needs while some are easier to qualify for in cooperation with other entities.

The Fire Chief position was offered at the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association meeting two weeks ago with no response. There has been discussion between Rael and a Beckwourth resident who may be interested in relocating to Greenhorn.

9. Adjournment to the next regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023.

M/S/C: Neal/Higgins/3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Rebecca Herrin, Chair