



Sun Valley General Improvement District Board Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024

Board Members Present:

Susan Severt	Chairperson
Michael Rider	Vice Chair
Joseph Barstow	Secretary
Carmen Ortiz	Trustee

Board Members Not Present:

Mark Neumann	Treasurer
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Staff Present:

Chris Melton	SVGID, General Manager
Brad Baeckel	SVGID, Public Works Director
Erin Dowling	SVGID, Customer Service Supervisor
Jennifer Merritt	SVGID, Administrative Assistant
Maddy Shipman	SVGID, Legal Counsel

Other Members Present:

Alessandra Castillo	Public Audience
Mark Dunn	Public Audience
Mary Espinosa	Public Audience
Cindy Leslie	Public Audience
Jonnie Quintero	Public Audience
Mike Revty	Public Audience
Glenda Walls	Public Audience
Christine Kelly	University of Reno Nevada
Casey Mentzer	City of Sparks

The meeting of the Sun Valley General Improvement District was called to order by Chairperson Severt at 5:30 pm in the Sun Valley District Administrative Building, 5000 Sun Valley Blvd., Sun Valley, NV.

Item# 1. Roll call and determination of a quorum.

Board members present; Chairperson Severt, Vice Chair Rider, Secretary Barstow, and Trustee Ortiz. A quorum was present.

Item# 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Secretary Barstow

Item# 3. Public comments for items not on the agenda.

Ms. Leslie announced the Sun Valley Senior Program is hosting a Potluck and an Ugly Sweater Contest December 20, 2024 at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center. She also announced the Senior Craft Fair was a big success, they raised a total of \$265.00 to be used towards activities for the Sun Valley Seniors.

Item# 4. Motion to approve the agenda.

Vice Chair Rider made a motion to approve the agenda. Secretary Barstow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 5. Certify posting of the agenda.

Ms. Merritt certified posting of the agenda.

Item# 6. Trustee/Manager's announcements, request for information, and statements relating to items not on the agenda.

Mr. Melton announced the District office will be closed at 1 pm on Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 and all-day Wednesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas. District office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day. Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2025 beginning at 10 am at Hobeys. Washoe County Special Swearing in Ceremony at the Washoe County Chambers Monday, January 6, 2025 at 10 am. Lastly, the new Catholic Charities Sun Valley location is located at 130 W. Gepford Pkwy.; they provide Case Management/Crisis Support, Benefit Assistance & Enrollment, Financial Education/Workforce Development, Family and Senior Support Services, Community Resources and Referrals.

Trustee Ortiz announced she attended the Sun Valley Senior Craft Fair; she was very impressed with all the items and complimented Ms. Leslie for putting the craft fair together.

Item# 7. Discussion and action to approve account payables for November 27, 2024.

Vice Chair Rider gave a brief report of the account payables, customer refunds and payroll for November 27, 2024.

Vice Chair Rider made a motion to approve the account payables for November 27, 2024 in the total amount of \$713,624.12. Secretary Barstow seconded the motion. After discussion the motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 8. Discussion and action to approve account payables for December 12, 2024.

Vice Chair Rider gave a brief report of the account payables, customer refunds and payroll for December 12, 2024.

Vice Chair Rider made a motion to approve the account payables for December 12, 2024 in the total amount of \$264,386.02. Chairperson Severt seconded the motion. After discussion the motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

- Item# 9. Discussion and action to approve board meeting minutes of November 14, 2024.**
Trustee Ortiz made a motion to approve the Sun Valley General Improvement District Board Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024 as submitted. Secretary Barstow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

- Item# 10. Presentation by Casey Mentzer with City of Sparks Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility regarding existing and future Capital Improvement Projects.**
Casey Mentzer with City of Sparks Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility gave a brief presentation regarding the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) operations and five-year capital improvement project outlay. He reported TMWRF is the wastewater facility that treats all of the collected wastewater from City of Reno, City of Sparks, and unincorporated areas of Washoe County. With the continued growth of the Truckee Meadows region TMWRF is not alone with keeping up with the growth demand. TMWRF is looking to re-invest over \$100M into the wastewater treatment facility; renovations, rehabilitations, and expansions over the course of the next five-years. Rather than just expanding TMWRF facilities, staff continues to find innovated treatment methods to help treat wastewater efficiently. One of TMWRF's newer treating process is a product known as Mobile Organic Biofilm (MOB). This biofilm carrier, also known as "kenaf" is a lignocellulosic fiber that is highly absorbent, and has a high surface area. This allows TMWRF to abstain from having to build larger treatment facilities; it intensifies the current treatment process and treats more for less. The process has proven the treatment process is highly efficient and cost effective. The MOB Filtration Pilot Process began as a pilot program, based on the study, the program was recently extended to continue ongoing research.
- Mr. Mentzer briefly reported on TMWRF Capital Improvement Program. TMWRF is an aging facility and has been well maintained over the past years. There is only so much maintenance that can be done before renovations, rehabilitations, and expansions are required. One of the current projects TMWRF is working on a Gas Conditioning System Improvement; the gas conditioning system has several single points of failure, and the system at large is a single point for the heat loop and digestion process. The gas conditioning drainage has corroded sidewalk concrete and structural supports and has created an unsafe condition. If the gas conditioning system could not operate, the heat loop would not be able to generate heat. Without heat, the digesters would not function, and the entire heating system of the plant would be compromised. The Gas Conditioning System helps produce energy to offset expenses. The construction on the Gas Conditioning System is scheduled to commence in 2025; project is estimated to cost \$3M. TMWRF is working on a Bleach Building HVAC Improvement; HVAC systems serving the bleach building are past their useful life. Additionally, the system does not have freeze protection, and the roof is leaking, causing freeze-thaw action on the structural concrete. Failed HVAC systems in the bleach building would cause premature degradation of the bleach, leading to increased chemical costs and lower disinfection efficiency. The construction on the Bleach Building HVAC Improvements is scheduled to commence in 2025; project is estimated to cost \$1.5M.

TMWRF is working on a Filter Process Improvements; TMWRF's filter building has been in-service since 1989 and has had no repairs since it has been constructed. The pre-design for full filter process expansion is underway; however, due to cost limitations, alternative improvements are being considered. The filter backwash system is the current bottleneck for capacity and an evaluation is underway to confirm the available capacity if the bottleneck were removed. This project encompasses the design for improvements to the filter process to mitigate the current process bottleneck. TMWRF Relies upon its filters to remove particulate matter and other constituents. Without removal, TMWRF may violate its discharge permit. He reported it is estimated to cost \$45M to construct a new Filter Process. TMWRF has decided to place constructing a new Filter Process on hold and move forward with various repairs and improvements to the existing Filter Process; estimated project cost \$10M. TMWRF is working on an Aeration Tanks Rehabilitation; an evaluation of the aeration tanks was started in fiscal year 2021. The evaluation will also have recommended improvements to the aeration tank and what is needed to keep infrastructure in good working order. This project is to design the improvements as outlined in the evaluation and pre-design project. Operations may need to take a tank off-line for emergency repairs thereby incurring unplanned costs and potential constituent loading increases. Construction for Aeration Tank 1A and Design for Aeration Tank 1B are anticipated in fiscal year 2025; one process system will be rehabilitated every other year, starting in fiscal year 2028. He reported it is estimated to cost \$10M for design and construction for work performed in 2025 and \$5M for construction in 2028 for the Aeration Tanks Rehabilitation. Lastly, one of the critical projects on TMWRF capital improvement list is a new Dewatering Building. The dewatering process at TMWRF is an important part of the water recovery and biosolids disposal. The equipment is undersized and lacking in redundancy and efficiency. A seismic report identified that this building has structural deficiencies that would render the building and process inoperable should a large enough earthquake occur. This project includes the detailed design of a new dewatering facility. Failure of the dewatering facility will require mobilization of temporary dewatering facilities to the site and around the clock trucking of solids offsite at significantly increased costs. Design of new dewatering building began in fiscal year 2024 and is scheduled for construction in fiscal year 2026; estimated project cost \$46M. Mr. Mentzer reported TMWRF's five-year capital outlay; some of the capital improvement projects are triggered by the amount flow generated.

Vice Chair Rider inquired if the Mobile Organic Biofilm "kenaf" can be grown locally to help decrease the cost of purchasing and increase availability.

Mr. Mentzer responded kenaf is grown in the United States, and TMWRF is currently purchasing the Mobile Organic Biofilm from a vendor in North Carolina. Kenaf can be grown locally if an agency wanted to look into such product.

Chairperson Severt inquired if kenaf can be reused.

Mr. Mentzer responded kenaf is a product that can be reused. Overtime after multiple filter cycles it will eventually breakdown and need to be replaced.

Mr. Melton appreciates the brief explanation of TMWRF's capital improvements. He reminded the Board the District has some ownership of the TMWRF. The District is responsible for a portion of TMWRF's overall expenses.

The District Board of Trustees and staff thanked Mr. Mentzer for his Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility update.

There were no public comments.

Item# 11. Discussion and action to proclaim January 2025 as National Radon Action Month and to approve Radon Proclamation.

Christine Kelly with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension gave a brief presentation regarding Radon. Ms. Kelly reported radon is an invisible radioactive gas that is naturally released from rocks; it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is a decay product of uranium, a common element in soil. One in four homes in Nevada has tested for elevated concentrations. Radon causes approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the U.S. and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Testing for Radon is easy, it is a three-day process. Once the kit has been sent to the lab for testing, results typically take about two weeks. If Radon is detected there are several measures that can be taken to fix the problem. Ms. Kelly reported Nevada has collected Radon data since 1989; continual data collection is important to see how Radon evolves throughout Nevada. She reported testing is expanding to include additional data markers to assist with what ethnicities are impacted by Radon. Nevada is listed as number one in the united states with uranium concentrations. Washoe County levels are high and only 10% of homes within Sun Valley has been tested. She reported testing is not mandated at this time; it is voluntary by residents preferably every two years. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is offering free test kits from January 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025. Sun Valley General Improvement District will be listed as a distribution site for kits. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is also offering several Radon presentations throughout Washoe County. She reported more information on Radon is available on the Radon website www.RadonNV.com or by calling 775-336-0252.

Audience member Mr. Dunn inquired how can Radon be treated. He also inquired how long until cancer is detected in an individual exposed to Radon.

Ms. Kelly responded that if a home has been tested with high level of Radon, they can either themselves or hire a professional contractor to install proper ventilation under the home to mitigate Radon. Detecting cancer in an individual varies depending on the individual's immune system and prior health history.

Audience member Ms. Espinosa inquired if there is a monitor, similar to a carbon-monoxide detector, is available to detect Radon.

Ms. Kelly responded there are devices that can detect Radon. These devices are a little challenging; Radon can be detected 24/7 and the device might detect Radon at periods of time. When using a Radon detection device it is important to understand you should consider an overall average level vs. a time specific level.

After further discussion Vice Chair Rider made a motion to adopt the Radon Proclamation and proclaim January 2025 National Radon Action Month. Trustee Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item# 12. Report by Field Supervisor regarding District Safety Committee.

Mr. Baeckel gave a brief report on the District Safety Committee update on behalf of the Field Supervisor. Mr. Baeckel reported the purpose of the committee is to bring all Sun Valley GID employees together to achieve and maintain a safe, healthy work place. The goal of the committee is to eliminate workplace injuries and illnesses by involving employees and managers in identifying hazards and suggesting new and improved ways to prevent them. The current Safety Committee members are: Fred Hurtzig – Chair, Daniel Garcia – Secretary, Bradley Jurdzy – committee member, and Jeremy Allen – committee member.

Since the last update the Safety Committee's focus has been spent on ensuring that crew members retain and utilize training on safety related issues. Tailgates are regularly scheduled and accomplished twice a month. The crew continues to show professional growth and maintains a secure and protected work place. Safety Committee meetings are scheduled once every two months. Safety Programs are kept up to date and filed for access by any member of staff per OSHA standards. Confined Space and the associated hazards are continually emphasized to the crew. All crew members have been through formal training on the hazards and SOP's for confined space entry. Crew members performing confined space adhere to OSHA regulations. He reported this year OSHA passed revisions pertaining to heat illness prevention; SVGID has implemented these for safety measures since 2022, before it was required by OSHA. Additional safety topics covered is the importance of use of Sun Protection, Ladder Safety, PPE (Hand protection), Heat Illness Prevention, Construction Safety, Promoting Safe Behavior, Fall Prevention, Trenching and Shoring, PPE (Eye Protection, and Hearing Protection). As a member of the POOL/PACT, the District is eligible to obtain additional training online and in person on various topics. An in-person training regarding Hazard Communication PPE/respiratory was offered by LP Insurance; they came out and did a training on chemicals specific to what we come into contact at the District. Field staff were instructed on emergency response and respirator/PPE required and were taught on the Hazard communication symbols and what they mean.

Mr. Baeckel reported Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) forms have been implemented and utilized for safety specific tasks, such as heavy equipment operation, fall safety, and confined space entry. The purpose of the JHA is to combat complacency and encourage engagement from crew members. The District recently added additional security cameras to assist with coverage in blind spots in the customer parking lot and shop area. A light pole was installed over the drop box area and bollards were painted safety yellow with reflective blue tape. Lights on the shop and yard area were replaced with energy-efficient LEDs, improving visibility on night time operations and improving the clarity of the security cameras. Lastly, he reported on upcoming training topics, they include Trenching & Excavation, CPR training for all new hires, updated OSHA Heat Regulations.

There were no public comments.

Item# 13. Discussion and action to approve sending up to five board members and up to seven staff members to the Nevada Water & Wastewater Operators' 2025 Conference in Sparks, NV.

Mr. Baeckel reported the District used to attend the Nevada Rural Water Association Conference. Since the last 2024 conference, the Nevada Rural Water Association has dissolved. The Rural Community Assistance Corporation will be offering a Water and Wastewater Operator's Conference this year. The conference will offer the opportunity to learn from water professionals, build vendor relations, attend education classes and obtaining continued educational units (CEU's) that are required for water certification renewals. Staff is requesting permission to register up to seven District employees, and up to five District board members to attend the upcoming Nevada Water & Wastewater Operator's Conference. If the District registers in December, it will qualify for the early bird rate which equates to a \$50 per person savings; Early Bird - Full Registration \$300.00 per person or Early Bird Two Day Registration \$175.00 per person. The conference will be held at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV from March 18, 2025 thru March 20, 2025. The 2025 Nevada Water & Wastewater Operator's Conference schedule has not yet been published. Scheduling of the two-day attendance will be staggered appropriately to make sure the District continues to have sufficient coverage. Conference registration would be paid from the District's Water and Wastewater Convention/Seminar/Training within the 2024/2025 approved budget.

Chairperson Severt commented this is a good opportunity for District field staff to receive ongoing education to help maintain their water certifications. She reported she has attended the conference in the past with other Trustees; it helps provide an understanding of the daily functions the District has to do to maintain its water system.

After further discussion Secretary Barstow made a motion to approve sending up to five District board members and up to seven District staff members to the 2025 Nevada Water and Wastewater Operator's Conference March 18, 2025 thru March 20, 2025 in Sparks, NV. Vice Chair Rider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 14. Discussion and action to approve sending one board member and one staff member to the Nevada Recreation & Park Society 2025 Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Mr. Melton reported staff is requesting permission for one board member and one staff member to attend the upcoming Nevada Recreation and Parks Society Conference. The conference will be held at Aliante Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV from April 8, 2025 thru April 10, 2025. The cost to attend the conference plus travel and lodging expenses is \$1,513.00 per person, an additional \$150 per person if they want to register for the L.E.A.D. Program. Conference registration would be paid from the District's Recreation Convention/Seminar/Training within the 2024/2025 approved budget.

Secretary Barstow made a motion to approve sending one District board member and one staff member to the 2025 Nevada Recreation and Parks Society Conference April 8, 2025 thru April 10, 2025 in Las Vegas, NV. Trustee Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 15. Discussion and action to appoint Sun Valley General Improvement District Chair as the representative to Washoe County Debt Management Commission for a two-year term.

Mr. Melton reported Washoe County Debt Management Commission allows for one representative of the general improvement districts, to be nominated by the governing bodies. This position would represent all the general improvement districts for a two-year term. The District nominated the Sun Valley General Improvement District Chair to be placed on the Washoe County Debt Management Commission Ballot for voting purposes. Washoe County did not receive any other nominations for other general improvement districts. Staff recommends officially voting for Chairperson Susan Severt to serve on the Washoe County Debt Management Commission for a two-year term commencing January 2025 thru December 2026.

Chairperson Severt commented she has represented the general improvement districts on the Washoe County Debt Management Commission for the past two years. The Commission meets quarterly during normal business hours to review debt management plans of local government entities and approve debt issuance by local government entities. This year in particular the Washoe County Debt Management Commission awarded a Bond for a premier grant project being spearheaded by the University of Nevada Reno; a refining water project in the North Valley's. She accepted the nomination.

Secretary Barstow made a motion to appoint Susan Severt to represent the general improvement districts on the Washoe County Debt Management Commission for a two-year term. Vice Chair Rider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 16. Discussion and possible action to update Sun Valley General Improvement District Personnel Policies:

Ms. Dowling provided copies of updated personnel policies for review and consideration based on the November 2024 Board action to change the District business hours to Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm and closed on Friday. If approved, updated personnel policies will be effective January 6, 2025.

A) Personnel Policy 2 – Employee Relations; Ms. Dowling reported Personnel Policy 2 was amended to adjust the time period in which an employee can submit a formal dispute letter to management for any action taken against an employee. Currently the District allows for ten days for an employee to submit a written dispute to management; with the reduced work day(s) staff is recommending "eight days" for an employee to submit a written dispute to management.

B) Personnel Policy 4 – Compensation Plan; Ms. Dowling reported Personnel Policy 4 was amended in various sections to reflect the change in District business hours; Section 4.2 Workweek Defined has been changed to Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm and closed on Friday, with the exception the Standby workweek will now begin on “Thursday’s” instead of Friday’s at 7:01 am and end on the following “Thursday” at 7:00 am. Section 4.5 Overtime has been changed to reflect overtime will be paid only for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week; no longer after an eight hour work day. Section 4.5.2 Exempt Employees are currently allowed to leave early for various appointments as long as the exempt employee has worked five hours without having to use their accrued time or have salary deducted. With the new hours, exempt employees now must work “six hours” before they can leave early without using any accrued time. Section 4.9 Standby Time and Backup, once again has been changed from Friday to “Thursday” beginning at 7:01 am until the following Thursday at 7:00 am. Standby Pay and duties have not changed, some additional language was added for clarification purposes.

C) Personnel Policy 5 – Leave Benefits; Ms. Dowling reported Personnel Policy 5 was amended in various sections; Section 5.1 Holidays was amended to no longer observe Nevada Day and Family Day that fall on a Friday, this was a compromise with staff moving to a four-day work week. The District will still recognize 10 legal holidays; holidays will be observed on the calendar day on which it falls. For the holidays that occur on a Friday will be observed on the preceding Thursday, any holidays that occur on a Saturday or Sunday will be observed on the following Monday. Section 5.1.2 Holiday Pay will be paid at “ten hours” for each recognized holiday in place of eight hours. Section 5.3.7 Use of Sick Leave – Procedure, employees currently are required to provide management a doctors note if they have been on sick leave three or more days based on a five-day work schedule. Management recommends a doctors note for all employees who have been on sick leave two or more days. Section 5.4 Personal Leave as an incentive regular full-time employees are eligible to earn personal time based on the number of sick hours used. Currently employees can earn sixteen hours of personal time if they use zero to thirty-two hours of sick leave and eight hours of personal time if they use twenty-one to forty hours of sick leave. Staff’s recommendation is to modify the accrual based on ten-hour days; regular full-time employees who use zero to twenty hours of sick leave will receive twenty hours of personal time and employees who use twenty-one to forty hours will receive ten hours of personal time. Lastly, Section 5.6 Bereavement Leave currently allows employees up to three days to use for bereavement. Staff recommends changing bereavement leave from three days to “two days” to be used for bereavement leave, per occurrence.

Ms. Dowling reported management and supervisors have spoken with all District employees to strongly encourage them to make as many personal appointments on Friday’s so there won’t be a disruption on District business.

Trustee Ortiz commented she disagrees with requiring employees to provide a doctors note if they are out sick for two or more days. A lot of times, individuals can’t even get seen by their primary doctor in a timely manner.

Mr. Melton responded, District employees can be seen at an urgent care and/or telecare/virtual if they can’t be seen by their doctor. All health organizations can issue a doctors note if required.

After further discussion Vice Chair Rider made a motion to approve revisions to the District's Policy 2 Employee Relations, Policy 4 Compensation Plan, and Policy 5 Leave Plans as presented by staff. Secretary Barstow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Item# 17. Resolution presentation to Secretary Joseph Barstow for twelve years of service.

Chairperson Severt reported the District Board of Trustees and staff recognized Secretary Barstow for his extraordinary contribution to the Sun Valley General Improvement District. Joseph Barstow served for 12 years as a Trustee for the District. His service significantly impacted his personal time, and was given with extreme dedication and commitment, and he brought vast practical experience to the District. His inquisitive and practical approach to issues brought better understanding and perspective to numerous issues, and he demonstrated the ability to focus on pertinent issues and render a consensus based on what is right for the Sun Valley Community and its residents.

Secretary Barstow thanked everyone, he appreciates each of the trustees and staff and has enjoyed working together for the betterment of the community.

The District thanked him for his service.

There were no public comments.

Item# 18. Legal report by Maddy Shipman.

None

Item# 19. Field report by Brad Baeckel.

Mr. Baeckel reported on the following:

- The Sun Valley Neighborhood Center floor project is almost completed, floors are scheduled to be waxed on December 14th with opening the Center on December 16th to all regular scheduled programs.
- 5 Ridges Project 1 is almost completed, M4 Engineering is currently performing the water transmission main tie-in.
- The 4th Ave. water transmission main replacement construction commenced on December 9th and is projected to be completed by the end of December or early January.
- Sun Mesa Phase 3 and Phase 4 has begun installation of sewer infrastructure.
- Spanish Springs Construction has begun grading around Klondike Tank for the installation of the new Sensus Meter Reading Tower for 5 Ridges Development.

Item# 20. Customer Service report by Erin Dowling.

Ms. Dowling reported on the following:

- The office has had very few inquiries regarding the District's prior winter evaluation program; this program is no longer required since the District implemented a sewer flat fee.
- December 13th the office will be closed from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm for an employee lunch meeting to go over the District's Personnel Manual changes.

- The District's new office hours are effective January 6, 2025; staff has advertised, and will continue to be advertised, of the new operating hours with a mail insert, a message on the bottom of the bills, District front lobby, and the District's website and social media page.
- She thanked Joseph Barstow for his service as a District Trustee, and wished him best wishes on his new venture.

Item# 21. Manager report by Chris Melton.

Mr. Melton reported on the following:

- The District's Community Development Block Grant submittal was denied by the State; Washoe County is working on appealing the decision due to an error on the application.
- He will be on vacation December 18, 2024 thru January 6, 2025.
- He thanked Joseph Barstow for his service as a District Trustee, service he provides to the Sun Valley community, and for his friendship.

Item# 22. Public Comments.

Mr. Barcenas Quintero commented how Waste Management can make a significant impact in the Washoe County community. Washoe County and City communities have become a present concern with garbage blowing around the streets and parks. This does not only effective the environment, but it greatly impacts quality of life for residents. He shared a personal story regarding this issue; living in an apartment complex he sees garbage is blowing around the community. The garbage cans were so full the wind was blowing the garbage out of the cans and onto the surrounding properties. At times garbage can be unhealthy attracting insects and animals causing great health concerns. As a solution he recommends Waste Management provide a comprehensive recycling program that requires residents to sort their recyclables at homes, this can be supported by Waste Management an educational campaign emphasizing on the importance of trash vs. recyclables and keeping a clean and healthy environment. He encourages the public to take action and support sustainable waste practices to help Waste Management build a brighter future for the Washoe County community.

Ms. Alessandra Castillo commented on public safety and gang violence in Sun Valley, NV. Gang violence has a significant impact on the entire community; it breaks the community spirit and under minds the safety of all surrounding individuals. She commented at her high school, sadly minority students have lost their lives due to gang violence. Innocent people are not safe along with those that are directly involved. Several months ago, she almost lost her friend when he was stabbed multiple times. He was hospitalized for several days, and she is proud to report that he is continuing to recover from his injuries. It is important to remember that citizens are not powerless with the face of this challenge, community involvement is crucial in combatting gang violence. By a community working together, we can create a safer environment for everyone by supporting local law enforcement, participating in neighborhood watch programs, and fostering open community ship between residents and authorities. Addressing gang violence will require a collective effort by staying vigilant, supporting each other, and investing in the community's future.

Item# 23. Board Comments.

Chairperson Severt thanked both public members Mr. Barcenas, and Ms. Castillo for their public comments; she was proud to report this is our Nation's future. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday. She also thanked Mr. Barstow for all of his service on the District Board and as a personal friend.

Vice Chair Rider thanked Joseph Barstow for his work relationship and for all that he has provided on a personal level for him and his family; Mr. Barstow will be greatly missed on the District Board. Mr. Rider also wanted to wish the District staff a Merry Christmas.

Secretary Barstow thanked the public allowing him to be a part of the Sun Valley community and a part of the District staff. He is appreciative of each person he has gotten to work with over the past twelve years. He thanked everyone for the opportunities that the District has given him during his time at the District. He will continue to be a part of the Sun Valley community with the H.O.P.E. Church of the Nazarene and the food bank.

Item# 24. Future Agenda Items.

Mr. Melton reported the following items will be on the next agenda;

- Election of Officers
- Approval of the 2025 District Board Meeting Schedule
- Appointments for various Boards and Committees
- Approval of the 2025 winter newsletter
- Workshop by POOL/PACT – Board training regarding Open Meeting Law, Ethics, and Governance

Item# 25. Adjournment.

Secretary Barstow made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 pm. Trustee Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved by the SVGID Board of Trustees on January 09, 2025 Minutes Prepared by:
Jennifer Merritt, Administrative Assistant