



Sun Valley G.I.D. Board Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2014

Board Members Present:

Sandra Ainsworth	Chairperson
Garth Elliott	Vice-Chair
Margaret Reinhardt	Secretary
Joseph Barstow	Treasurer
Susan Severt	Trustee

Board Members Not Present:

Staff Present:

Darrin Price	SVGID, General Manager
Mike Ariztia	SVGID, Public Works Director
Maddy Shipman	SVGID, Legal
Jennifer Merritt	SVGID, Staff

Others Present:

Rodney Bloom	Audience
Suzanne Dutra	Audience
Linda Elliott	Audience
Vicky Maltman	Audience
Glenda Walls	Audience
Fred Hillerby	Kaempfer Crowell, Lobbyist
Michael Hillerby	Kaempfer Crowell, Lobbyist
Nancy Eklof	Nancy Eklof Public Relations
John Slaughter	Washoe County, Manager
Nancy Leuenhagen	Washoe County, Communication Relations Manager
Barry Brouchard	NorthValleys.org

The meeting of the Sun Valley GID was called to order by Chair Sandra Ainsworth at 6:00 p.m. 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; Joseph Barstow, Garth Elliott, Sandra Ainsworth, Margaret Reinhardt, Susan Severt. A quorum was present.

Item#2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Susan Severt

Item#3. Motion to approve agenda.

Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to approve the agenda. Garth Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item#4. Certify posting of agenda.

Jennifer Merritt certified posting of agenda.

Item#5. Public Comments for items not on the agenda.

Vicky Maltman commented one of her friends recently moved from one rental to another in Sun Valley. During the move there was going to be a two week layover moving from one place to the other. When she went to sign up for service at the District she was required to pay a second \$150 deposit even though the District already had her original \$150 deposit from two years ago. Her friend is 70 years old with a single income, pays her bill in full on time every time, and has never been late. Vicky commented she thinks it is a lot to ask of someone that is already paying thousands of dollars to move to have to pay another \$150 for a deposit; then have to wait for the original deposit to be refunded after applying it towards her final balance. She thinks that something could have been done to assist with the two week period because there is no chance for her friend to run up a bill more than the deposit even at the two places combined.

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

Darrin Price reported the Regional Transportation Commission "RTC" will be hosting a public meeting on February 13, 2014 from 6pm until 8pm at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center. The public meeting is regarding potential transportation improvements on Sun Valley Boulevard. More information regarding the study can be viewed at www.sunvalleyblvd.com.

Garth Elliott stated he spoke with someone regarding the District's deposit. He stated that the District's written policy regarding deposits ultimately fallback to the landowner. This particular landowner's renter defaulted well beyond the \$150 deposit. When the new renter came in to sign up for service the landowner required them to pay the final balance, instead of the unpaid balance being the responsibility of the prior renter. He stated that is the landowners' right and it is perfectly legal but it was an absurd thing to do and he doesn't have a remedy for it other than buyers beware. Garth also commented on the recent shooting on Carol Drive. It was convoluted and extremely unfortunate. The shooting took place during the act of theft for drugs. This recent event focused him on the serious drug problem that Sun Valley has. Hopefully someday he would like to have attention brought to the drug problem in Sun Valley.

Item#7. Discussion and motion as to payables and customer refunds for January 23, 2014.

Treasurer Joseph Barstow gave a brief report of the accounts payable and customer refunds for January 23, 2014.

Joseph Barstow made a motion to approve the accounts payable for January 23, 2014 in the total amount of \$179,423.60 with discussion. Margaret Reinhardt seconded the motion. After discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Joseph Barstow made a motion to approve the customer refunds for January 23, 2014 in the total amount of \$1,311.56. Margaret Reinhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item#8. Discussion and motion to approve minutes of January 09, 2013.

Joseph Barstow made a motion to approve the minutes of January 09, 2013. Margaret Reinhardt seconded the motion. After some discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Item#9. Update from Washoe County Manager John Slaughter regarding county business.

John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager gave a brief introduction. He stated he was confirmed as the Washoe County Manager in November 2013 and has been with the County since 1986. He has spent time in the Planning Department and has worked on several Sun Valley projects. He also worked in the County Manager's Office and has worked with the legislature on behalf of the Washoe County Commissioners. He has worked with District staff during legislation and has

formed a great working relationship with Darrin Price. He stated he has met with Darrin after his appointment to discuss some of the needs of the District and the Sun Valley community and he hopes to continue meeting with Darrin and the District Board on a regular basis. Since he became the County Manager he has been meeting with different people and agencies to listen to their ideas, concerns, issues and things he can take back to his staff to see if the County can find a resolution for some of the ideas and issues.

Garth Elliott stated he had a good relationship with the prior County Manager. He hopes that the new County Manager, John Slaughter will really listen and consider what the people have to say instead of approaching people with an "I am right" attitude like the prior manager. He looks forward to working with Mr. Slaughter.

Mr. Slaughter responded he is more of an internal thinker. He likes to evaluate information first then work on it from all sides to hopefully come up with the best resolution that makes everyone happy and not just one person.

Sandra Ainsworth stated she thinks Mr. Slaughter has shown that through the years.

Susan Severt thanked Mr. Slaughter for his time. She stated she had worked in the community for many years; especially back in the 1990's when she had to be the squeaky wheel. She feels like Sun Valley has fallen backwards and has been labeled as high maintenance. She stated the Sun Valley residents really do care about the community and want to get things done. She believes there is a lack of communication between the citizens and the County, because nobody knows who to contact at the County and that has become a great concern.

Mr. Slaughter responded he was forwarded Ms. Severt's email from the Commissioners last week regarding her concerns. He has reviewed the concerns and has started meeting with his staff to start addressing some of the issues that were noted. One of the issues was regarding the County's website lacking contact information for each of the individual departments. He stated he is also making sure that County staff responds back to inquiries in a timely manner. He agrees that there is a disconnect regarding communication between County departments, but assured Susan that her concerns are being addressed.

Susan stated she has County contacts or can make a contact by digging around. Her big concern is the average citizen may not have a contact, may not know who to call at the County and get frustrated and give up all together. The Citizen Advisory Board "CAB" was a great conduit for the citizens and now that is gone.

Mr. Slaughter stated Washoe County has created a newsletter for the Sun Valley area in place of the CAB. In the first newsletter an entire page was dedicated to contact information for each of the County departments. He realizes that this may not be the fix for the lack of communication, but hopes it is the step in the right direction.

Nancy Levenhagen, Washoe County Communication Relations Manager responded regarding Washoe County's website. She is not sure that the District was informed of the new website/redesign that the County's Communication Relations Department and the Technology Services Department are working on. A new content management system which operates the backside of the website will be implemented to assist with searches. She is working with a local firm to go through each individual department to make sure each department's page has informative information and contact information available for the public.

Margaret Reinhardt commented she was impressed with Washoe County's newsletter and found it very informative. She stated she hasn't received something so useful in a very long time from the County and she plans on saving it.

Garth Elliott stated the County's website has come a long way compared to the old website. Today the website has a lot of broken links and is hard to navigate around. He reported it took him 6 different strokes to get to a form on the Code Enforcement page.

Ms. Levenhagen responded the current search feature on the County's website is complicated. The new search feature will be more comprehensive and will speed up search times.

Mr. Slaughter responded to another concern regarding graffiti that Ms. Severt addressed in her email. Ms. Severt's concern was regarding Washoe County staff reporting process for graffiti on county property. He stated that procedures have been recently implemented with the Community Services and the Public Works Departments and they are expanding it to all Washoe County staff; they must report graffiti on county property rather than driving past it. He understands that the Sheriff's Department has a bigger responsibility with graffiti, but he is learning more about the graffiti abatement process.

Garth stated several years ago he spoke with both Commissioners that represent Sun Valley regarding the graffiti problem in Sun Valley. Their response was it is the community's responsibility to take care of its own graffiti. He agreed with them at first, but he thinks that Sun Valley needs a little help. The community is very proactive regarding graffiti abatement but it is getting out of control.

Susan Severt stated when she wrote the email to the Commissioners it was as a private citizen and not as a Trustee. She stated the community has always had a good relationship with the County and she does not want that to go away.

Audience member Vicky Maltman commented she has noticed graffiti on Washoe County traffic signs and street signs and inquired who she should submit the complaint to.

Mr. Slaughter responded that the complaint should be addressed to the Community Services Department. Concerns can also be submitted to the Commissioners or Managers Office if the citizen is not getting a response from county staff.

Darrin Price congratulated Mr. Slaughter with his promotion to County Manager. He inquired who will be the replacement for his prior position which represented Washoe County during the legislative session. He also inquired what issues will be of concern during the next legislative session.

Mr. Slaughter responded that he is currently in the process of recruiting for the position. His position represented the Washoe County Commission during sessions. The County also had other representation for all of the other county departments and he believes that will continue in the future. He stated that Washoe County Commission gets two Bill Draft Requests per session. Washoe County Commission and believes the focus will be on traffic funding and funding higher education during the next legislative session.

Darrin inquired about Washoe County's Garbage Franchise Agreement with Waste Management. He wanted to know if Washoe County is going to implement single stream recycling like the City of Reno.

Mr. Slaughter responded that Washoe County is in the beginning stage of negotiating with Waste Management with the Garbage Franchise Agreement. He stated Washoe County has a lot of unincorporated areas making it more difficult for Waste Management to implement single stream recycling compared to the City of Reno area. What he wants to avoid is the increase of illegal dumping that might arise by any implementations by Waste Management. He stated he would keep the District informed regarding the negotiations of the Franchise Agreement. Mr. Slaughter thanked the Board of Trustees and staff for allowing him the time to address some of the concerns and he looks forward to working with the District.

Item#10. Update from Nancy Levenhagen with Washoe County regarding Citizen Advisory Board.

Nancy Levenhagen, Washoe County Communication Relations Manager reported Washoe County had a total of 15 Citizen Advisory Boards "CAB" and currently 6 of them are active. There have been a total of 10 CAB meetings between August and December 2013. Sun Valley no longer has a CAB due to the lack of applicants. She stated Commissioners Weber and Jung requested in lieu of a CAB that the County send out a quarterly newsletter. The first newsletter was mailed out in January 2014 to 6,700 addresses in Sun Valley and was distributed throughout Washoe County facilities; the newsletter cost the County \$4,200.00. She stated she has worked with District staff regarding District news to be added to their newsletter. She will continue working with the District to calibrate scheduling of the County's newsletter and the District's newsletter so that the Sun Valley residents stay informed on important topics. She also stated that both Commissioners Weber and Jung will be hosting a televised Town Hall meeting this year. In addition to the newsletter and Town Hall meetings, the County has c-mail which is an email blast to a distribution list regarding development issues and other important information.

Garth Elliott stated his opinion regarding the lack of interest of applications for the Sun Valley CAB was because the majority of applicants sat or currently sits on the District Board which created a quorum issue. He enjoyed his time while being on the CAB, but felt the attendance decreased because of the lack of support from the County. The Commissioners, Sheriff's and Fire Department stopped attending the CAB and the citizens were no longer getting updates from the County.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired if the creation of the Sun Valley CAB would be reconsidered.

Ms. Levenhagen responded that the creation of another Sun Valley CAB would have to be requested by one of the Washoe County Commissioners. At this time she is not aware of any request to re-visit another Sun Valley CAB.

Susan Severt stated she appreciates all the information that was provided tonight, but the information that was shared tonight is not getting shared with the community and that is her concern. She stated the residents no longer have a conduit to get information from the various county departments and other government agencies. She agrees citizens don't want to sit on a CAB with the lack of support from Washoe County representatives.

Ms. Levenhagen recommended having a Commissioner forum to give the citizens the opportunity to ask questions and hear about current issues.

Joseph Barstow thanked Ms. Levenhagen for the information that was provided, it is very encouraging. He looks forward to seeing the new website and looks forward to working together.

Audience member Vicky Maltman received her newsletter, but she is concerned that the other Sun Valley residents that are not within the District's boundary are not getting the newsletter. The other Sun Valley residents feel left out because they are not getting information from all of the

organizations. She stated a lot of things get misconstrued and resident's within the District feel like they are paying too much or they are not getting their concerns answered. She enjoyed receiving the contact information in the newsletter, but was not impressed with some of the articles. Ms. Maltman also commented when Commissioner Jung took over a portion of the Sun Valley area, she asked Commissioner Jung specifically if Vicky was to set up a meeting would Commissioner Jung attend the meeting to answer questions. Vicky commented Commissioner Jung told her no several times. As a citizen how can Ms. Maltman believe that Washoe County staff put together any kind of meeting with the Commissioners.

Ms. Levenhagen stated Washoe County is not perfect and she cannot speak for the Commissioners. Ms. Levenhagen stated she would be happy to be the liaison and try to arrange some kind of meeting and follow up with the Commissioners.

Mr. Slaughter responded the decision regarding the CAB's was made by the Washoe County Commissioners. He will continue to work with the community and make sure that they are informed of Washoe County activities. He stated a small group has been formed to develop a communication system between citizens, County staff, and Commissioners.

The Board thanked both Mr. Slaughter and Ms. Levenhagen for their presentation.

Item#11. Discussion regarding what qualifications are needed for a Trustee to hold an officer position on the Board.

Maddy Shipman provided a memo regarding the qualifications necessary to be a Trustee of the Sun Valley General Improvement District and qualifications necessary to hold a board office as a Trustee. She stated if an individual is qualified to be a Trustee then that person is also qualified to be an officer on the board.

Joseph Barstow thanked Maddy for her statement; it answered all of his questions. He stated he was a little confused being new to the Board and thought he understood the qualifications. After a few comments that were made, it made him question the qualifications.

There were no public comments.

Item#12. Discussion and possible motion to approve agreement with Kaempfer Crowell for lobbying services.

Darrin Price introduced both Fred Hillerby and Michael Hillerby with Kaempfer Crowell. He stated that Fred Hillerby is the District's Lobbyist and his contract expired as of December 31, 2013. He provided a copy of the new contract for consideration to renew.

Fred Hillerby with Kaempfer Crowell stated Hillerby Associates merged with Kaempfer Crowell in 2013. He reported there are 6 team members in the legislative group, 4 of them are attorneys and then there is himself and Michael Hillerby who is the Director of Legislative Affairs. He provided a new contract for consideration; the contract is for professional services related to legislative, regulatory and advocacy matters that affect the District. The term of the contract would be for 1 year effective January 1, 2014 and terminate on December 31, 2014. He stated that there is no proposal to increase fees; the fees will remain the same as the prior agreement at \$1,650.00 per month.

Darrin inquired who would be the primary representative for the District if approved. He stated he is only familiar with working with Fred Hillerby and inquired what kind of relationship the District will have with the new firm. He also inquired what kind of specialized services the District will get by having more team members.

Fred Hillerby responded he will continue to represent the District in addition to Michael Hillerby. The firm will be able to offer more professional services regarding Government Relations and Legislative Affairs, Planning, Land Use and Zoning. The firm works with other Commissioners and City Councils, so the firm is always informed of current issues and how those issues could potentially impact their clients. He stated it has always been his pleasure working for the District. He has always taken issues that affected the District personally and will continue to do so.

Margaret Reinhardt commented nothing personal against Fred Hillerby, but she would like to put the lobbyist services out to bid. She does not believe the District needs a full time lobbyist at this time. She is trying to find ways to save the District money.

Darrin inquired based on Margaret's comment, would Fred Hillerby be open to negotiate a contract for representation during the legislative session and not year round.

Michael Hillerby responded the majority of their contracts with their clients are long term. He believes that the relationship with their clients is important for a variety of reasons. One of those reasons is so that the firm knows the client's issues and the firm can represent their clients. He also stated with 120 day limits for the legislative session, a great deal of work happens outside those days. He is proud to say that a majority of the firm's clients have been clients for a quarter of a century just like the District. He reported that he does receive requests from businesses for work only during the session and sometimes it is successful, but that is reflected with the price. He stated for a number of years Hillerby Associates had a 2 year agreement with the District and this year he is only proposing a 1 year contract since he and Fred Hillerby have never addressed the Board as Kaempfer Crowell. He is not opposed to another 2 year contract if that is the desire of the District's Board. He believes the price is very reasonable considering the amount of services that is available to the District. He and Fred would have to go back and consider a contract for just the session only and what all would be provided. By having a yearly contract they are able to be a part of the District year round and this way they will always be current with the District's issues. He is concerned of the lag time with only having a short-term contract, because they will have to familiarize themselves again on the District's issues. He stated he believes a 2 year agreement works better for both the firm and the client for all those reasons.

Margaret inquired based on Michael's comment does that mean that Kaempfer Crowell is not interested in negotiating a short-term contract.

Fred Hillerby responded Michael was explaining to the Board the benefits for a 2 year contract. He cannot stop the District from soliciting other bids. He believes it is in the District's best interest to continue services with him and Michael given the long term relationship between them and the District. He cautioned the Board they may get a better bid and they may not. He also said the District could get an experienced lobbyist or a new lobbyist with not as much experience regarding the District's issues.

Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to not approve Kaempfer Crowell's contract and to seek other avenues or other remedies so that the District still has representation in the legislature on an as needed basis.

Garth Elliott stated he is not disputing anything that Mr. Hillerby does for the District. He stated that he contacted all of the other General Improvement District's and inquired what they do regarding legislative representation. All of the GID's no longer contract out for a lobbyist, they all provide their own representation internally. Sun Valley GID is the only GID that retains a full time advocate. That reinforces his opinion that the District does not need to have a full time advocate

and will not be supporting the contract. Garth expressed his concerns that the District has received a huge amount of increases in a lot of different areas and he is not going to put it on the back of the rate payers.

Garth Elliott seconded the motion.

During discussion Susan Severt believes that one of the reasons why the District runs so well is by having a full time lobbyist that supports the District and watches out for the District. She will not be able to support the motion. She stated the District and the community are best served with a full time lobbyist.

Joseph Barstow thanked both Fed and Michael Hillerby. He stated that he has always walked away with information when the Board received updates from Fred Hillerby on issues related to the District. He appreciates that the District has somebody that is willing to go through the things that he personally can't because he cannot attend the legislative session.

Fred Hillerby stated his rate is averaged out based on a 2 year contract. He responded to Garth's comment; he represented Kingsbury GID on an issue before and has also been contacted by other General Improvement District's to provide them with representation services.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired how long the current contract would be good for if the Board decided to explore other options. She also inquired if Fred Hillerby would consider submitting a revised contract based on the discussion tonight.

Fred Hillerby responded he considers loyalty a two way street. He doesn't consider it loyal if the District wants to bid out his services, it makes him want to rethink how much he needs to reconsider his commitment to the District.

Audience member Vicky Maltman commented the District almost pays \$20,000.00 per year for Fred Hillerby's services. In the past 3 years that she has attended the District's meetings, this is only the third time she has seen Mr. Hillerby. She does not doubt that Mr. Hillerby keeps his ear to the ground, or doubt that he is very good at his job. She inquired how many other GID's within the State of Nevada require a full time lobbyist. She realizes that the Sun Valley GID has the biggest population compared to other GID's, making it the biggest GID in the State of Nevada. She stated as a rate payer she has a problem continuing to pay money to other entities to get information that the General Manager or the Legal Counsel can provide. She is also very annoyed that \$20,000.00 is paid for a year round lobbyist. She also stated she is aware that things go on year round, but no bills can be passed except only during the legislative session. She believes having a full time lobbyist is not necessary for the District rate payers considering that the General Manager attends the legislature and has formed relationships with the various organizations.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired if lobbyists do more talking on the District's behalf compared to providing information.

Darrin responded that he has attended the legislature to testify on behalf of the District. He does not attend the legislature as a full time lobbyist because he has a full time commitment to the District as the General Manager.

Michael Hillerby responded being a lobbyist is part talking, part explaining, and part listening to issues going on and understanding concerns, including other water users, on behalf of other GID's. He stated he also represents other State Licensing Regulatory Boards. Those Boards made the decision to pay for lobbyist services so they can keep their staff working full time. It is

difficult for some companies to lose a full time staff member everyday for 4 months and that is why they pay for representation.

*After further discussion Sandra Ainsworth called for a vote;
Yea: Garth Elliott, Margaret Reinhardt*

Sandra stated the motion died and called for another motion.

Garth Elliott asked that the minutes show those that were in favor of dispensing with it are so designated and those that want to continue with it are also designated in the minutes for the rate payers to see.

Susan Severt responded there is not another motion on the floor and that she will vote no for the minutes, but that does not reflect that she is supporting the contract. The Board has not heard what she would like to say.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired if anyone else wanted to make a motion.

Susan Severt made a motion to bring back Kaempfer Crowell contract with a 2 year agreement to the next meeting for consideration. Joseph Barstow seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following;

*Yea: Susan Severt, Joseph Barstow, Sandra Ainsworth
Nay: Garth Elliott, Margaret Reinhardt*

Margaret stated she never heard the full vote for her motion.

Sandra apologized and called for a vote for those who are opposed to Margaret's original motion. Those opposed; Nay: Joseph Barstow, Susan Severt, Sandra Ainsworth

*Sandra called for another vote for Susan's motion.
Yea: Joseph Barstow, Susan Severt, Sandra Ainsworth
Nay: Garth Elliott, Margaret Reinhardt*

Sandra Ainsworth requested for someone to make a motion that will appease everyone by directing staff to request for information from other Lobbyist's for everyone to review and see if the Board is satisfied with what the District has.

*Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to direct staff to request other bids from other Lobbyist's. Garth Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following;
Yea: Garth Elliott, Margaret Reinhardt, Sandra Ainsworth
Nay: Joseph Barstow, Susan Severt*

Item#13. Discussion and motion to approve final draft of the 2014 winter Pipeline.

Nancy Eklof, Public Relations for the District provided a final draft copy of the winter Pipeline for review.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired if the photo on the front page could be reduced in size.

Margaret Reinhardt stated a space needs to be inserted between "families and we" in the first article.

Audience member Vicky Maltman commented the photos look fine, she just wished the font size could be a little darker. She also recommended bulleting some of the important facts to make a bigger impact to the reader especially with the winterization of frozen pipes article.

Nancy responded she will try and bold the type. There are a lot of features in this issue and that is why the type is smaller and to make room for photos. She recommended the type stay consistent throughout.

After some discussion Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to approve the draft Pipeline. Joseph Barstow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item#14. Discussion and possible motion to renew agreement with Nancy Eklof Public Relations, Etc. for public relation services.

Nancy Eklof, Public Relations gave a brief recap of the various events and activities she assisted with. She assisted with the photo coordination with the photographer and new Trustees setting appointments and attending sittings, conducting Trustee interviews and writing brief bios, prepare Trustee inserts for brochures, preparation and coordination for quarterly newsletters. She also assisted with the Electronic Recycling project and various summer park events by creating flyers, issuing press releases, media advisories, and solicited donations for prizes. She also was a big part of the Veterans Day Celebration contacting and inviting the state and local officials; received recognition from Governor Sandoval's office along with the State Senators and Congressman. Nancy also meets with District staff monthly to discuss activities and events and other marketing projects.

Darrin Price stated that the donations that Nancy has been able to obtain for prizes in the past are half the value of her monthly contract.

Nancy proceeded with her 2014 goals for the District. She will continue to meet with staff on a regular basis. Continue preparing the newsletter and press releases as needed. She will continue with preparation and coordination with events. She also stated she would like emphasize on a Community Pride Volunteerism Program. Sun Valley has a lot to offer its residents and businesses between the five parks, swimming pool, teen center, and a neighborhood center. She hopes to create a Valley-wide program to actively recruit volunteers through a media campaign. She would like to be able to recognize the volunteers for their hard work.

Joseph Barstow commented he likes Nancy's idea regarding the volunteers and recognizing them for their efforts. He works with many volunteers at the Food Pantry and he has a hard time recognizing each and every one of them.

Garth Elliott stated he appreciates all of Nancy's work and ideas. He stated after researching other General Improvement District's that the District compares itself to, majority of them all do their own public/media relations and marketing to help save on cost. The District is currently experiencing a lot of increases. He inquired if the District can do these duties internally or mitigate in some way. He thought that the District's website would take a lot of work off of Nancy and that hasn't happened. He also thought the District hired a person that would do some of Nancy's initial work and that hasn't happened either. His empathy is with the rate payers, him being one himself; he is only trying to save money.

Nancy responded Sun Valley GID is unique compared to other GID's because the District maintains the parks, pools, and the center, the District is a smaller version of Incline Village. She thinks there is the need for the District to have someone constantly performing the media/public relations on the District's behalf. She stated she understands if the Board wants to look at her

contract in 3 or 6 months, but at this time she thinks the District is in the middle of a process and thinks it more prudent for her to continue her services. She stated her opinion is a genuine opinion and not a financially based opinion.

Darrin responded the District is different in size compared to some of the other GID's. He also stated the District also can't transfer some of the duties to the website. The website can be used to inform people about upcoming events. The website cannot do all of the leg work associated with planning the events.

Margaret Reinhardt thanked Nancy for being so easy to work with and be so congeniality for offering to evaluate her contract in 3 or 6 months. She is always upbeat and doesn't take things personal. Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to approve Nancy Eklof Public Relations Service Agreement.

Susan Severt thanked Nancy for her time. She liked her report showing all the things that Nancy has done based on what the Board has asked her to do. She calculated Nancy's contract and it comes out to \$2.80 per rate payer per year. If the District employed Nancy full time she would receive \$8.07 per hour, she thinks that the District is getting their monies worth. She stated it is nice knowing that the District has someone that is competent to assist with planning events and has contacts to get events promoted. Susan Severt seconded the motion.

During discussion audience member Vicky Maltman commented after listening to Nancy, she did not realize how much she has done for the District. As a rate payer she did not know where the \$8.07 came from that Susan stated, because if Nancy was an employee of this GID, the District would be paying PERS, insurance for her and her family, dental and vision. She thinks Nancy's rate is very fair, but again the District needs to look at if the rate payers need to pay an extra \$2.80 a year. Vicky stated she and her husband pay their bills and are on a fixed income. She inquired if Nancy would be willing to submit a contract with a reduced fixed amount.

*After some discussion the motion carried by the following;
Yea: Joseph Barstow, Margaret Reinhardt, Susan Severt, Sandra Ainsworth
Nay: Garth Elliott*

Chairperson Sandra Ainsworth called for a 10 minute break at 8:10 pm

Item#15. Discussion and motion to approve sending up to 3 employees to the 2014 CA-NV American Water Works Association Spring Conference.

Mike Ariztia stated the District is a member of the CA-NV American Water Works Association "AWWA". Every year CA-NV AWWA holds two conferences a spring and fall conference and staff has been fortunate to attend the conferences in the past. There are a lot of benefits associated with attending these conferences. The biggest benefit is attending the technical sessions gaining knowledge within the industry learning different ways to perform jobs more efficiently as well as learning about new technology and changes to regulatory state and federal compliance. The conference also is an opportunity to network with vendors and learn about different products that can be used to help save the District money as well as making other contacts to call on for assistance. Mike requested permission to send 3 District employees to the upcoming CA-NV AWWA Spring Conference. The conference will be held in Anaheim, CA March 24th through March 27th, 2014. The total cost for 3 employees to attend the conference is \$4,106.00. Staff did everything to mitigate the cost to attend the conference by researching other hotels nearby, and recommend driving to the conference to avoid high air fares.

Sandra Ainsworth inquired what 3 employees would attend the conference. She also inquired if field employees need to attend to obtain their CEU's.

Mike responded the General Manager because he is a member of several committees, potentially himself depending on his schedule, and 1 other field employee or 2 field employees if he is unable to attend. Mike stated he keeps track of who attends conferences and makes sure the Service Technicians are rotated so that everyone gets an opportunity to attend trainings. He stated as part of the state certifications, all Water Operators are required to obtain a certain amount of CEU's to make sure they stay up to date and continuing their education within the industry depending on what water certification a Water Operator holds.

Joseph Barstow inquired if Mike keeps a record for each of the employees CEU's to make sure they stay current with their certifications or do the employees keep track of their own CEU's. He inquired when staff is approved to attend a conference does Mike give the employees an option to ask to attend the conference if they are in need of CEU's. He also inquired if there are any employees that need CEU's at this time.

Mike responded he keeps an overall track of what certificates each employee has and when their certificates are due to expire. It is up to the employee as an individual to keep track of their own CEU's. If an employee is approaching a deadline to renew their certificates and needs CEU's he will accommodate and try and find them a conference and/or classes to take so they can meet the CEU requirement for renewal. Mike stated he does speak with all the employees regarding where they stand with their CUE's, but he tries to send employees to conferences on a rotational basis. If an employee is approaching a renewal deadline and needs CEU's he would consider them to attend the conference. He is unaware at this time if any employee is in jeopardy for CEU's. The renewal process ends in December, so any certificate renewal needs to be submitted in December along with the appropriate amount of CEU's. For this conference he is looking at employees whose certificates are scheduled to expire this December.

Garth Elliott stated he has the same concern as Joseph; he wants to make sure that the employees who are attending the conference are attending because it is an absolute necessary for them to continue employment. Not for them to upscale themselves from a Tech I position to a Tech II, strictly because they need the training now and need CEU's.

Darrin responded it is an absolute necessary that the District has fully trained professionals, certified Water Operators, operating the drinking water system for the Sun Valley community. Employees who attend conferences are there for the training portion and for CEU's to keep their certifications current. He stated he might not work in the field on a daily basis, but he does get out in the field to oversee some of the work performed by the field. Darrin stated his certification is not in jeopardy because he just renewed this past December. The District Board made a commitment a long time ago to support staff in the ventures being on commissions and other various boards. He currently is the Assistant Director for CA-NV AWWA Water Certifications. Mike Ariztia is a member of the Nevada Water Agency Response Network who meets at the conference as well. The Board has the option to send 2 employees instead of 3, but he does not recommend just 1 employee.

Mike responded that an employee cannot move up in their certification level just by attending classes. An employee who would like to advance their certification is required to take an examination, and pass, that is administered by the State of Nevada.

Garth responded he has always voted in favor when it came to the health of the District or the quality of the water. He just wants to make sure that the District is only sending those that need to attend.

Mike responded the Board approved the District's budget that included funds to support trainings classes/conference. Staff is staying within the approved budget amount for training.

Garth responded the District has blown the budget half a dozen times in the last 6 months. The District has gone above the budget and spent money that was not budgeted for. He wants to make sure the District comes out close to zero if not save money at the end of the year.

Mike responded at this time he is not aware if an employee will lose their certification by not attending this particular conference; he is unaware of other training opportunities this year besides the conferences that the District attends regularly. He also stated after looking at the most recent financial statement, staff has hardly expended any of the funds that were budgeted for this fiscal year for training.

Joseph stated he thinks it is very important that staff is trained and is aware of things that are coming up. He just wants to make sure that someone that needs those classes is not overlooked to attend the conference.

Susan Severt made a motion to approve staffs request to send three staff members to attend the CA-NV AWWA Spring Conference. Joseph Barstow seconded the motion.

During discussion audience member Vicky Maltman commented she has attended a ton of conferences over her professional career. She has never in her life had her own individual room. She has always had to share a room unless she wanted to personally pay the cost for a room. She doesn't understand if there are 3 people attending the conference why they need separate rooms. Most of the time when someone is in their room during conference all they do is sleep. She is concerned how the money is being spent. She also stated through her professional career she has received a lot of information from attending conferences. She agrees it is good that the

District has trained employees and they do have the chance to see new technology since it moves so fast.

After some discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Item#16. Review and possible motion regarding Personnel Manual section 11 “Trustees and Board Meetings”.

Darrin Price reported the Board directed staff to incorporate changes to the District’s personnel manual section 11; Trustees and Board Meetings regarding the use of Robert’s Rules. A copy of section 11 was provided for review with the changes.

There were no public comments.

Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to approve the changes to section 11 as submitted. Garth Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item#17. Discussion and review of Personnel Manual section 3 “Employment” and section 8 “Employee Separation” regarding hiring and termination of District employees with possible direction to staff.

Garth Elliott commented he requested discussion regarding the hiring and termination of District employees. He stated several people have spoken with him, saying they have felt that there had been a change in policy, and he was unaware of any change in the District’s policy regarding the matter. He was not familiar with the District’s historical policy when the change supposedly happened. He was informed that most of the hiring and termination was run passed the Board and recently it hasn’t happened. He requested a historical background from Darrin regarding the process.

Darrin Price responded prior to 2007 historically it has been at the pleasure of the Board at times have some role in the hiring process; sometimes committees were formed depending on the importance of the position. Some of the committees were made up of board members and staff members. The Board is the ultimate authority and sets policy. The Board is integral with the hiring and terminating of employees. If the District has an employee who protests termination they have the opportunity, as spelled in the policy approved by the Board, to appeal to the General Manager. If the General Manager chooses to uphold the termination through the due process they would come before the Board and state their case via a closed personnel session. He stated if the Board decides to hire someone and then later the Board heard complaints about the employee and then gives staff direction to terminate the employee, it could create a conflict. The Board is the policy makers and the Board sets the policy how management hires and terminates employment of employees.

Mike Ariztia stated the Board is the appellant level of the disciplinary process; which the final step of the disciplinary process is termination. By the Board being involved prior to the termination process defeats the purposes of the Board being the appellant level.

Garth responded and stated, basically if the Board has the decision making for both the hiring and terminating of an employee it would be a conflict of interest or could potentially cause a loss of due process.

Darrin responded Garth is correct. When it comes to some of the senior level positions, supervisors and managers, he believes the Board should have input or consider a committee to help with the interview and hiring process is not a bad thing. Darrin stated he hopes that whoever made the comments to Garth, that he replied back to them with exactly what he said last year

during a meeting, "I don't feel that it is our job to hire people, I have the up most confidence in Darrin for hiring people". Darrin stated through the due process the employee has the right to come before the Board regarding their termination and the Board has the authority to change the decision.

Maddy Shipman responded for clarification that the conflict does not come up between the hiring and termination. The conflict comes on the termination side; the Board can't be the appellant Board and also direct the termination. The bottom-line the Board does not want to get involved in that. The Board delegated the hiring process to the management team to make the best decision, but for an important position the Board might want to have some input in some form. The Board should direct any input to the General Manager.

Sandra Ainsworth stated she thinks the General Manager should be responsible for the hiring process since he knows all the job descriptions and knows how to ask the applicants the right questions to find out if they have the right qualifications for a position. She understands if the District was hiring a General Manager it would be different. Her personal opinion is that any position below the General Manger should be handled by the General Manager.

Darrin responded he hopes that he answered all of Garth's questions and hopes the Board had a chance to review the prior and current sections of the personnel manual regarding employment and employee separation that were provide in the packets.

Mike stated when he brought the revised personnel manual before the Board for approval; he presented to the Board with the track changes as requested so everyone could see what was being amended. He does not recall any changes from the proceeding policy.

Garth responded he was not aware of any changes to the policy as mentioned by the public and that is why he requested discussion on the matter.

There were no further discussion or public comments.

Item#18. Discussion and possible motion to reschedule District's February 13, 2014 board meeting to accommodate RTC Public Hearing regarding the Sun Valley Corridor Study.

Darrin Price reported the Regional Transportation Commission is hosting a public meeting regarding the Sun Valley Corridor study on February 13, 2014 at 6pm which is the same night of the District's board meeting. There is a conflict with these two meetings because there are 2 District Trustees that are committee members on the Sun Valley Blvd. Corridor Study. He requested to reschedule the District board meeting to eliminate any conflicts. He had suggested rescheduling the District board meeting to Monday, February 10th, Tuesday, February 11th, or Wednesday, February 12th.

After some discussion regarding Trustees schedules Joseph Barstow made a motion to reschedule the District's Thursday, February 13, 2014 board meeting to Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6 pm. Garth Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item#19. Financial report by William Short.

None

Item#20. Legal report by Maddy Shipman.

Maddy Shipman reported on the District's annual claims for calendar year 2013. She reported there was 1 claim for property damage made which the claim closed with no payment. There were

no-pre-existing claims pending against the District and there were no workplace injury claims made in 2013.

Item#21. Field report by Mike Ariztia.

Mike Ariztia reported on the following items;

- The Neighborhood Center and the Teen Center was graffiti again since the last meeting and staff attended to the abatement in a timely fashion.
- Field staff had the opportunity to use the boring equipment several times since the purchase. It is getting used, it is a benefit to the District and the District has not had to cut any asphalt since the purchase, the equipment is paying for itself.
- Staff temporarily started the irrigation systems at the parks this week due to the dryer/warmer weather.
- Both Darrin and he are advising other agencies such as NDOT and RTC that they need to reach out to the other residents of Sun Valley, which are not located within the District boundary, and inform them of upcoming projects.

Item#22. Manager's report by Darrin Price.

Darrin Price reported on the following items;

- He gave a brief update regarding the Snack Shack at Gepford Park. The asbestos abatement has been completed and staff will start with the demo. The project is going out to bid soon.
- He presented the appreciation plaque to the Summit Christian Church and thanked them for their volunteerism.
- NV Energy recently merged with Mid-American Holdings and there will be a one-time merger credit applied towards every account. He stated he noticed that the Washoe County underground surcharge has expired. He is unaware if the surcharge is gone forever, but for now customers no longer have to pay the surcharge. He stated rates should stay stable but he thinks there will be a rate increase within the next year.

Item#23. Public Comments.

Rodney Bloom commented he noticed a lot of garage/yard sales around the Sun Valley area. He inquired if this was acceptable community wide.

Item#24. Board Comments.

Joseph Barstow commented he did not like how the District handled the renewal of contract's this evening. The Board discussed tonight how they would like to consider someone else for a contract. He does not have a problem with considering someone else for a contract to help save the District money, but he would prefer prior notice before the contractor gives a presentation. He thinks the Board should have discussed prior if there was a need to consider other contracts and solicit contracts instead of doing it in front of the contractor and making them feel that they are not what they are worth. Joseph thanked District staff for the quick response after hours regarding a water leak at his property. He directed staff to look at how often the District responds to an emergency call and how many times staff has to go back to look at the property. He also thanked Maddy Shipman for clarifying the qualifications for an individual to run for Sun Valley GID Trustee. He hopes this will help the Board work together for the better sake of the community.

Garth Elliott commented on the weekly garage/yard sales. He has been involved with Washoe County's Code Enforcer regarding the matter. He went before the Washoe County Commission regarding the problem and the County issued special funds for the Code Enforcer to monitor the problem on weekends. He believes the community realizes it is a problem.

Margaret Reinhardt commented she believes that the garage sales are a sign of the times and she personally does not begrudge anyone for having one.

Sandra Ainsworth responded that the Board should not be discussing garage sales because it is not on the agenda.

Susan Severt commented on her family living arrangements since it seems that some people are interested in them. She stated she lives in a multigenerational family, she lives with her parents, or she likes to think her parents live with her. She provides care giving services to her father who no longer is able to drive and to her mother who is on oxygen. She splits her living cost with her parents so that they can live a comfortable life. Many people also don't know that she has a disabled sister. Susan also provides towards her sisters living arrangements too, even though she does not live in her house. Her sister has 2 children in college and Susan pays all of their expenses. Susan chooses to live this way, she could easily live on her own and do what other people do, but she feels it is more important to take care of her family than it is to do all of the material things. She also stated that her first priority will always be to her family and it is too bad that other people might not have the same family values, commitment or relationships that are needed to have a comfortable living like she does.

Item#25. Future Agenda Items.

Darrin Price reported the following items will be on the next agenda;

- Review of the District's tariff regarding fire hydrant rentals
- Review of the District' lien process
- Review of survey results
- Request for a water rate analysis
- Ratification to include annexed properties into the District's boundary
- Possible update from Maddy Shipman regarding the upcoming election
- Lobbyist Agreement

Garth Elliott requested discussion regarding more aggressive graffiti abatement.

Darrin responded he would try and invite a member of the City of Reno Graffiti Taskforce to give a presentation.

Susan Severt requested possible consideration to form a committee and/or taskforce to discuss District's health insurance benefits, which would include staff.

Item#26. Adjournment.

Margaret Reinhardt made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Garth Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.