

**SPALDING COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 16, 2020**

**APPROVED BY DIRECTORS:**

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**MEETING ACCESS: EAGLE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER, SPALDING (WITH LIMITED SEATING);  
THE MEETING WAS ALSO CONDUCTED VIA TELECONFERENCE; THE PUBIC COULD  
ELECTRONICALLY ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELEPHONE: (701) 779-9724**

**BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF PRESENT:** TED THOMAS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, LARRY DOSS,  
DARREN READ, ED LAWSON **ABSENT:** MIKE ARNOLD, CHAIRPERSON

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Ted Thomas at 3:00 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - None
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
Ken Coffey will comment on items 9a and 9b for Mike Arnold who was not able to be present.

**Motion: Approve the October 16, 2020 agenda with the above changes.**

**First: Ted Thomas**

**Second: Larry Doss**

**Roll Call: Larry Doss – yes; Darren Read – yes; Mike Arnold – absent; Ted Thomas – yes; Ed Lawson - yes**

3. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**  
The General Manager's report is attached or available by request at the district office. In addition, 21 community members have taken advantage of the septic tank filter cleaning service offered by the district for a total so far of \$735.00 in additional revenue. The bathrooms at the marina will be closed for the season as of November 1st due to colder temperatures.
4. **CHIEF'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**  
There was no report this month.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
Ken Coffey read 2 public comments which are attached or are available by request at the district office.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **Approval of the minutes from the September 18, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting.**

**Motion: Approve the September 18, 2020 minutes.**

**First: Larry Doss**

**Second: Ed Lawson**

**Roll Call: Larry Doss – yes; Darren Read – yes; Mike Arnold – absent; Ted Thomas – yes; Ed Lawson - yes**

- b. **Approval of the changes to the minutes from the June 19, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting.**

At the June 19, 2020 meeting, chairman Mike Arnold paraphrased an email from Mike Wilson at the meeting. The minutes stated that the email was available to the public at the district office. Ken Coffey was later told by the district lawyer that this email was not available to the public as it was an attorney/client privilege. Ken Coffey read a public comment regarding this issue. The email is attached or available upon request at the district office.

**Motion: Approve an addendum be added to the June 19, 2020 minutes with approval at the next Board of Directors' Meeting.**

**First: Ed Lawson**

**Second: Larry Doss**

**Roll Call: Larry Doss – yes; Darren Read – yes; Mike Arnold – absent; Ted Thomas – yes; Ed Lawson - yes**

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

None.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**9. BOARD MEMBER / COMMITTEE REPORTS / BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- a. Fee Study – Ken Coffey stated that NorthStar is providing recommendations to the Board of Directors' to increase the sewer ponds fees to cover the costs of maintenance of the ponds. All board members will receive this information for review and the information will be brought back to a future board meeting for public comment and input.
- b. One Sewer Pond Closure Update - Ken Coffey has taken this project over from Mike Arnold. Mr. Coffey is working with the new personnel in Susanville. More information will be brought to a future meeting.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**11. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

None

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

**The next regular meeting scheduled for November 20, 2020 at 3:00pm**

Respectfully submitted by: Sharon Moats

AGENDA ITEM 5A

Motion Only  
 Public Hearing  
 Resolution  
 Ordinance  
 Information

Action Date: October 16, 2020

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** General Managers Report Board Meeting Update 10-16-20

**SUMMARY:**

I want to provide an update of green waste progress for Spalding that I spoke about on our last Board meeting on 9-18-20 and our Spalding newsletter that was recently sent out. I am working with the Lassen County Air Quality contact Erik Edholm to secure a couple of 50-yard green waste dumpsters to remove existing debris. The plan is to also work on future green waste removal grants to secure for Spalding as well in 2021 going forward. As I clarified in my comments on the Board meeting on September 18th, 2020, we will not be using the Spalding Community Service District site for debris dumpster storage.

We are still awaiting some pricing for possible temporary fencing from Larry Doss to see if this is cost worthy to install to keep illegal dumping of green waste on District property or even if it is necessary.

Another update we are offering is a sewer septic tank filter cleaning service by the Spalding CSD which we have in place for our residents. As a reminder, your Septic Tank Filters should be cleaned at least once every year to maintain the system. We have put an announcement on our quarterly sewer billing as well and we have had a very overwhelming interest in the community to have this service provided to our residents.

We are beginning to perform sewer lines flushing of those located in the streets within Spalding. This flushing of lateral lines to our pump stations will allow proper flow to our lift station and to our sewer ponds. This is proactive maintenance step that will keep our sewer system operating efficiently. I have created a plan to go through each section of Spalding to complete this my late Spring next year in 2021, weather permitting.

A few local residents brought the concern with excessive speeding within our community. To try and help resolve some concerns around this issue, I have asked Lassen County Road Department to add some new 25 mph signage on Mahogany Way, Lakeview and the Strand. We hope that the added signage in areas will make residents and visitors more aware of our residential speed limit of 25 mph.

Ken. Coffey

SCSD General Manager (Gen Mngr).

Please Read at the Oct-16-2020  
regular SCSD Board Meeting

Ref TO: Agenda item # 11 - A, Permanent  
barrier in back of district office.

Described as 50 Linear feet of 6'  
high chain link fence and one gate.

Purpose: Attempt at stopping any  
green waste dumping on District  
property.

Cost: Current bid price of \$2945.<sup>00</sup>.

First we would like to thank  
and complement Directors Doss and  
Thomas. For creating open debate  
on this issue at the last board meeting.  
And offering a sensible position of  
reducing the communities' cost of  
this barrier.

We haven't heard or read anything  
about an on going problem of continued

green waste dumping.

But would like to add the following suggestions, in line with saving the people's money.

We were surprised not seeing any mention in the recent District news letter on this issue. This could have made people aware of no dumping soliciting their help and co-operation. As could the Districts web-site, both at no real cost. Contact with Stones CSD requesting an announcement to their community might also help.

Barriers as described are not fool proof or permanent. Years ago the District started a camera surveillance system at the District office, would it be feasible to use money for expanding the existing system, or repairs if needed?

This could help protect the storage yard, solar panels, fuel tank, and provide a permanent deterrent and identify any violator's.

Dan James  
Kari JT

Dan James  
Kari Graton

**From:** Kari Graton  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** General Manager  
**Subject:** Comment for October 16, 2020 meeting.

Hi Ken,

Please confirm receipt of this email and attached comments for today's meeting. Thanks , Kari

Attached below to be read at October 16, 2020 meeting.

To be read into the record for the October 16, 2020 meeting for item 6a.

To: Ken Coffey, General Manager and Spalding Board of Directors.

From: Kari Graton

**Subject; October 16, 2020 Meeting Agenda Item 6a, a request to change minutes from the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

As you know, your Board considered the minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting at the August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting. At that time each and every member of your Board voted to approve the minutes as presented, without objection or recommendations for any changes.

Today's item 6a is now requesting a change and deletion of recorded and approved descriptive narrative of the substance of the Board Chairman's actions and statements regarding his reading of an email from the previous General Manager, who he formally reported as terminated by the Board Chair just minutes before.

These actions were witnessed by other Board members, staff and the public in attendance at the meeting. Since then, multiple members of the community have requested, under the Public Records Act, copies of the email, which the Board Chair clearly indicated would be available to the public at the District Office and invited the interested public to obtain copies to further explain.

Those requests have been denied the public, with The District citing employer/employee confidence and attorney/client privilege as the reason for denial. It is also my understanding that a recording of the meeting was also denied to the public when requested.

The District is obligated under the Brown Act to hold public meetings in a transparent manner which permits and allows for full public participation in your meetings. The California Public Records Act, with few exceptions, requires The District to provide the public with all requested documents and materials related to the operations of The District, and business conducted in open meetings, in a timely manner. Denying the public requested materials that fall within those parameters severely prohibit the public from participating effectively in your Boards meetings..

Your Board should not make changes to approved minutes, which were already reviewed and approved by both your staff, and yourselves, unanimously and without objection. It seems through both your denials of records and now your change to what we all know was stated by the Board Chair, you want to remove from the record what happened and what was stated on that date at that meeting. These kinds of activities by your Board suggests ANYTHING BUT transparency and could be an egregious breach of the public trust. Issues, like this change and these denials, lend to the public's perception that your Board has an ongoing ethics issue that needs to be resolved.

A proper way to address an issue such as this would be for your Board to issue a statement of

addendum to the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes at today's meeting, explaining any discrepancies or adding any additional language your Board feels appropriate to clarify the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes, along with an explanation of why the addendum was necessary. Those changes should be reflected and recorded in today's (October 16, 2020) meeting minutes, not those already approved. A record of Aye's and Nay's of your Boards vote on this item should also be taken and recorded at today's meeting for the clarity and accountability of the public record. You need to make better efforts to live up to your Districts responsibility of transparency..

Kari Graton



**From:** James Camarena  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** eaglelakescsd@citlink.net  
**Cc:** Cam - Personal  
**Subject:** Letter to be read during SCSD Open Forum

Please read during the open forum at the Spalding Community Services District Board meeting on Friday.

SCSD Board,

My name is James Camarena and my family has owned property on Linden Way next to the former US Forest Service game refuge since the early 1970s. My grandparents purchased the property with the vision of enjoying relative isolation and space, while being able to enjoy the wide variety of wildlife that resided within the bounds of the refuge. I have learned that the USFS has since deeded the refuge to the community. Over the years I have seen continual encroachment into the former refuge area to include clearing land, building additional structures, and at one point maintaining an unlawful and potentially dangerous green waste site. Thankfully that is gone now, as it presented a huge potential fire hazard literally right across the street.

As a family, we have done our best to maintain our grounds near our structures within CalFire's 'Defensible Space' standards. Our property was assessed and given a passing score by the CalFire Inspector this past Tuesday, 13 October. The inspector was very helpful in solidifying my understanding of the standard's provisions and definitions. He also provided additional tips for caring for our property and the surrounding land. We strive to maintain these standards while preserving the natural sage/pine ecosystem that covers our remaining lots. This is sometimes difficult since we are not year-round residents. The bottom line is that my family is trying to walk the proper balance between wise and realistic fire prevention management and preserving the area's unique ecosystem. We understood the risks of living in an area where wildfires are part of the natural order of things and chose to accept those risks.

Given the ongoing fire concerns and community expansion, what I would like to know is:

- 1) Is there a long-term (5, 10, or 20 year) strategic plan for the Spalding community?
- 2) Where can citizens/property owners obtain a copy of this plan?
- 3) If no codified plan exists, what is being done to detail the long-term plans for the community?
- 4) What sorts of provisions and protections are being considered to address the fire/nature balance and community growth that are achievable, equitable, realistic and feasible for both year-round residents and seasonal residents?

We need to remember that we are all on the same team. We all want a nice, ecologically sound and aesthetically pleasing community that is as safe as can reasonably be expected...a place in which we can all take pride and find joy. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James H. Camarena