

To: The Community of Spalding and the SCSD Board of Directors

From: Kari Graton, Volunteer Interim General Manager.

Date: July 25, 2024

Subject: Resignation

Over the past 5 months I have strived to best serve my community as an Interim General Manager in order to allow the Board of Directors to recruit and appoint a General Manager. I contracted with the Board of Directors to serve as long as the Board aggressively pursued hiring a General Manager.

Currently, the District employs an Administrative Assistant who has an extensive background working with government agencies, quasi government agencies and various agency permitting experiences. As well he has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from UC Berkely and attended Business for Arts, Science and Engineering school at UC Berkeley in 2011. He also has experience as a Firefighter. He has shown me his desire and ability to administrate the Spalding Community Services District in a manner that will serve it well, and rebuild it foundationally over the next couple of years into a functional government agency. To put it simply, he has "the right stuff".

When appointed on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 I made it clear in my Objectives and Goals statement to the Board that my priorities during an interim period were to hold the District together until a qualified professional could be recruited. That objective has been achieved. Some of you have made that possible, by stepping up to volunteer and contribute to your community.

Initially, the Board was focused with a clarity of purpose that also facilitated that progress. The last month or so, that clarity and focus of purpose has waned, and some board members have once again turned to their petty ways that got us all here in the first place, unable to see the forest for the one insignificant tree.

A new General Manager still has much work ahead in order to reestablish a true method to the madness the former administration left behind, including the following:

- Conduct a forensic audit
- Restore the Treasury to Lassen County. Currently, the USBANK system is extremely expensive, cumbersome to use, and under attack from fraudulent check writers.
- Establish a new electronic bookkeeping system that isn't corrupted.
- Recruit a certified wastewater worker.
- Source Grant funding to permanently repair the sewer and build the budget.
- Create a progressive training program for employees.
- The list goes on.

Any effort to achieve these tasks can only be successful with the backing of a Board of Directors that can set aside the petty gamesmanship and see the big picture. Currently, that is becoming less and less the case. I am urging all of you in the community, right now, to step up run for office and seek a seat on the Board. If you feel you can serve your community in the capacity of a decision maker, our community desperately needs you to step up and serve.

Recently, the long standing malfunction at sewer LS1 malfunctioned yet again, on a weekend of course, when everyone was out of town. Due to the diligent response to the failure alarm by myself, David Handy, and a group of community minded volunteers we assembled, including Ted Thomas, Frank Muse, Scott Hagen, Ken Rowe and Bob King, an overtopping spill was averted. Follow up tasks by David Handy to retain our on call emergency sewer repair contractor, JD LeRoy to make additional repairs to the emergency bypass left it working better than it ever has, ever. David and JD's efforts had my complete backing and authority, and were extremely successful. Yet at least 2 current Board members complained of our efforts. This kind of petty gamesmanship and failure to see a big picture has reinforced my need to make this announcement today.

The District now employs a qualified person, well educated and of good character, who is ready for the challenge of bringing back and building up the community of Spalding. He has been interviewed by the Board and is qualified for the Board to appoint as General Manager. It is no longer necessary for the Board to recruit a new General Manager; that effort is over. They should now appoint the Administrative Assistant, Vince Rogers to the position. If the Board passes on this opportunity, the citizens have a right to know they did just that.

To be in accordance with my contract, the Board and I agreed under "Recital A" that I would serve as General Manager while the Board aggressively pursued hiring a qualified General Manager. The Board suspended that process May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Therefore, in an effort to motivate the SCSD Board of Directors to honor that commitment, and appoint Vince Rogers as General Manager, I hereby resign the position of Volunteer Interim General Manager, effective at the end of the meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

If the Board elects to appoint Vince, I have agreed to help him whenever he calls upon me, at his discretion, to provide him with information and advice on projects as he sees fit. If the Board rejects his appointment, I will withdraw the offer, and return to simply enjoying my retirement.

Best Regards

Kari Graton