



Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2024
6:00 P.M. | Board Room
Minden-Gardnerville Sanitation District
1790 Hwy. 395
Minden, Nevada

Board Members Present:

Barbara Smallwood
Sondra Condrón
Chris Shorten
Ray Wilson
Ted Thran

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Peter Baratti
Cliff Simpson
Bill Peterson
LaVonne Ghanavati
Haley Mosegard
Jessica Kneefel
Bruce Scott

Staff Members Absent:

None

Others Present: Michele Wagner, Yvonne Pinto, Melissa Vios

Members of the Public: Bill Cerrito, Petrine French, Casey Rodgers, Rhiannon Kamper

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Barbara Smallwood, Chairman.

2. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

3. District Manager's Report: Trustee Shorten asked if Peter knew how large the Maverik gas station in Gardnerville would be. Peter said a large portion of the EDU's sold to them was for an RV dump station.

Trustee Thran asked if the sludge driers made the compressed natural gas. Peter said no, it reduces the volume of the sludge, kills the pathogens, and is converted to something comparable to a type A fertilizer.

4. Chairman's Comment: **Chairman** Smallwood commented that she was at the Gardnerville Town Board Meeting tonight and was concerned that the development agreement for Ashland Park did not include Gardnerville. She stated Muller Lane is not complete, and they are changing their phasing plan to run the traffic through Chichester.

5. Claims Review and Approval: Trustee Wilson asked what the office equipment/hardware purchase was on line 50. Staff said they would do some research and get back to the Board with more detail.

Motion: To approve the claims received for August, 2024 in the amount of \$88,745.77 and the payroll-related expenses paid during August, 2024 in the amount of \$234,959.24.

Made by: Ted Thran

Seconded by: Sondra Condrón

Vote: Motion carried.

Ayes: Smallwood, Condrón, Shorten, Thran, Wilson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None



6. Minutes of September 3rd, 2024 Regular Board Meeting: There were no comments or discussion regarding the minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 3rd Regular Board Meeting.

Made by: Chris Shorten
Seconded by: Ray Wilson

Vote: Motion carried.

Ayes: Smallwood, Condrón, Shorten, Wilson, Thran
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

7. Verizon Cell Tower: Melissa Vios went over a brief presentation regarding possible cell tower placement on District property.

Trustee Shorten was concerned that Verizon would need to eventually place a second tower in the area in addition to the proposed tower. Melissa Vios stated that that information was correct; in order to reduce the gap in coverage, a second tower would need to be erected. Trustee Shorten was also concerned with the appearance of the tower. Discussion followed.

Trustee Condrón was concerned with the amount of radiation that the tower would emit, as well as if other entities would at one point connect to the tower, further increasing the radiation. She stated she lives very close to the proposed location of the tower and the location would not be the best choice, being that there are many young families with children in the area. Yvonne Pinto stated Verizon, and any other attaching entity, are required to comply with the FCC's safety guidelines. Discussion followed.

Trustee Wilson recommended placing the tower in the rear of the District property, and Yvonne Pinto stated that particular site is closer to Genoa and would not cover the area they are applying for.

Public Comment: Resident Rhiannon Kamper commented that she is with Minden for Safe Technology, and they are currently opposing the two towers that Verizon is applying for on Stephanie Rd and County Rd. She stated that at one of the meetings, Verizon said they would have to put a 120' tower to cover the gap in coverage. She stated the FCC safety guidelines have not been updated in 28 years. She stated the tower is too close to the homes in the neighborhood, and that Verizon has a tower 3.5 miles away and has no liability for injury associated with the tower. She stated they have not done any safety studies.

Resident Patrine French commented she has lived in the community for 40 years, and she is with Minden for Safe Technology. She read a study on the decline of insects to the Board.

Resident Casey Rodgers commented she is also a member of Minden for Safe Technology. She stated there is an 11,000-page case in 2021 won against the FCC because they have not updated their health and safety guidelines. She stated our town is currently covered with cell towers and there is no need for any other cell towers. She stated the safety issues include fires.



Resident Bill Cerrito commented he is a licensed engineering contractor and a contractor for the Department of Homeland Security, and FEMA. He commented that he has built 4 sewer plants and is a subject matter expert, 1 of 7, for FEMA. He commented that he is a member of the Minden for Safe Technology and that the Board's safety concerns are legit. He stated he has hired a biologist and environmental engineer to educate him on the hazards of 5G. He stated Verizon can't put the cell tower 200 feet from a daycare or next to a school or next to a wastewater treatment plant. He stated that 5G will change the frequency of the water and compromise the plant. He stated the EMF and RF will implement the operations of the treatment plant.

Petter Baratti reported that the District has consulted our legal counsel and NRS regarding the tower, and ultimately Douglas County would have primacy over the tower. He stated it should be a community decision as well.

Trustee Smallwood thanked the public for attending.

8. Attorney-Client Conference: Bill Peterson stated he had nothing new to report.

9. Engineer's Report: Bruce Scott reported that they have had plan reviews on Stone Gate and Maverik. Otherwise, he did not have much else to add.

Barbara Smallwood had questions regarding the proceedings with Pineview Estates. Peter Baratti said they were currently deciding who would be utilizing the NIF's website for draw requests and that we are close to submitting bid documents.

10. Administrative Report by Staff: There were no comments or discussion regarding the Administrative Report.

11. Board Comment: There was no comment by the Board.

12. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

13. Meeting adjourned 7:09 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Trustees as presented on:

Date

By _____
Ted Thran, District Secretary