

# NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Established 1958

Board Minutes  
June 27, 2017

**Call the meeting to order. 6:03 p.m.**

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Springer asked all present to rise, face the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call.**

### **Present:**

President Springer  
Vice President Deel  
Director Shaw  
Director Paulsen

**Absent:** Director Clark

**Also Present :** General Manager Le Hayes, Board Secretary Jodi Howard , District Treasurer, Kerri Zurcher, Fire Chief Miller and members of the public.

## **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion Director Deel to accept as presented. Seconded Director Paulsen.

Vote: **Unanimous**

**Motion Passed**

## **2. Public Comments:**

### **a. General Public**

### **b. Community Reports**

**County Supervisor-** President Springer presented Ron Frame a Letter of Appreciation from the Directors and the Community for his work Representing Robert Lovingood and helping the Newberry Community.

**Sheriff-** *Report newberrycsd.net*

**3. Consent Items**

**c. Approval of Minutes**

**d. Bills Paid and Presented to be paid.**

Motion Director Shaw to approve consent Calendar as submitted, waive the reading. Seconded Director Paulsen

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Passed**

**4. Matters Removed from Consent Items**

**5. Reports**

- a. General Manager-** Hired new landscaper.
- b. District Treasurer.**

**6. Agenda Items- Discussion/Possible Action**

**a. Review and Instruct District Treasurer as to how to redistribute District Funds to best protect District.**

Motion Director Deel to approve as presented. Seconded Director Paulsen.  
Treasurer instructed to bring back banking information to next meeting.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Passed**

**b. Approve Fire Department for Outfitting and/or Purchasing an Apparatus Not to exceed \$30,000.00**

Motion Director Shaw to approve Fire Chief/Fire Department to purchase/outfit as they see fit not to exceed \$30,000.00. Seconded Director Paulsen.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Passed**

**C. Fire Chief received a tentative cash offer of \$8500.00 for Rescue 391 Depending on inspection by dealer. Shall we proceed?**

Motion Director Shaw authorize Fire Chief to accept any reasonable offer for Rescue 391 anything \$8499.00 and above. Seconded Director Deel.

Vote: **Unanimous**

**Motion Passed**

**d. Time for discussion concerning future plans for the Fire Department.**

Discussion only

**7. Old and New Business**

**8. Adjournment: 8:01 p.m.**

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Board Secretary

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Board President

7/18/17 - (Vickie Paulsen)

**Comparing the MORONGO VALLEY CSD to NEWBERRY SPRINGS CSD**

	Newberry Springs	Morongo Valley
Population	2,637	3,552
Area	117 sq mi	25 sq mi

All of the following except where type is red, is from LAFCO 2016 report, edited to select the most relevant sections

Currently, the CSD [Morongo] is authorized by LAFCO to provide the functions of streetlighting, fire protection, park and recreation, and library service pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Local Agency Formation Commission of San Bernardino County Affecting Functions and Services of Special Districts. Currently, the district does not actively provide library service.

**FIRE Special Tax**

In 2002, in response to declining numbers of volunteer firefighters and community concerns regarding lengthy response times by the ambulance service assigned to the area, the District proposed, and the electorate approved, the Morongo Valley Fire and Rescue Assessment pursuant to Government Code Sections 50078 et seq. The total cost of the service is allocated to each property based on the relative benefit to a property in relation to a single family home, the type of property, and its size, adjusted for inflation capped at 3% each year. Each year the District's contracted engineering firm conducts a "fire suppression count", essentially auditing the parcel list for the assessment. According to the ballot measure, the assessment provides funding to:

☐☐☐ Ensure a minimum of two paid fire personnel on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ☐

☐☐☐ Upgrade Emergency Medical Service from EMT/Firefighter (Basic Life Support) to Paramedic/Firefighter (Advance Life Support), ☐

☐☐☐ Significantly improve response times for Advance Life Support, ☐

☐☐☐ Guard against possible increases in fire and home insurance by protecting the ☐ District's fire risk rating, and ☐

☐☐☐ Work towards improving fire risk rating in areas with highest insurance rates by

estimating a water haul system.

[An attempt in June 2016 to change it to a \$350 parcel tax failed to get 65% votes, so the 3% did not bring in enough revenue. In a conversation with Debbie at the MVCSD I learned that the fire department is hurting. They are searching for ways to keep it afloat.]

### ***Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community***

The Morongo Valley community is considered a disadvantaged unincorporated community – identified as communities that have an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income, which is under \$48,305 for 2015 (defined by Government Code Section 56302). The district overlays parts of five Census Block Groups, whose annual median household incomes range from \$34,311 to \$45,986.

### ***Assessed Value and Property Tax***

Assessed value declined for five consecutive years which led to a corresponding decline in property tax revenues received. However, the fire assessment is not tied to assessed value and enjoyed annual gains over the same timeframe.

### ***Fire Department Staffing***

Focusing on the staffing of the fire department, the district implemented a top-heavy staffing model,

The position voiced to LAFCO staff by some [was] that higher fire call volume necessitated the increase in fire personnel. As shown in the chart below, overall response calls increased from 2011 to 2014 by 20%. Looking closer at the response data, the vast majority of the call increase is related to medical aid calls, which generally comes from district residents, rather than increased traffic as voiced by some in the community.

Call	2011	2012	2013	2014
Medical Aid	290	321	357	380
Traffic Collisions	64	51	63	58
Fire Residential	12	14	26	29
Fire Commercial	18	13	14	7
Fire Vehicle	9	16	16	13

Fire Debris	11	17	6	14
Fire Wildland	14	17	11	27
Fire Refuse	0	0	0	0
Public Assistance	34	41	34	29
Investigation	44	71	34	31
Hazard Materials	5	7	9	6
Other	3	4	15	9
TOTAL	504	572	585	603

Further, from 2000 to 2014 the total population of Morongo Valley has increased less than one percent annually and nominally in raw numbers by 460. Population projections through 2019 continue at less than one percent annual growth rate. Therefore, population growth has not been a factor in the increase of fire operations.

The population distribution by age, skewed towards ages 45-74, may signify the high number of medical calls but not necessarily the increase in medical calls. Nonetheless, even with the increase in medical aid calls, the increase in staffing has strained the resources of the district while revenues have not increased in kind.

Position	2010-11	11-12	2012-13	2013-14	14-15	2015-16
Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Chief	0	0	0	0	0	1
Division Chief	1	1	0	0	0	0
Captain	0	0	1	2	3	0
Full time fire fighters/paramedics	2	2	2	3	3	3
Part time fire fighters/paramedics	1	1	1	0	0	0
Full time engineers	2	2	2	3	3	3

Part time engineers	1	1	1	0	0	0
Emergency Medical Services Coordinator	0	0	0	1	1	1
Reserves	5	5	7	14	14	7
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Personnel Cost	\$ 276,682	\$ 280,062	\$ 300,222	\$ 332,222	\$ 404,051	\$ 327,540

**Budgets -**

Income, 2015-1016 [red is Newberry Springs]

- Property tax, \$369,483     [\$227,000}
- Fire assessment, \$302,932   [3% benefit assessment property tax]
- Grant income, \$10,000
- Fire service, \$28,400     [\$2,800]
- Park revenue, \$5,000

Expenditures:

- General government, \$117,175;   [\$80,000]
- Fire operations, \$561,108   [\$93,000]
- Park and Recreation, \$31,000   [\$48,800]
- Street lights, \$4,000   [\$5,000]
- Debt service, \$5,816

**Caveats**

The projections identified in the figure above assume that funding, equipment, and personnel remain equal and constant. However, variables can result in budget challenges for the district, ranging from severe to moderate. ) ☒

- Wild land Fire Truck is Recalled. A federal program provides the district with a wild land fire truck (brush engine) for use in wild land fires. The terms of the arrangement stipulate that the district can request reimbursement for its response to wild land fires. Additionally, the district may only use the truck for domestic response (structure fires, medical) for only

20% of the truck's use. Should the federal program cease, the recall of the brush engine would remove a revenue source as well as remove a backup fire truck. ☒

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**Notes [not from LAFCO report]**

November 2016, Fire Chief resigned to take another position in CaliMesa. Tight budget required them to be also looking at fire dept personnel cuts.

Pay for a 24 hr shift by volunteers is \$25.00, per Debbie at MVCSD.

February 20, 2017 article: A celebration for the "department's brand new addition: a state of the art main fire and medic engine. Even a contingent from Cal Fire turned out to show their support. The roughly half million dollar piece of equipment represents the culmination of **more than two years of community-wide fundraising and a \$420,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.** The new engine replaces the fire department's aging main engine which had become a financial drain on the Community Services District. The new engine has been outfitted for local conditions and is in service." (News report)



## A MUNICIPAL ADVISORY Council for Newberry Springs? (Vickie Paulsen)

Frustration with having projects come in without warning -- like the I-40 median fill (with our dirt and water), and the solar installation on Mountain View -- led me to consider alternatives or additional ways to have our voice be heard by the county.

A Municipal Advisory Council can deal with anything and everything in the community, unlike the CSD, which handles only three things. In a community like ours, both a MAC and a CSD are desirable because of their different responsibilities.

A MAC is advisory only, with no required LAFCO involvement and usually no consultation. It reports the views of the community to the board of supervisors.

It might be good to consider including Yermo and Daggett in a MAC since most of the larger issues of life in the Mojave are relevant to all of us., and we all need a source of information about projects heading our way, and a place to be heard.

What is it? [info from "Choices for the Unincorporated Community," 1978, Institute of Governmental Affairs, University of California at Davis.]

"A MAC is an advisory body of local citizens elected by the community or appointed by the board of supervisors with the purpose of representing the community to the board. A MAC is a governing council, but one without fiscal authority or administrative organization. A MAC lacks the capacity to implement many of its positions directly and seeks to accomplish those goals through county government. A community with a MAC has a separate link to county government which supplements its representation as part of a county supervisor's district."

### *Why Choose a MAC?*

"The advantages to a community include the following:

1. A MAC gives a community an opportunity to address public policy concerns and to develop coordinated planning. . . The MAC can be a mechanism for coordination, especially important on issues relating to development and growth.
2. Because its activities, such as meetings and surveys, take place in the community and reflect community characteristics, a MAC can facilitate citizen participation in the formation of local opinion on public problems. . . Because people are talking to a neighbor instead of a county official, they are more likely to be open, candid, and informed in expressing their views."
3. A MAC gives a community an officially recognized voice with public officials and agencies.

### *Funding [California Government Code Section 31010]*

The board of supervisors of any county may by resolution establish and provide funds for the operation of a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county to advise the board on such matters which relate to that area . . . including but not limited to advice on matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning.