NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING**

(Draft) MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Member Paulsen - BROWN ACT PRESENTATION

Committee Member Grey - PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PLAN EFFORT OVERVIEW

Committee Member Rogers - NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS AND COSTS

 1. Putting the word ″Fire″ in front of a structure raises the costs by 2 or 3 times. The new Fire Department in Baker cost 2.6 million.

 2. Fire Dept. would like input from the community re: what the community wants to see so the FD can factor those wants into their 10-year plan. SPC is the place where the community and the CSD Board can provide that input.

 3. A community workshop was suggested to focus on these needs.

Discussion about how to provide fire service ″cross-track″ (when a train blocks the road).

Discussion of how to secure property without driving property prices up. SPC should talk about the types of properties and areas but not talk about specific parcels.

Discussion about advantages and disadvantages of affiliating (or not) with San Bernardino County for fire protection. In Chief Rogers opinion, having SBC take over would result in reduced fire services for Newberry.

CSDA has help and information re: issuing bonds for Fire Department construction. We need to go through LAFCO for bonds. Grants are also available. Some professional grant writers take their payment out of the grant and some grants allow this. A professional grant writer knows how to keep us out of trouble. CSD Manager Jodi Howard is learning about grants by working on a grant for our park.

Discussion of the need for a Fire Department **Strategic Plan** that persists from CSD Board to CSD Board in order to assure that Fire Department plans are not subject to the whims of future CSD Boards.

A new Fire Department can serve as the ″hub″ of the civic hub. The ″anchor″ tenant so to speak. This is within the agenda and within the Charter of the CSD.

In many communities, the Fire Department is an integral part of the ″civic center″.

(Matrix # 1)

Fire Department needs input from the community (ex: full paid, part-time staff, etc.).

Discussion about the possible locations for a civic hub. A ″central area″ has been discussed in the past. For example, near the elementary school.

Home insurance rates depend on the availability of water to fight fires. Better water availability means lower insurance rates. The rate depends on the ″ISO rating″. Living within 5 miles of a fire department results in an ISO rating of ″9″. Not having hydrants limits the ISO rating. Having water trucks can reduce the home insurance rates but funding is needed for water trucks.

Water issues, although not a part of this Committee's mandate, we recognize that water issues are central to the question of fire protection. We are open to suggestions about we must (possibly peripherally) address the water issues that are appropriate to fire protection. In the past, Newberry had a County ″water ordinance″. The County removed this ordinance and water use increased because now the County and the MWA can and do (both) avoid responsibility by pointing fingers at each other. Water pumping rights that move from the West side of the Calico fault to the East side can/will negatively impact our water table on the East side. Moving forward, some of the issues will be internal under our control and some will be external where we can only influence the outcome. We need to press the CSD Board to act with regard to possibly reinstating a water ordinance. As we plan for the civic hub, we need to ″up″ the awareness of the CSD Board re: this water issue. We should consider electing our own representatives to the MWA Board. Newberry uses ″ancient water″ that is about 30,000 years old.

Concern was expressed about the number of illegal meth labs. One possible idea is to have a Sheriff's Substation or satellite office at the civic hub as a ″signal″ to the community of our commitment to the rule of law. Sheriff's staffing is limited but such an office might partially be staffed with volunteers. Outdoor marijuana growing is illegal and also a local problem. This is often driven by organized crime syndicates.