

# EPOC MINUTES, June 6th, 2018

1. **Call to Order:** President Eric Davis began the meeting at 0930.
2. **Roll Call:** Minutes were approved and Roll Call was taken.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jill Holstein reported a balance that is unchanged at \$419.57.
4. **CCWD:**
  - A. Bertha Underhill reported on the return from the Aqua Conference in Sacramento.
  - B. Joel Metzger reported:
    - 1) **The Rate Increase** for Bi-monthly water and sewer was approved May 23rd by the Board. The rate schedule is posted on [www.ccwd.com](http://www.ccwd.com).
    - 2) A study of how to support disadvantaged families is on-going.
    - 3) **SB 623** passed by the State Legislature puts a tax on processed water with the intent to pay for safe drinking water in other parts of the state. Included is a new Agency staffed by 26 new government officials. This is a tax on all water delivered to each household on a tiered basis. It is not anticipated to be a large tax. However, CCWD is lobbying Sacramento to find another source of money for this purpose.
  4. **Prop 68** passed the recent election providing a bond to fund water resource projects. This bond is anticipated to be a boon to Calaveras County.
5. **Calaveras County Sheriff:** Rick DiBasilio, fresh from the election, reported to EPOC:
  - A. **Crime is Down:** The capture of Jimmy Blake Terry has provided an easing of activity. Mr. Terry's review process has put him into Federal courts for potentially greater jail time.
  - B. **Staffing:** Officer Joel Burnett who covers the EP area is on Maternity leave for 2 months. An interim officer has been designated. Down the line, 4 new cadets from the Academy will soon be activated with 4 additional cadets entering the Academy. The problem of retention is State wide with other areas competing with greater pay and resources. The plan here is to draw from the local population where family ties provides greater loyalty and career longevity to this area. In addition, budget constraints here are limiting officer salaries where money is king.
6. **Fire Commissioner:** Tom Sullivan noted that FIRE SEASON has begun.
  - A. **Property Inspections** are beginning utilizing VIPs. New reporting methods are being tried. Reports are intended to be recorded in a State-wide data base and tracking of each property will be the new reality. New CAL-FIRE regulations have increased fines and require properties to be maintained year-round. Stricter regulations and enforcement are the result of the recent "winter" fires in all of California.

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B. **Burn Days** will continue above 3500' but can be stopped at any time. Burning requires a permit. It was mentioned that some lot-cleaners have been illegally burning debris and some have dumped loads around the forest areas. Report this activity to the Sheriff.

7. **District 3 Supervisor:** Mike Oliveira reported:

A. **Election Results for District 3 Supervisor** are still uncertain. 2,700 absentee ballots have yet to be counted. A run-off election is certain to occur in November.

B. **Murphys Drive** work is ongoing in spite of the outside contractor being terminated.. The OES is now managing the project through a "Force Account" which is a local control only.

C. **Public Works Director**, Jeff Cravetz, has moved on. A temporary replacement from Sacramento is providing coverage for four months.

D. **Grant Money** continues to be available through many programs to complete large and small projects. Dale Pilgeram noted that property owners have access to this money to remove dead trees, clean lots, and even remove live trees. This availability is limited in time. The ongoing challenge is to have the County clean ditches and easements for fuel reduction and fire safety compliance as the weeds are abundant. Funds in the past provided "inmate labor", but there lacks personell to serve as overseers.

D. **Tree Mortality** has come under the responsibility of a new "Forest Health & Management" state level department that includes CAL-FIRE and various assisting agencies. It is anticipated to mandate new and tougher regulations yet to be imagined. PRC 4291 is expected to grow. This state legislation also included budgeting for the Bullet Train, as a rider.

Pete Padelford related that the effectiveness of the Fuel Reduction efforts in removing dead trees and brush is only limited by the "Right of Entry" resistance by property owners who do not respond to offers of "free" clean up. Potential return of CCC Crews is promised in the future.

8. **HOA Consultant:** Don Shinn reported that a recent County requirement is that Rentals of less than 30-day increments are subject to needing a **Business License**. This potentially means application fees, new accounting methods, taxing of properties and their contents, etc. As a business, State requirements may include Handicap Access, Workers Compensation for any work performed, etc. Some HOAs restrict or prohibit "businesses" in existing CC&Rs. The ramifications are to develop.

9. **Arnold Rim Trail:** Steve Lauterbach reports that the season for hiking and exploring has begun. The trails are in good condition and ready for summer activities. The planned activities are found in the well-maintained website.

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### 10. **Special Guest Speaker:** Lisa Muettterties, District 3 Planning Commissioner.

Lisa spoke to the status of "Planned Development" which is defined and implemented in the Arnold Community Plan of 1998. Planned Development, PD, is an attempt to control the Commercial, Industrial, and Multifamily properties to help maintain a coherent and pleasing appearance (charm) of the Arnold town area. The Planning Department has this responsibility and charges \$3600 for each petition for new or changed designs. Additionally, the evaluation can take up to 9 months to be accepted or rejected. This is an awesome deterrent to any Arnold business, new or existing, to survive such delays and high costs. The result is to keep Arnold and the general economy of the County in poverty compared to such towns as Murphys. Some citizens take this as a positive result. Others believe that PD only supports blight and missed business income opportunities. Also inherent in the existing PD includes the lengthy review and approval of countless state agencies that add to the bureaucracy with no value added.

Two approaches exist to address existing Arnold PD include:

- 1) Create an ad hoc committee from the community to review and draw up an architectural plan that is definitive and objective to guide the Planning Department to make more equitable decisions in an expedited fashion. Since subjective criteria will always be interpretive and could take many hours of committee work to define, it could take weeks/months of arbitration. This approach seems to be difficult and lengthy.
- 2) Delete PD from the Arnold Community Plan. This alternate approach hits at the heart of PD and the intentions of the drafters of the Plan. Certainly, this approach is cleaner and eliminates the state bureaucracies. Possibly existing businesses who have complied with the current Planning Department may have a complaint. These businesses would have to accept 'sins of the past' if they can. With this approach, only the economic pressure to maintain an attractive and coherent business property exists to support new and changed properties in a cost-effective manner.

Lisa, as Planning Commissioner, is currently attempting to form this ad hoc committee of the first approach. However, the general consensus could be to just Delete PD from Arnold with no replacement process.