

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
GARBAGE COMMITTEE MEETING  
DATE: JULY 6, 2022**

**Directors Present:** Directors Dale Cox and Fred Ilfeld

**Staff Present:** Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Brandon Burks, Operations Manager; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Danielle Mueller, Finance and Administration Manager.

**Attendees:** Jeff Collins, Janean Foote, Ron Gajar, Patti Guilford, Ed Heneveld, Andrew Lange, Russell Poulsen, Jim Sakamoto, and Michael Sheehan.

A. Call to Order

Director Cox called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. Brandon Burks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Comment

Mr. Heneveld confirmed that there would be a green waste collection event this coming Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

C. Community Dumpster Facility – Permanent Closure

The committee discussed permanent closure of the Community Dumpster Facility and accepted public comment.

Mr. Geary provided an overview of the staff's challenges related to the Community Dumpster Facility (CDF) including abuse of the facility, staff impacts, wildlife impacts, changes in service, and cost increases. Director Cox provided a history of the CDF and anecdotes of the facility abuse he has witnessed, noting that he is confident the abuse is not by Olympic Valley residents only. Mr. Burks provided a history of the CDF operations and discussed the negative impacts to the Operations Department morale and workload. Jeff Collins, Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD), discussed the change in demographics within the Valley from primarily weekend visitors to full-time residents and noted challenges to maintaining services due to costs and staff shortages at TTSD.

Public Comment –

Ms. Asher read six written comments submitted in advance of the meeting. The letters were provided to the Board of Directors and are available to the public upon request.

All attendees provided public comment. Attendees generally understood the challenges to maintain the CDF and noted the value of the photos shown during the meeting documenting the problem/abuse. However, all attendees generally supported preserving the CDF and noted the importance of the facility to maintain the Valley's cleanliness, protect wildlife, and provide an easily accessible garbage service to tourists and those that have waste overages.

The public provided suggestions to decreasing abuse including enclosing the area and providing a gate code to residents; more robust enforcement measures including video monitoring, utilizing Placer County Sheriff, written warnings, fining abusers, and publicizing fines; and moving the facility to a more public location such as behind the administrative building. While attendees did not want rate payers to

be penalized for misdeeds of non-residents, cost did not appear to be as much of a consideration as the importance of the facility. The public also voiced concerns about the abuse of dumpsters located at condominium complexes, said all dumpsters should be in enclosed areas, and noted there should be additional dumpsters at the post office.

Mr. Collins said the Northstar Community Service District continues to suffer from abuse at their enclosed dumpster and said he did not feel there was an increase in litter within the Alpine Meadows community after removal of their dumpster facility.

Staff discussed how managing this program may compete with other programs such as fuels management, ambulance services, etc.; staff shortages and challenges to operator and administration recruitment and morale; the significant cost to maintain a fully enclosed facility, including snow removal and snow load concerns; that Valley residents also abuse the facility, and responded that the Placer County Sheriff will not pursue abuse of the facility as it is a dumping location.

Staff discussed financial incentives for residents to purchase and install Bear Boxes that could accommodate four cans, however, the public generally did not think additional bear boxes would resolve the issue and noted that the locking mechanism on the boxes can freeze in the winter.

Director Cox said it is difficult to witness the negative impact on operations and administrative staff, particularly complaint calls related to a service we do not directly provide. The Directors noted that many suggestions would increase rates and require additional staff.

The Committee directed staff to bring the issue to the Board at the August 30th Meeting to consider if the Community Dumpster facility should be permanently closed or if staff should prepare a financial analysis showing how much garbage rates will be impacted by constructing capital improvements to maintain, and help prevent abuse at, the site (e.g., reconstruct / resurface paved portion of the Dumpster Facility, install fences and / or concrete bays, install key-lock system, etc.); and increases in annual operating expenses (e.g., increased collection fees, administration of key-lock card program, enforcement, etc.) to support a survey of the District's garbage customers asking whether or not they support the estimated rate hikes to keep the facility in operation. When complete, the results of the survey would be used by the Board to help decide whether to keep the site in operation.

D. Community Dumpster Facility – Mitigations

Mitigations to closing the Facility were incorporated into the above discussion.

E. Adjourn

No further business coming before the Garbage Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

By, JA/MG