

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES July 8 19 82

The Board convened in a continued meeting, from July 6, 1982, sitting as the Board of Directors of County Service Area No. 3. Present: Directors Dorr, Lowe, Walker and Stewart. Absent: Director Flynn. Chairman Lowe presided.

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61-3
Hearing was held as duly advertised, at the Lake Tahoe Arts Center, to consider imposing a \$5.00 service fee on improved parcels within County Service Area No. 3 for mosquito abatement purposes. The County Chief Administrative Officer reviewed the 1981-82 budget for said Service Area, and the proposed budget for same for 1982-83. The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the most significant reason for setting the fee at \$5.00 per improved parcel, the fee for 1981-82 being \$4.00, is the fact that the Service Area will not receive the State funds in 1982-83 that it received in 1981-82, in the amount of \$26,247.00. He also noted that, although the Service Area is deleting one extra-help position, it must cover the merit step salary increases of its regular employees.

There were no written or verbal protests, and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Director Lowe, seconded by Director Stewart, and unanimously carried by those present, RESOLUTION NO. 175A-82 was adopted, imposing a \$5.00 service fee on improved parcels within County Service Area No. 3 for mosquito abatement purposes.

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Hearing was held as duly advertised, at the South Lake Tahoe Superior Court Building, to consider extended ambulance services in the unincorporated area of County Service Area No. 3. The Chief Administrative Officer reviewed the proposal, and advised the Board that the South Lake Tahoe City Council, on July 7, 1982, voted not to participate in the proposal. As there are 7,128 improved parcels within the unincorporated portion of County Service Area No. 3, an assessment of \$1.40 per improved parcel would probably be required to meet the costs of the proposed service.

Mr. Lester Bush, President of Lake Tahoe Ambulance, Inc., Mr. Robert Cross of the Meeks Bay Fire Department, and Mr. Hugh Thomas of the Lake Valley Fire Protection Dist., were present and spoke to the need for the ambulance service fee as proposed. Mr. Thomas stated he felt it is the fairest way to fund the service since, if a "user" fee is established, the elderly would be paying the major share of the costs to cover the costs not collected from indigents -- those two groups being the most frequent users of the ambulance service.

Mr. Ed Baer, resident of the Rubicon-Meeks Bay area, stated that the most frequent users of ambulance service on the west side of the Lake are tourists who have accidents on Highway 89, and he does not feel the permanent residents should have to pay the cost. Mr. Bob Malm, member of the Meeks Bay Fire District Board of Directors, stated that the residents of said District just approved a two-year assessment for emergency medical services, and questioned whether they could be exempt from this proposed assessment if the Fire District budget, which has yet to be finalized, can cover the cost of the service. Their Board of Directors is against asking the residents to pay this additional assessment.

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Chief Bert Cherry, of the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, was present and stated he feels there has been a lack of communication between County and City staff regarding this proposal, which resulted in the City Council's vote to not participate. He requested County staff to meet with City staff to discuss the matter more fully, after which he feels the City Council would be more likely to agree to participate, which is what Chief Cherry would like to see happen. This would mean more uniform service throughout the Tahoe Basin with probably less cost per improved parcel for same.

There being no further protests, the hearing was closed.

On motion of Director Walker, seconded by Director Dorr, and unanimously carried by those present, the Board voted to go on record in favor of providing extended ambulance services in the unincorporated area of County Service Area No. 3.

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Hearing was held as duly advertised, at the South Lake Tahoe Superior Court Building, to consider extended snow removal services in the unincorporated area of County Service Area No. 3. The County Chief Administrative Officer reviewed snow removal costs for past years, and advised the County will receive \$35,000 less from the State for Fiscal Year 1982-83 than it received for 1981-82, noting the allocation last year was not adequate.

613 Board members discussed the continuing decrease of revenues available to the County Public Works Department for snow removal as well as road maintenance and construction, thereby the growing need of an assessment fee on improved parcels to meet escalating snow removal costs. Director Walker stated he feels an assessment fee of no less than \$50 per improved parcel is necessary to meet the need. Director Stewart stated he feels an assessment fee between \$10 and \$25 per improved parcel is more reasonable. Director Lowe stated that she feels an assessment fee should not be limited to the Tahoe Basin, advising she would favor the establishment of a zone within County Service Area No. 7 (western slope of El Dorado County) to levy an assessment fee for snow removal therein. Director Dorr stated he feels the matter of whether the authority of County Service Area No. 3 should be extended to include snow removal, should be placed on the ballot for the vote of the people.

The following persons were present and spoke in opposition to an assessment fee for snow removal services: Earl Mar, resident of Tahoma and President of the Tahoe Cedars Property Owners Association; Ed Baer, resident of the Rubicon-Meeks Bay area; Bob Malm, resident of Meeks Bay; Bert Cherry, Chief of the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department but speaking as an area resident; Judy Crawford, resident of Christmas Valley; Crystal Miller, owner of a summer cabin in the Rainbow Tract, and representing the Rainbow Tract Property Owners Association; and George Langston, registered voter of Meeks Bay even though he does not reside there. The consensus of those area residents who are opposed is that snow removal costs have escalated due to poor management of Public Works Department equipment and personnel -- that if those problems were corrected, the job could be done with present resources at much less cost. They attribute the inexperienced personnel to the fact that their salaries are too low, which attracts inexperienced persons who, once they are properly trained to do the job, find higher paying jobs with the City of South Lake Tahoe or the State Department of Transportation.

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Crystal Miller, representing the Rainbow Tract Property Owners Association, stated they are opposed to the assessment fee for a service from which they derive no benefit. Theirs are summer cabins. Out of 50 cabins in the tract, approximately 8 were used on and off during the winter, and those people hired private contractors to plow their roads.

Mr. Tom Halverson, of the County Public Works Department, was present and spoke to the need for more equipment and higher salaries to attract and retain experienced personnel.

Mr. Hugh Thomas of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District spoke in favor of the proposed assessment fee so roads can be kept open for emergency vehicles.

There were no further protests, and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Director Stewart, seconded by Director Walker, and carried by the following vote: Ayes: Directors Walker, Stewart, and Lowe; No: Director Dorr; Absent: Director Flynn, the Board voted to provide extended snow removal services in the unincorporated area of County Service Area No. 3.

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The Board informally agreed to hold another public hearing during its regular, weekly Board of Supervisor meeting in Placerville on Tuesday, July 27, 1982, to address 4 additional questions regarding extended ambulance and snow removal services within the unincorporated area of County Service Area No. 3: (1) whether fees should be imposed; (2) the amount of said fees; (3) the actual territory in which the assessment fees will be imposed on improved parcels within; and (4) whether the fees should be imposed by motion of the Board of Directors of the Service Area or placed on the ballot for a vote of the people within the designated territory.

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There being no further business, the Board adjourned to Monday, July 12, 1982, at which time the Board of Supervisors will consider requests for amendments to the County General Plan.

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APPROVED:


PATRICIA R. LOWE, Chairman, Board of
Directors, County Service Area No. 3

ATTEST:
DOLORES BREDESON, County Clerk
and ex officio Clerk of the Board

By 
Deputy Clerk