

TALL PINES SPECIAL TAX COMMISSION — MEETING MINUTES — JULY 30, 2014

The meeting came to order at 7:29 p.m.

Tall Pines Special Tax Commission (TPSTC) members present:

- Terry Hess
- Norm Gaskins
- Neal Menkus

Also in attendance were:

- Chris Blough, Tall Pines (TP) Home Owners Association (HOA) President
- Dusty Rhodes, TP HOA VP
- Tommy Newell, incumbent District 4 Representative

Tommy Newell read an email from David Wright stating that David's resignation from the TPSTC would take effect immediately upon receipt. David also called for an audit of the bank account and all financial records. All of the books and checks were turned in to Berkeley County. Paul Helms also resigned from the TPSTC.

TPSTC will retrieve the checkbook from and ledger from Berkeley County. Terry Hess will contact Cathy Davis. The TPSTC will also open a new bank account that only the existing TPSTC members are authorized to write checks against.

TPSTC requested nominations to fill the two vacancies. Names submitted from the floor were:

- Nelson Montalvo
- Jerry Stuckey
- Jim Royce

Neither Jerry Stuckey nor Jim Royce were in attendance to confirm their willingness to serve. Jerry Stuckey subsequently declined to serve. Nelson and Jim's names will be submitted to Cathy Davis/Tommy Newell for approval.

In the interim, until additional members are appointed to the TPSTC, Terry Hess will be Chair, Norm Gaskins will be Vice-Chair, and Neal Menkus will be Secretary/Treasurer.

A request was made to spend a maximum of \$11,000 for a permanent sun shelter for the pool. Temporary shelters have been used for the last few years. The cost for replacing these temporary shelters is greater than the cost of a permanent shelter over its expected lifetime. Four bids have already been received. The TPSTC unanimously agreed to going ahead with the purchase, and forwarding a request to Berkeley County Council with the recommendation that the lowest bid be selected.

(There was a few minutes of side discussion about how bids should be handled: should bids be sealed, should the names of people submitting bids be redacted for discussion and voting purpose, should references be required, and how to handle discussion from the floor.

There were also some questions about how to fix equipment that breaks, such as the pool pump. Is the TPSTC able to simply agree it needs to be fixed and proceed to do so, or is Berkeley County Council authorization required? No one knows. The TPSTC will attempt to get an answer from the Berkeley County Attorney.

The discussion was concluded with a reminder that we need to follow Berkeley County bid procedures, and that Berkeley County Council has oversight and final approval of expenditures.)

JT's Lawn Service was previously awarded the landscaping service contract for the coming year. However, none on the existing TPSTC members know how to get in touch with the current contract holder. JT is expected to start on August 1. The TPSTC agreed to prorate any existing work performed by the old contract holder until they can be contacted.

The TPSTC unanimously agreed to cancel the special law enforcement patrols occurring once a week, at a cost of \$9,000. Those monies will revert to the Capital Funds account.

A much reduced list of specific days for added law enforcement presence will be drawn up and submitted for approval. The flow will be: Crime Watch → HOA → TPSTC → Berkeley County Council.

A request was made that Crime Watch have a golf cart for patrols. TPSTC tabled that request pending further information about cost, storage, and maintenance.

A request was made to have copies of the bills the TPSTC pays available for examination at the HOA meetings, in addition to the budget line item spreadsheet. The TPSTC agreed that this would be a good thing to do. However, it may not be until the September meeting that this information is available to be presented. In part it will depend on how long it takes to get the books returned from Berkeley County.

The TPSTC unanimously agreed to conduct their meeting following the regularly scheduled HOA meetings. Either the HOA President or Vice President will submit a short written notice of items for the TPSTC to consider.

There is also a suggestion that the TPSTC conduct a silent meeting where the topics to be discussed are placed in a fishbowl and then selected at random. This concept will be considered, but was not agreed to at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.