

# PONDEROSA SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## General Meeting October 7, 2023

At 11:30 am, President Kaja-Anne Jezycki welcomed all attendees to the meeting and called the meeting to order, then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The group then had a moment of silence to honor four residents who have passed away in the past year: Mike Lemon, Lee Peterson, Nancy Egar, and Carl Dietrich. This year's meeting was held at the Christopher-Kohls Fire Department Station 53. Approximately 53 people were in attendance.

Susan Keown, Vice President then expressed thanks to Tom Hiscox, secretary, for the good information flow during the recent Valentine fire. Tom could not be in attendance this year.

The minutes from last year's meeting were read. These minutes are posted on the PSCA website. Any pictures the residents wish to have posted on the website should be forwarded to Tom Hiscox, who maintains the website. Furthermore, if anyone is not receiving the emails, first check your spam folder as the "From" address on our mail server may be unknown to your mail program. For further mail questions, please advise Tom at [ponderosaspringscommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:ponderosaspringscommunityassn@gmail.com)

At the last meeting, it was discussed to redo the Association Bylaws, and that is complete.

A motion to approve last year's minutes was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Dave Duprest then presented the financial report. Our finances remain strong with low expenses. Our ending checking account balance is \$15,524.14. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Our next speaker was Danny Wattly of the Forest Service. He first gave an update of the Valentine fire activities. Local fire fighters are patrolling the fire perimeter and performing clean-up. The fire line near Haigler Creek is being held using water from the creek. The total fire area was about 10,000 acres. It is still smoking in the interior and will continue to do so for several weeks. The fire will be patrolled and monitored during that time. The original closure of the area is expected to be lifted by October 15. The 200 road (Chamberlain Trail to Haigler Creek and Young) has already been opened. The Gila County SET evacuation status has already been lifted at the time of the meeting.

The junipers will grow back after the fire clean out. They try to clear the brush every five years. There are patches in the interior which did not burn. The fire was mostly on the ground. Strips painted on the trees are part of a timber sale. Trees marked orange will be cut.

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Susan Keown then gave a report on activities of the association. She has been working with Gila County on assistance for residents with old septic systems. Susan has references for septic inspectors and there is \$250,000 in grant money for old septic systems. Aero Drilling of Payson will do water sampling of residents' wells. Contact Susan if you need septic assistance.

Steve McKennen, Captain in the Cristopher Kohls Fire District, then reported on fire department activities. In the past, they were able to obtain grant money to help residents with fire wise thinning. These grants are no longer available; however, residents are strongly urged to do Firewise thinning on their lots. Informational brochures are available.

Concerning our Station 53 fire house, a \$10,000 donation from Gila County together with a \$10,000 donation from a resident have been made. That appears to be enough to pay Aero Drilling to install the water well system at the fire house, which would eventually make the firehouse habitable for fire crews when needed.

Linda Lemon then reported on activities of the Fire Belles, the auxiliary support organization to our fire department. The fire belles are a 501c (3) organization which meets once a month and is primarily a fundraising group. They have raised money for AED devices, Jaws of Life equipment, an imaging system, and photo equipment. The fire belles have a Facebook page and are also on the ckfire.net website. Current projects include money to update the sleeping quarters, update the workout room, and install larger showers.

Gila County Supervisor Woody Cline then addressed the group. The board of Supervisors recently suspended the County Assessor and have appointed a temporary assessor. The taxes in our area of Northern Gila County are higher than in Globe. The county has a 3% private tax base which must support the county, fire district, and schools. He suggested residents should attend a school board meeting in Young if they are concerned about our tax fees paid to Young.

Regarding the paving of Colcord Road, the road belongs to the Forest Service and not the county. The county only maintains the road. There are 3 people on the road crew out of Payson. The group reported that road maintenance since the winter has been poor, especially within Ponderosa Springs. Woody will follow-up on the road maintenance schedule. The traffic increase on Colcord has contributed to the poor conditions. The county is trying a double chip and seal on other roads to see how that will hold up.

He noted that within the county, 62% of the expenses are with the courts and Sheriff's department.

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The group then discussed what does the group want to see done? The main items presented were:

1. Road maintenance
2. More Sheriff's department presence
3. Residents want more information routinely on where our Gila County tax money is going.

Woody then updated us on the new Veteran's center in Young. The old Forest Service ranger station in Young became surplus when the Payson and Pleasant Valley ranger districts were combined. Gila County wants to use the whole space and convert it into a Retreat for Veterans. A bill in Congress sponsored by Rep Gossar and Sen Kelly has been introduced to fund this. The facility must be used for vets only. The bill is on the floor for a vote. It includes \$3 million for renovation and conversion of the many buildings on the site.

Supervisor Woody Cline can be reached at:

928-961-2931 (cell)  
wcline@gilacountyaz.gov

Darin Palmer, Vice President of the Gordon Canyon homeowners group gave an update on their activities, especially their use of a chat text group to communicate important information such as the status of our cell phone tower, and evacuation status: READY, SET, and GO alerts. We plan to put a link on our PSCA website concerning how to enroll in the chat group.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08pm

Submitted,



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Tom Hiscox, Secretary

*Note: Many thanks to Linda James for the excellent notes taken during the meeting in my absence. Any inaccuracies in these meeting notes are due to my unavoidable absence which I regret. TOH*