

GMVUAC January 8, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order – 7:00 pm

Members Present:

Steve Hiester	Hank Haynes
Peter Rimbo	Rhys Sterling
Adam Sterling	Susan Harvey
Lorraine Blacklock	Sue Neuner
Warren Iverson	Stephen Deutschman (Dutch)

Members Absent:

Agenda:

Warren: Would like to have a moment of silence for the slain officer in Pierce County.

Warren moved to approve agenda, Lorraine seconded.

Motion passed

Public Comment Period:

Taylor Creek resident: Wanted to know GMVUAC's stance on the sale of the Maple Valley Market building to Silver Dollar Casinos, community is mobilized and wants to resist.

Steve: Will briefly discuss tonight, more next meeting.

Rhys: You can join as a member, visit our website for more info.

Warren: There are also monthly articles in the Voice of the Valley

Peter: can contact us directly

???: I'm a Korean war veteran, have property on Cedar River, wrote several books, would like to donate one to GMVUAC.

???: There's a trouble spot in Lake Francis, sent an e-mail to Rhys, I've seen drug transactions near Maxwell Road.

Rhys: The commander of the Maple Valley (MV) precinct will speak tonight on this, Aaron Tyerman from the fire department was also going to give an update.

Sandy Gaither: Brought a handout on the proposed right of way fees, King County (KC) Council passed, franchise utilities negotiations by end of mo, county

hoping to see \$8-10 million in revenue from fee on utilities, CenturyLink and Comcast are not involved yet, nobody knows how much it will cost each person, the formula based on assessed property value and factors such as highway location, etc. Puget Sound Electric and utility companies are upset, you can comment to me or Peter, it was passed last November, money would go to the general fund. January 28 is the target date for negotiating with franchises.

Don Huling: Complaining about racetrack noise levels, they're building garages now, I'm a member of the Soos Creek Area Response Organization, see me if you want to learn more.

Officer Elections:

Steve: We are moving to keep the same officers by acclamation.

Bonnie Curran: Everyone's doing a good job, thank you.

Lorraine moved to retain the same officer positions, Warren seconded.

Motion passed

Guest Speakers:

Tahoma School District, Rob Morrow

Rob Morrow: Would first like to thank Warren for working with the school district, Dutch's son is a teacher, and Val Paganelli is the new board member. I wanted to talk about the school levies on February 13, lots confusion over McCleary decision, so my presentation is on School Funding 101. The lawsuit by the McCleary family claimed that the state was not supporting basic education regardless of location, legislation to address that was passed last July, focusing on "basic education." Short history lesson on schools, what public schools do has changed over the years, today we do a lot more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. (See PowerPoint Presentation) There will be three levies, two replacement (educational programming & operations (EPO) and technology), and a \$2 million bus levy to replace our aging fleet, but no guarantee of additional service since we still need drivers. Bonds are for buildings, levies are for learning, obligated to spend the money where we intended (cannot shift bldg bond funds). The EPO levy will fund salaries (25%), non-teaching positions, special education (\$4.2 million locally), transportation, extracurricular, etc. Levies pay for more than 75% of money for nurses, more than 50% for security staff. The other type is a capital levy, which is what the technology and bus levies are. They will have advisory boards, funds must be spent on specific items, the levy will purchase about 15 buses. Projected costs, the bus levy is 2 years, tech is 4 years, tax collection in April and fall, so spring 2019 will be on the new levy, We earned a AA rating on bonds so we got a lower interest rate, bond

department service is going down, based on assessed property value, the projections are based on an average of the last 4 years of growth. The EPO levy is at \$1.50 after 2019 by statute, McCleary tax bill will have a new state property tax as part of a levy swap, the legislation effects every school district differently, Tahoma is a moderate tax winner, over the long haul school taxes will go down, \$400-500 decrease over 4 years based on \$400 thousand house. The new legislation will have earmarks, much is tied to K-3 class size, last two incoming Kindergarten class sizes were under 600 kids, new development due to zoning changes and growth, but the legislation will widen our gap with surrounding districts for teacher salaries, market contracts, etc.

???: Why does Issaquah have smaller real estate taxes?

???: Would the tax be only for home owners, not renters?

Rob Morrow: The cost per \$1,000 is lower because of higher assessed values, can raise more money with a lower rate, our levy is higher, taxes are passed on to renters by the land owners. We have a good school system, which may account for some of the growth, in the top 5% of school districts in testing, our per pupil spending is at the bottom 10%. Three levies, please vote by February 13, school board meetings are every Tuesday, the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays are business meetings, others are work-study meetings, agendas are posted on our website.

Dutch: Do you still have volunteer committees? Are you hiring consultants?

Rob Morrow: We still have those, for tech, etc. Kevin Patterson sends out notices, Val and Warren were on the bond oversight committee. Not so many consultants any more, only recently for construction help.

Warren: The board did a good job, the promises made were kept.

???: Heard the number of kids in Seattle schools shrunk, is there any compensation for population shifts between districts?

Rob Morrow: It's difficult to keep up with growth, we're obligated to teach kids who move in, we've opened portables to deal with the class size initiative, no money to build schools, but no immediate need to build new schools, obligated to do the best we can with the funds we have.

???: Heard that lunchtime was cut in half at Tahoma Middle School, security now only has one school resource officer (SRO)?

Rob Morrow: There is one designated security person for each school, the SRO is only at the high school, we have a great relationship with local law enforcement, Tahoma did first active shooter drill, taught basic first aid to staff.

Major Pingrey: we have 35-40 officers on day shift, want each one to adopt a school, will visit or get involved once a week.

???: Concerned about mixing age groups on buses, any hope of changing that? Zero-hour kids, heard stories of violence and inappropriate discussions.

Rob Morrow: The school district covers 120 square miles, drivers try to put younger kids in front, older kids in back, haven't heard of any significant incidents, no fix yet until we have funds to make two runs or add more buses.

Lorraine: I have a suggestion, two-deep training, have an extra adult on the bus with mixed kids.

Steve: Wasn't McCleary supposed to equalize school districts without using bonds or levies?

Rob Morrow: According to the head of the legislature's education committee, the McCleary act envisioned smaller local levies, then the state should pick up the rest, the longer term problem is that we may fall behind surrounding districts in teacher pay, teacher shortage, all spots are filled here, but at some point the gap widens. We also need full funding for special education, so with or without levies, we would go into deficit.

???: What happened with the McCleary deadline?

Rob Morrow: The legislature did not meet it, Washington State Supreme Court fined the legislature for every day over, but they probably will not pay. All three local legislators endorsed our levies.

???: Question about buses, confusion on changing bus routes.

Rob Morrow: Tom Misfeldt is in charge of that. Call the bus garage, then ask to talk to Tom Misfeldt or Sean Kelly, or ask a teacher.

KC Sheriff, Major Daniel Pingrey

Daniel Pingrey: I've spent 30 years with the Sheriff's office, been all over the county, I'm familiar with this area, most recently I was chief of patrol operations. My philosophy is that I can't solve everything but I will make an effort to find out, the officers' job is to go home at night, we need to balance with each situation, no such thing as de-policing, we're paid to make a difference, they all want to do the job, treat people with respect. Now 8 officers on patrol, plus other precincts, we could use more in the rural area, but don't need a lot. For crime stats, we had three total drug calls from this area, mostly property crimes, very few felony assaults. We have a top-five meeting every two months to identify the top five bad guys in the area with surrounding cities, etc., on average within the first three weeks we've taken off a few of those offenders. We don't need more cops, but the county government's technology is not great, predictive policing software would be the price of one officer, must encourage the legislature to spend on it. Homelessness is a problem in Seattle, but a lot of those issues are not out here. We don't know unless you call, don't assume someone else has called, it's a massive county, the unincorporated area (UA) is 2-3 times bigger than Seattle, only 8 officers on a shift, in 2007 we lost 100+ deputies, it takes 6.7 officers to staff one district 24/7, but now its closer to 7.1, for all of UA we need 135 deputies to meet minimums, only have 129 now. We still do a good job, schedules can do better, software would help, its not targeting, would just let us predict where crime will occur next based on data, then we can set up officers there.

Warren: Not enough money to hire six more officers?

Daniel Pingrey: Ton of mental health training, need to be able to de-escalate, KC Council ordinance can withhold budget if use predictive policing. Greg Thomas, captain in Burien now, 22 changes in command staff after January 1,

want to continue community outreach, call front desk, want to get involved, help us focus on areas, tonight lots of calls, crime in this area not overwhelming.

LarKen Buchanan: I live in Shadow Lake, called 911 to report cars sitting on the road, stolen cars run out of gas there. Also need livestock handling training for officers in rural area, otherwise usually response times are great.

Daniel Pingrey: Calls are recorded, we'll work on that.

???: There's known drug selling, I reported it in, but it doesn't do any good.

Daniel Pingrey: The team has huge impacts, undercover special enforcement team (SET) team, but need good info, might not be enough info, can't randomly stop anyone, laws have changed, we want to make sure officers do knock and talks, most bad guys dumb enough to talk to officers when approached. We will help, but we need to get an informant, need to be smart to get officers home at night.

???: Do you have reserve officers?

Daniel Pingrey: Retired deputies step back in as reserves.

???: I was asked if UA will do a national night out to get to know the community.

Daniel Pingrey: Will do, we will make sure people are at events you hold if you let us know.

???: I have friends at state patrol, but why don't we see any on MV highway?

Daniel Pingrey: Their numbers have shrunk, mostly downtown, southeast KC has two officers, KC Roads hired one full-time, KC Deputy will start focusing on our roads now. I also answer e-mails, I will leave some of my old cards, the number is the same, will send info to Rhys.

(Also provided handout on crime incidents in the Tahoma school district)

Council Business: 8:46

Rhys: I'm moving new member interviews to the end, if anyone else wants to join, we have 6 open seats, please stick around until the end.

Maple Valley Market:

Peter: Owners of the MV Market are selling to the owners of Silver Dollar Casino, I checked with KC about zoning, its zoned NB (neighborhood business) which allows community businesses that help the local community, the state is in charge of casinos, so unless the local jurisdiction has banned casinos its left to state regulations. If the rumors are true, there's nothing we can do. There will be an article in tomorrow's Voice of the Valley, Mark Hagood was approached by a buyer and they're negotiating a sale, the date is not yet set, the existing building will be renovated and updated, not much info, it would be an allowed use, KC has not banned casinos, we're talking with the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) and the KC Executive's office, so please watch our website for updates. The location is outside of the city of MV, so only the county would be involved.

???: I'm a business owner, there are signage and lighting restrictions, I'm concerned it will become eyesore.

Peter: We usually have DPER director, Ty Peterson, give a presentation when something like this happens.

Rhys: We may also invite the applicants or Reagan Dunn to talk, the 1999 KC ordinance banning mini casinos lapsed, not sure why, Silver Dollar has several mini casinos in KC, there is an open question depending on KC code interpretation, we have ways to get more info, then we will contact more people.

Susan: So the state has authority, but local jurisdictions can ban? Are there other legal ramifications for change of character?

Peter: KC can ban, but now lapsed, NB zoning allows if not banned, it's very broad.

Lorraine: My husband knows Mark Hagood, was told their lease was not renewed and he's retiring, so it's whoever owns the building.

???: I heard that the landlord pressured them to sell their lease.

???: Could you find out who owns that property?

???: Concerned residents would like their voices to be heard.

Peter: There will be a permitting process, public comments are allowed on that, we will be involved and set up a meeting.

???: We did something similar for the marijuana grow operation, Save Our 208 Committee brought in DPER to discuss.

Lakeside Asphalt Facility:

Peter: The Executive Committee voted to submit a follow-up letter regarding the KC Council's moratorium, but I believe the full committee can rescind? The language was taken out of our previously submitted comments.

Steve: If there's no motion to rescind, then we're good to go.

Dutch: I went to the meeting, Lakeside packed the building, the community is not opposed to the company, but the issue is where the asphalt plant will be located, there were 75 people speaking before us. The biggest issue was labor unions losing jobs? It was spot rezoning, should be illegal, and the community is open to pursuing litigation.

Peter: Our major concerns are not traffic or environment, but zoning. The facility is moving from the city to the rural area, it's an urban facility, it's spot zoning that violates KC Code and the comprehensive plan, we gave our comments to the KC Council and others, our comments are posted on our website, the KC Executive office is doing a 3-month trade study as part of a 6-month moratorium. MV rezoned the previous area because they did not want the asphalt plant located there.

???: One Issaquah member was a personal friend of Lakeside's owner, they're using a strong-arm approach, Reagan Dunn's office let us know that the public comment period is still open, a lot of community members left feeling the meeting was rigged.

Rhys: FYI, according to the assessor's office, Debra Merlini is the owner of that stretch of buildings where the MV Market is located.

???: Question regarding vacant lots turning into apartments, is that here or in MV?

Susan: I heard 200 apartments, commercial spaces, etc. will be going in.

Peter: City of MV has public meetings every two weeks, they're doing something about development because it's out of control.

New Member Interviews: 9:20

Rhys: Would like to begin by first introducing ourselves
(Members introduced selves)

Rhys: We're all different but we work together, our power is our voice, members have dedicated a lot of time on issues, we get involved, have forums, invite speakers, etc. Hopefully this is a means to represent the UA in the Tahoma school district, members are expected to do some work, we hopefully do some good things. Next we want to hear about you.

(Prospective members introduced selves)

Rhys: FYI, to be a voting member, must live within the Tahoma school district and outside the city of MV.

Warren: Even if not in the area, you can still serve on committees.

Peter: Commitment time varies, it depends on the committee.

Steve: Meetings are once a month for the full council, plus maybe two committee meetings.

Peter: Most committee work done over e-mail now.

Warren: We on the council do not support housing development, but we do support drilling wells on lots.

Adam: But there is no litmus test, not everyone agrees on everything.

Rhys: Please leave for a few minutes for deliberations.

(Council deliberated)

Hank moved to accept all five prospective members, Peter seconded.

Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Transportation:

Peter: We're working on Vision 2040, would like council permission to send comments when they're finished.

Hank moved permit the Transportation Committee to submit comments, Rhys seconded.

Motion passed

Chair adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned - 9:59 pm