
Greenhorn Creek Community Services District

A Firewise Community

December 1, 2023

There will be a Special Meeting of the Greenhorn Creek Community Services District on December 11, 2023 at the Fire Hall. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm.

As many of you are aware, the Greenhorn Creek volunteer fire department is at risk of becoming inactive due to lack of trained personnel and the resignation of our fire chief.

On October 19th, the Board of the Community Services District received the resignation of Tyson Rael, our current fire chief. His resignation is effective on December 31st.

We are sad to see Tyson move on. His skills and service to Greenhorn over the past 10 years, both as Fire Chief and as General Manager, have done so much for this community. His boots will be very hard to fill under any circumstance.

We are fortunate to be able to offer employment to Anthony Campbell to fill the position of General Manager for the water system. Anthony is well qualified and has experience with managing a District water system in the County. It is anticipated that he will start shortly after the beginning of the year.

As of the date of this letter, we have had no applicants for the position of Fire Chief. The loss of our fire department would be devastating for the Greenhorn community with much longer response times during emergencies. This could also impact the ability of homeowners to obtain fire insurance. Keep in mind that fire services include structural fire protection, first responder/emergency medical response as well as coordination of wildland fire response if necessary.

But it is the lack of volunteers in general that has resulted in this potential crisis.

A Few Things to Consider:

1. The CSD Board is looking at options. **Adding a paid fire chief position might be an option, budget permitting, if it would help attract a candidate for the Fire Chief position.** Very few districts in the County have paid positions.

Merging the department with a neighboring fire department such as the Quincy Fire Protection District: Our firefighters currently train with Quincy Fire. The District has a full-time chief, Frank Carey, which makes this a logical choice. There is an existing mutual aid agreement with Long Valley Community Services District.

In considering any of these options, we must realize that we will still need firefighters to keep our station in Greenhorn active. There are currently 3 or 4 volunteer firefighters who have carried out this responsibility for years. We can't thank them enough.

2. **Recruiting more volunteers:** Becoming a volunteer firefighter involves a big commitment of time. There are certifications required, involving tests and training. The skills volunteer firefighters acquire will stay with them for life.
3. Most of us moved to the Greenhorn community to enjoy the rural lifestyle, with less politics and regulations. Greenhorn is a growing community. There are three very important things we do have to deal with from time to time:
 - **Fire Protection including structural fire protection and first responder/emergency response.** Our firefighters are called out to emergencies both inside the District, but also outside the District. For example, accidents on State Route 70.
 - **Water supply to homes and the Ranch, including hydrants for fire suppression.** Water systems must meet State testing and reporting requirements. The system is inspected by County Environmental Health every year. Repairs to the water lines, most of which are located in the roads, are made by the District. Many times contractors are hired by the District.
 - **Road maintenance and snow removal.** Provided by the two Road Associations; Unit 1 and Unit 2. Yearly fees are collected for each original lot in the subdivision as per CC&Rs. The CSD does not have authority over road maintenance or snow removal.
4. Many of us don't have the physical ability to fight fires, but have other skill sets to contribute. The CSD Board is having a difficult time meeting

a quorum for meetings due to two unfilled positions on the Board. The three existing Directors must all be present to have a legal meeting.

We are asking for your help as a community member moving forward. Everyone is busy. But if you are a leader (or want to be), maybe a good listener who wants to understand budget and finance, you are needed to help keep the local control that we all want.

Hope to see you on December 11th.

Rebecca Herrin

Rebecca Herrin

Greg Neal

Greg Neal

Amanda Higgins

Amanda Higgins

Greenhorn Creek Community Services District