

CCA Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2012

Present: 27 Carson area residents and 5 guests at Quonset, 3pm

The meeting started with old biz, followed by introductions of 5 guests: Rick Chavez, Taos Co. Road Superintendent, and Beverly Armijo, running for County Commission District 3, and her family.

Fire Dept: As of March 20th, we have 11 firefighters in the CVFD. The County Commissioners overwhelmingly approved our Fire Dept at the Commission Meeting and gave us many accolades on our incredible progress as a community. Four people have completed the First Responder Course, which is an 80-hour course. Eight people have been selected to train for the Wild Land Fire Fighting Course in Red River; 10 will actually attend. The “Adopt-A-Firefighter” program has reaped \$1050 from Carson residents to purchase boots.

Sharon Wilbur is currently working on writing grants for equipment and projects that could get us \$45,000. The cost of outfitting 1 volunteer is approximately \$2000. Both Sharon and Terry Wolff have spent daily time on the computer to forward the efforts of our FD. Terry announced that we also need to fill out Ojo Caliente FD forms, as well as Perma Forms. More forms will be coming from both the State and Federal gov'ts for FD info. Patrick Mallon raised the point that communication is a problem for areas such as Starr Community, Two Peaks, etc. Starr bought good radios, but they don't work because of the hills. Grants may be available for better radios, but we need to ensure they will work in that terrain. The CVFD area extends 5 miles outside of our district. A tanker will be located at Aaron Keske's in Two Peaks. The State Fire Marshall is primarily concerned with structure fires, while our primary concern is wild land fires. Chris Furr, from the National Forest Service in Tres Piedras, is planning a huge firebreak in Carson on the Forest Svc. Rd., west of our P.O. Two Peaks and Three Peaks should consider requesting a firebreak if they have not already done so.

Please create defensible space around your property: clear away dead brush, remove trees growing close to buildings, etc. If you are unable to do this physically or financially, the CVFD plans to organize a team to do this for you. Contact Art Wilbur: 751-0496. Taos County has a Firewise Community Summit. If we get in

this program, we will dramatically decrease our homeowners' insurance. Both Arroyo Seco and Questa are involved. For every item on their list that we complete, we earn points. The more points, the lower the cost of fire insurance. Neighbor helping neighbor. There is a great pamphlet, "Living With Fire" available for free at the Poco Loco General Store. Please pick one up and read it.

The West Rim MDWUA cannot put in a well in Carson as there are not enough members of the well association who live here. We would need 20-30 members. However, David Baca got us permission for a hydrant. We need to get a cost estimate. The State Fire Marshall's office has a technical drawing for one. David maintains the MDWUA's well. A hydrant would be less costly than a pump, as it can be set up to be gravity fed. There are currently 40 wells in Carson.

Roads: We need correct, county-recognized addresses for our Fire Dept and EMT. Please go down to the Planning Dept as soon as possible and tell them where you live. They will assign you a road # based on distance. This gets logged into the 911 directories. If you are avoiding this because you want to stay "secluded", think again- we are *all* on the GPS maps- don't kid yourself- just check out Google Earth to see an aerial view of where you live! People in Two Peaks and Three Peaks should also obtain official addresses. This is free and in your best interest should there ever be an emergency. Jennifer Smith at the Taos Planning Dept has assigned our FD's physical address as 518 Hwy 567, Carson, NM 87517. Official green and white road signs can be purchased for \$200, or we can erect our own for free, says Rick Chavez, Road Superintendent.

Rick has been very cooperative and gets things done. He explained that many of the problems with our South Carson Road are a result of it being too low due to grading over the years. The main issue is drainage problems due to erosion. Basically, the road needs to be built up with material from the sides, then built up more using pit run from the landfill, (which costs the county \$\$\$), then have culverts installed where necessary. While there are no funds/plans to improve our road to this degree, we will get culverts for boggy places if needed, and we will soon get an official "South Carson Road" sign by the Stop sign. The Road Dept officially changed the name from "Post Office Road" to "South Carson Road" last week. This is a "county maintained" road, not a "county owned" road. The county cannot widen a road unless an owner gives a simple deed w/ an easement to the County. However, we

can improve and widen the road for emergency vehicles without owner permission because we are now recognized as a VFD by Taos Co. Rick explained the typical progression of road development: a dirt road gets graded, and people drive faster and complain. Next, an application of pit run. People start driving even faster, creating more dust, holes, bumps, etc. Then, the road is improved with base course, generally used under pavement. People start driving faster still. Then, pavement gets applied. People drive as fast as they can. Then speed bumps get installed, along with speed enforcement. *In essence, the best way to keep our dirt road in good condition is to drive slowly, under 40 mph, which is also important because of people and pets walking along the road.* Rick encourages calls for road service, otherwise it's "outta sight, outta mind" as Taos County has over 326 miles of roads to maintain. Our district used to have only 50 miles of road to deal with, which, since the recent redistricting, it now has over 100 miles. Compliments are also welcomed. For Road Service, (grading), call 737-6470, (best), or Rick's cell: 779-9501. For *complaints* call Art Wilbur first: 751-0496 or 770-7280 as he may be able to resolve it. Shepherders' Road and Flagg Road in Two and Three Peaks, respectively, need work. Mile-markers for the West Rim Road are scheduled to be installed. None for South Carson Rd. All the more reason to have clearly marked addresses for emergencies. We need "\$300 fine for littering" signs here, as some people seem to think it's okay to freely throw trash out on the road.

County Commissioners: Beverly Armijo, who is running for Commission District 3, came to our meeting with her family. She came to find out how she can help us if elected. She is very impressed with us; with our FD and with our Community Center- she remembers meeting in Bob Logue's garage not too long ago. Her primary concern is about youth and parks, but she also realizes people in the outskirts of Taos, such as Carson, etc., are often the forgotten people. She has worked for 5 different County Managers and has worked for the County on and off for 16 years. In response to a question from Rob Hughes as to how to generate awareness about Carson, Beverly suggested we invite all the different County Commissioners regularly to attend our CCA meetings. Beverly likes to help others, and stresses the importance of everyone remembering to keep the government involved, which reminds officials they are elected to *help* us, not elected to take over. District 3 includes Carson, Talpa, Ranchos, Llano, S. Las Cordovas, Cordillera, Pot Creek, Tres Piedras, Pilar, and Ojo- everything west of the Rio Grande. Beverly

lives in Talpa. There are a total of 5 Districts and 5 Commissioners in Taos County. Beverly gave accolades to Rick Chavez for his commitment to getting things done as the Road Superintendent. Noreen Perrin asked how Beverly would vote on the Martinez decision if she were elected. Beverly responded that she would need to look at all sides of the issue, which she has not. The problem is that the proposed restaurant is too close to a church in Ranchos. Even though there used to be a liquor store in the vicinity, once such a license has been expired for over 6 months, the process needs to be reinstated. Gerry Boxberger had high praise for Beverly as he has known her for a long time and knows she helps communities. She has also been a county employee and has always been involved in community activities. She was instrumental in getting people back on the Taos Plaza; volunteer bands, etc. She also helped organize care packages and letters for "Operation Desert Storm" and had a gathering upon the troops' return. She has acted as a volunteer coordinator and is active in helping the elderly. She will always help communities whether elected or not. Terry Wolff brought up the issue of what it would take to get our FD as a voting precinct. We would need to go to the County Commission and the County Clerk. It would depend on the number of people registered to vote. Both Art and Gerry encouraged people to get out and vote for local candidates this upcoming election, as these are the people who can affect us to the largest extent.

Taos Amateur Radio Station: is revised and interested in getting more folks involved. If interested call Rick Chavez: 779-9501.

Thanks to Roy Smith, Jordan Agee, and Brett Bower for putting a new roof on our CCA Storage Shed with the Propanel Rob Hughes graciously donated.

Treasurer's Report: Elisabeth Maier stated our current balance is \$3587.47. We received \$250 today for firefighters' boots.

Highway 567 Trash Pick-Up Party: Saturday, May 12, 9am - noon. Convene at Poco Loco General Store. Wilburs will supply trash bags. Free pizza to follow for all who show up and help.

CCA Summer Fair Meeting: Sunday, April 29th, 1pm, Quonset. Please come and help organize!

Meeting adjourned 4:43pm. Total meeting time 1h:43m