



Middle River Community Service District

Road Report - February 19, 2022

Prior to our December weather we had put out a request for any neighbors with equipment to help if we needed it. Well we had a heavy rain before Christmas and a heavy snow the day after. With the use of tractors provided by Cliff Jepsen, Jim Delap and Zack Russi we cleared some of the snow on our roads. I need to give a big shout out to Josh Noble for the work he did on Barney Way. During my working career I have been around a lot of contractors who operated Bob Cats and never seen any of them who were better than Josh. This young man and his machine are like one. We also had a few limbs down thank you Rudy Gonzalez for taking care of the limb on Fay. Thanks to all the neighbors who came out in bad weather to help. I don't know what kind of weather is coming the rest of this year but I do know if we pull together as neighbors we can handle anything.

I had a chance to drive on all our roads, a few weeks ago, and like always more rock is needed. We could be looking at \$3000 in rock. We still need to pull all the ditches and that could be another \$3000. We need eight to ten culverts cleared, don't know what that cost could be, maybe near \$2000. After our May meeting I will get out and check our asphalt roads for needed work. I will check our fire exit road for maintenance work.

Talking about our fire exit road Jan Jepsen has written a reminder that will be part of our web-site so all might know about it. A couple months ago we put together a committee to review and update our by-laws. The committee was Joe Nunes, Jan Jepsen, Robin Heinrich and myself. These by-laws are important to all of us and we will need one or two more meetings before we give our updates to our Board members for review. If our Board members are ok with the recommendations a copy will be sent out to all property owners who have given an email address. The Board President, at our May meeting, will ask for any comments on the by-laws and then take a vote for Board approval. My thanks to Robin Heinrich who had a friend put together a rough copy we are working with now.

I received a LAFCO report on CSDs. They are required by law to review all CSDs and make a report once every five years. This report had all the information on all eight CSDs in Calaveras County. What I found out is that all bring in more money than we do. That needs to change!! \$13,000 these days will not do the job that is needed. I also found out that a law put out some time ago says that all CSDs must have a web-site. How lucky for us that Josh Peterson has moved into our neighborhood. With his guidance ours should be the best. It is a work in progress that will get better and better as time goes by. LAFCO also had a zoom meeting two week ago that I zoomed in on. They will be having a CSD workshop in March meant to bring us all up to speed.

For a long time now I have been wanting to reactivate our neighborhood watch. Two weeks ago the sheriff, who is a friend, had a meeting in this building about crime in our city and the need for all to start a neighborhood watch. I will try to get the sheriff's department to set ours back up. Jan Jepsen has volunteered to have signs made.

I have been getting reports of speeders and loud noises late at night. I think most forget we live in a canyon where voices, auto noise and music travel far. Please be thoughtful. One of the pleasures of living here is to have peace and quiet in the evenings. I have been told by the sheriff we can take pictures of any new vehicles that cause problems and he will take care of it. If the speeding continues I will press for speed bumps, another expense.

It's my hope by next year if we have more money to work with and we can start doing a chip-n-seal on our rock roads yes OUR rock roads. I am asking the Board at this meeting to approve \$10,000 for this years road maintenance. I am also asking the Board, at the end of my report, to increase the wage we pay for labor from \$15.00 To \$18.00 per hour. Yes it is a little above the minimum wage but the work here is more difficult than flippin burgers.

Folks, I care about this neighborhood and all the folks who live in it. I care about the young men who live here and always help when we need it. I think this is the best neighborhood in the County so let's be good neighbors and try to help each other when needed. The rest of the world has gone crazy, this is our world right here. When we hit highway 26 we enter the twilight zone.

State law and LAFCO considers what I do as a General Manager. I volunteered for this job and the Board approves or disapproves any request I might make for road maintenance. I don't give a damn about State or LAFCO laws. I care about the neighborhood I live in. I am getting up in age now so with that being said I would like to turn my job over to anyone who would like to volunteer for it, please let me know. It is also a LAFCO requirement that every Board have Five members. I really don't care if this Board has 3 or 20 members so If you would like to volunteer to be a Board member please contact me or Tony Lucero.

A copy of the road report and minutes of the meeting will be sent out to all neighbors who have provided their email address. In the coming months I will be going out to every house to meet people and update our information sheets that are outdated and I am looking forward to seeing you all.

I will close my report by thanking all of you who always volunteer. You are what I think makes a neighborhood great and folks remember the people who sit on this Board are volunteers. I thank you Board members for your service. I am now asking this Board for a motion to approve or disapprove \$10,000 for this year's road maintenance and for a labor hourly increase to \$18.00 per hour.

Thank you,

Ken Bender, Road Manger
209-660-0035