

**LEONA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES FOR GENERAL MEETING, DEC. 14, 2009**

**MEETING OPENED:** by President Suzy Love at 7:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Suzy Love, Mike Waters, Larry Tyler, Bill Elliott and Chuck Fluharty

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes for the previous meeting were presented. Revisions: Bill Elliott was not present at the Nov. meeting to be installed, Alice Benoit was asked to write a letter supporting the Supervisor requesting undergrounding of power lines. Motion to approve with revisions moved by Larry Tyler, seconded Suzy Love, approved by voice vote. There was discussion as to why the minutes were being read. They will be posted on the website and board members will have five days to read and amend. They will be read at the future meetings by the secretary Larry Tyler. Larry presented a motion for the formation of a Town Council Support Committee presently composed of Christine Stoddard for Minutes and Juanita Kirkpatrick for Auditor, seconded by Bill Elliott, approved by voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was read. There was one amendment noted by Larry Tyler. Motion to approve with amendment moved by Bill Elliott, seconded by Larry Tyler, approved by voice vote. Chuck Fluharty asked what the Mary Ann Floyd Memorial Fund was. After discussion a decision was made that a flyer, with information and asking for further funds, be distributed at Otto's/Jackie's and Rancher's. The Fund Committee (Richard Thomas, Lana Seymour and Juanita Kirkpatrick) is to be asked to come to the next meeting and give an update. Moved by Bill Elliott, seconded by Larry Tyler.

**AGENDA:**

**Presidents Comments:** There was a presentation of Appreciation Plaques to previous council members. Norm Hickling also presented awards from the Supervisor which Alice accepted. Norm then installed Bill Elliot to the council. Bill had been absent from the previous meeting when the other members installed.

There was discussion of a proposed time change for council meetings. Saturday mornings are unavailable. After discussion it was decided to keep the meetings on Mondays with an earlier start at 7 p.m. Motion to make the move came from Bill Elliott, seconded by Larry Tyler, approved by voice vote.

There was discussion about the inclusion of Leona Valley in the Antelope Valley watershed on a State of California map. A judicial decision in 2002 had included Leona Valley in the Santa Clara River watershed precluding Palmdale from access the Leona Valley watershed. Alice will write a letter to the state regarding this.

**Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Strategic Alliance Presentation:** Rosie Daggett from the Alliance made a Power Point presentation of a history of oak woodlands, their habitat, importance and use. The group is trying to develop an Oak Woodland Management Plan which could become part of the County General Plan currently in the process of being overhauled. For information on the proposal go to [www.lacountyoakwoodlandplan.org](http://www.lacountyoakwoodlandplan.org), to make suggestion or for information email [lacooak@gmail.com](mailto:lacooak@gmail.com). Bouquet Canyon and Green Valley would appear to be the closest areas with oak woodlands. Most Oak Woodlands funds under present ordinances come from fines for violations.

**Rancher's CUP:** Larry announced that a letter had been written to support the extension of the CUP for Rancher's Market's Wine and Beer license. Copies had been emailed to all council members for approval. Only receiving a couple of acknowledgments the letter was sent. There was discussion as to whether it was necessary or advisable for the council to have sent the letter. The audience as polled and no hands raised against the move. No council support was shown for a CUP that includes hard liquor. Bill Elliott acknowledged that the letter should probably not have been organized and gone out as it did.

**Water Rates:** A recent meeting organized by Larry Tyler and Chuck Fluharty to rouse community interest in the proposed Cal Water rate increase of 138 percent over three years (2011,2012, 2013) was very poorly attended. There was discussion as to whether the council would take a stand on leading a fight against the increase and whether the council should spend funds to seek legal aid. Bill Elliott made a motion for the Town Council to start a legal defense fund. The motion passed 3-2. Mike Waters and Bill Elliott voted nay. Chris Whitley, of Cal Water, noted that a CPUP team had been out recently to go over what was done after the previous rate increase and what was wanted in this request. Cal Water had, since July 2009, sent out two notices with bills and a separate mailing regarding the proposed increase. There is to be a Public Hearing on Thurs., Feb. 4, 2010 in the Lancaster High School Cafeteria. Bill stated, "A lot of legwork needs to be done before then." It was noted by a couple of audience members that some local lifestyles were changing because of utility costs, particularly water. Bill Elliott presented a motion that a Town Council seek to raise funds from the community to fight the water rate increase be matched by the council up to \$10,000, seconded by Chuck Fluharty, passed with one nay by Mike Waters. Several people in attendance presented \$100 each to support a fundraising effort. Chuck Fluharty is to head a committee to try one more meeting with a pep rally to try to get residents who will be affected by the increase involved in fighting it. Larry will see if Jan. 9, 2010, at 10 a.m. is available.

**Power Lines:** Alice Benoit reported that there is an ongoing collaborative process between committee members and lawyers and she will present more information at a later meeting.

**Agenda Items Tabled:** Further items on the agenda: Development Committee, Education/School Status, Old and New Business and Agenda Items for January Meeting were tabled to the next meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING:** Moved by Mike Waters, seconded by Larry Tyler, approved by voice vote at 9:30 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Christine Stoddard

(Over)

Revisions to minutes: THREE MINOR CORRECTIONS IN WATER RATE PARAGRAPH \_\_\_\_\_

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Motion to approve by: \_\_\_\_\_ Larry Tyler \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_ WITH CORRECTIONS UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 01/11/2010 \_\_\_\_\_