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Cedarpines Park



CedarPines Park Mutual Water Company

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2008 05:35 AM

The regularly scheduled board meeting on June 17 is starting at 6pm instead of 7pm at the community center as usual. It is open to the public for those interested in our local water issues.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Monday, June 16, 2008 06:37 AM

Or the annual shareholders meeting next month if you are interested in your source of water. 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 05:56 AM

If you are unable or not interested in attending the annual meeting next month, please assign your proxy to someone who will attend so we can conduct business. Two Directors terms expire so there will be an election. It is only a couple of hours on a Saturday, once a year. You are paying into the company which you own and should pay a bit of attention.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Sydney Grandpa (yensid)

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 10:20 AM

Ron,
 how do we do that? I will not be able to make do to my work schedule. I know I feel I know you enough to hold my Proxy.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: CPPMAGS

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 10:29 AM

Same situation here..you can vote my proxy, Ron.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 12:06 PM

Every shareholder should have received a proxy form and the annual water quality report in the past few days. If not, call the office and ask Terry to send you another one. This details the purpose of the annual meeting. If you wish to give me your proxy, just fill in the form and turn it in to Terry at the office in person or by mail. He will tally them at the beginning of the meeting to ascertain how many shares are represented to determine if we have a quorum or not. If you fill out the proxy and later find you can attend the meeting, you can revoke the proxy at the meeting when you sign in.

Thank you for the votes of confidence. Let me know if you have any specific questions or concerns I can address here or at the meeting on your behalf. Or you can go to our website:

<http://cppmwc.org/>

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: CPPMAGS

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 12:51 PM

OK...I'll check my mail and get it done.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 06:25 AM

There will be a special meeting on 7-1-08 at the usual time of 7PM at the usual place. One item agenda. The annual meeting is scheduled Saturday July 26 starting at 1:30 pm.

We need at least 2187 shares represented to have a quorum to conduct the important business of the company, such as the election of two directors whose terms are expiring. Your presence is needed or at the least your proxy assigned to someone who will be present to vote.

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about your water company, it's operations, it's policies, it's financial condition, rates, water quality, future plans, etc.

If you are aware of the problems other water companies face such as those serving Cedar Glen and Lake Arrowhead, you may want to help us steer a better course, as we have so

far, in my opinion.

Two hours of your time once a year is not too much to ask, is it?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Sydney Grandpa (yensid)

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 08:15 AM

Thank Ron

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2008 10:14 PM

Thanks for bumping this thread as I had already forgotten about it!!! We are scheduled to be out of town and will be unable to attend the meeting. Can someone recommend whom I use as our proxy?

kachinchar at aol dot com

Thanks!

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Friday, June 20, 2008 05:58 AM

If you do not know someone you trust, assigning your proxy to the company defaults to the Company Secretary who will vote his conscience on behalf of all proxies received without a specific name. Or you could attend the next meeting on July 1st and form an opinion based on your observations and questions. Meet your board members and then decide.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: CPPMAGS

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 04:08 AM

Ron, please e-mail me at cppmags@yahoo.com Silly me I need to fillout the proxy thing.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 07:21 PM

Done Mags.

Anyone else who would like to participate in the annual meeting by proxy or in person please fill out the form and turn it in to the office in advance of next months meeting. Each share represented at the meeting is one vote. You can assign your proxy to any shareholder or board member who will be present at that meeting. You may also assign it to the board by executing it and not designating a person. The proxy will be voted by the Corporate Secretary.

Board Member terms expiring = 2

Come and hear what trials and tribulations the Water Company is facing and the decisions that need to be made about planning for a dry future. Do we raise rates? Do we build a casino? 😊It's just a couple of hours a year to have a voice in the decisions that will be made by your board.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2008 08:22 PM

On a side note, I received my water bill today and just about fell over! Our average usage runs about 100 cubic feet per month. According to this new bill we have used (in the last 2 months) almost 19000 gallons (2587 cu.ft.) I have searched high and low for a leak... brand new house so I would be really mad, but nothing... not even a drip or a running toilet. I checked the meter to see if it was mis-read and it has gone up about a lil since the last reading... can anyone venture to guess what the heck is going on??

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2008 06:38 AM

A leak between the meter and your service may be hidden underground. A running toilet can be responsible. Sometimes contractors hook up to a convenient source, but that is a lot of water in one billing period. Call the company office and ask to have your service checked.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2008 06:40 AM

BTW: how far is a "lil"?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2008 02:07 PM

I can't remember the exact reading but it's enough for concern since we have been out of town! (I want to say its something like 200 cu ft?)

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2008 05:51 AM

So you have a discrepancy between the bill and the meter of over 2000 cubic feet? If so, when you call the office, they can send someone to read your meter and check the logged readings to pick that up.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 07:39 PM

The July 1 special meeting with one agenda item will not be held due to it becoming unnecessary. See you all at the annual meeting. 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:29 AM

Maybe you have been getting estimates on your bill up to now, and their just catching up. Terry will let you know. I have caught several contractors using neighbors water. (with and sometimes without permission) Hope you do not have a leak.

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 01:55 PM

Estimated bills are stamped as such.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

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Vacation Rentals & Golf Course Mammoth Lakes, CA.

www.SnowCreekResort.com

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From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 02:54 PM

Nope, not any previous estimated reads... I did call today and they are trying to get someone out here. *sigh* I am not sure what I will do if we have a leak....

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 05:48 PM

Dare I inquire about the usual response time for CPP water co to check out such potential issues?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:06 PM

There are personnel on 24 hour call. *If it is an emergency.* You didn't indicate time was of essence. Did Terry give you a timeframe?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:08 PM

We have a small staff and they hopefully are dealing with daily requirements. Loss of water is a big deal so should get a quick response. If it is described as a possible leak or something specific, I would hope the office would give you an idea what to expect.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:10 PM

On Call Services call (909) 338-1821 24/7

<http://cppmwc.org/>

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:44 PM

Whoever answered the phone was very helpful and understanding when I called at about 2:30 or so. She said that she would put in an order and send someone out ASAP. I called again at about 3:45 to ask about a time frame. She let me know that they had 2 orders out (including my own) and didn't know which would be first... I called the afternoon and left my name again at about 5:15... So I suspect I just wait?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2008 06:45 PM

Oh, I forgot to mention that I did see a truck drive by, slow and continue off at about 3:20

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2008 05:09 AM

If the truck that drove by was a CPPMWC truck, it seems unlikely that anything was checked. Is your house number clearly visible from the street? Let me know if this isn't resolved today.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2008 01:38 PM

I did finally get a phone call last night from a gentleman that stated he was here. He told me that the meter was fine and that water was passing through it so I must have left something running.

I called again about 1pm and spoke to the nice woman there and she has passed my account to the field manager for what to do next.

well see

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2008 01:41 PM

I will run a "water test" of my own later see if the meter changes from when I leave to Costco (which I have been holding off on going) to when I return...

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 06:06 AM

The annual meeting is scheduled Saturday July 26 starting at 1:30 pm.

We need at least 2187 shares represented to have a quorum to conduct the important business of the company, such as the election of two directors whose terms are expiring. Your presence is needed or at the least your proxy assigned to someone who will be present to vote.

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about your water company, it's operations, it's policies, it's financial condition, rates, water quality, future plans, etc.

If you are aware of the problems other water companies face such as those serving Cedar Glen and Lake Arrowhead, you may want to help us steer a better course, as we have so far, in my opinion.

Two hours of your time once a year is not too much to ask, is it?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Rhondalee

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 12:39 PM

To: Roncpp

Hi Ron, I just wanted to let you know that I am going to mail my proxy naming you to vote for the 3 shares we have at the shareholders meeting. Hope that's o.k. If not, please let me know here asap on this thread. Thanks.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 05:02 PM

I don't mind at all. It requires no more effort to vote 5 shares or 5000 shares. It just has more impact! 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 06:33 AM

This Saturday folks. Be there or be square. 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 11:51 AM

Ron - are we able to drop off our proxy form at the water co? We will not be able to make the meeting 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 11:55 AM

Yes. Drop them off with Terry or through the mail slot as soon as possible. He has to have time to tally them to determine if we have a quorum of shares represented.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: No0thrButMe

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 12:02 PM

I'll have it there tomorrow!

Thanks

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 01:31 PM

Attention: Shareholders of Cedarpines Park Water Company. The letter you received advising you of the annual meeting for all shareholders and board members did not mention the regular board meeting that will be held this Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. It is important that all shareholders attend both meetings.

Ron, could I please have the name of the independent third party that validates and counts the proxy's?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 03:41 PM

The last time a quorum was reached was the early 1980's. Giving a Board Member such as Roncpp your proxy helps how??? If a quorum is not reached the board gets all the votes anyway. Unless Ron is expecting to vote independently of the Board. If you do not want the board making the decisions then give your proxy to someone outside of the Board. I happen to like and respect our Board, I just did not understand your thinking...

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 04:25 PM

The secretary of the board I believe has the responsibility and Terry, the office manager tallys them to determine if we have a quorum.

The point of giving anyone your proxy is to make a quorum possible. Over 2000 shares must be represented. The exact number is posted earlier in the thread. If you send in your proxy to the company without designating a shareholder who is present to exercise them, they default to the Secretary of the Board.

The point is to have as many shares represented as possible. Since historically most don't show up or assign their proxies to anyone, we fail to achieve a quorum and no official business can be conducted as provided in our bylaws, the meeting then becomes an informational meeting and questions are answered and the President gives a synopsis of the years activities and pending issues.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

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Vacation Rentals & Golf Course Mammoth Lakes, CA.
www.SnowCreekResort.com

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 04:41 PM

If there is a quorum represented, an election will be conducted to fill the vacancies. If not the board will fill the positions. The choice belongs to the shareholders of the company if they chose to accept the responsibility. If they wish to give their proxy to anyone who also holds at least one share, they can, for any reason.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 04:53 PM

My question was why give the proxy to a Board Member? If a quorum is not reached the Board gets to vote how they wish anyway. Is redundant the right word? Hey Ron, go see my bear pic on It could happen....

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 05:02 PM

Sunny: the board is comprised of individuals. Some have expressed confidence in assigning their proxies to me. That is not redundant. When the individual board members vote they cast one vote on any issue as a board member, not the number of shares they hold. If a board member holds 1000 shares of proxies, that would only count as a thousand votes if there was a quorum and they were voted as assigned. Is that clear or should I try harder? 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 05:25 PM

Adding a happy face at the end of you being a Jerk does not take away from the fact you just acted like a jerk 😊

It is my understanding that if a quorum is not reached that all proxies are null and void. Then, you just vote as a board, and your vote counts as one vote per board member. Now, try and answer nice... I really want to know. Did you like my bear pic?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 05:00 AM

I was not being a jerk, but merely trying to answer your question. I still don't know if I succeeded. Now *you* are being a jerk. Yes, the bear picture was impressive.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 05:07 AM

The purpose of establishing a quorum is to permit the conduct of the business of the annual meeting. The number of shares represented by those in attendance determines if a quorum is represented. The votes of shares is for the purpose of electing officers, ratifying actions of the board and possibly others I haven't thought of.

The proxies are void of quorum is not present. So the board is then left to it's only option of conducting the business of the company without the participation of the shareholders as expressed in an annual meeting.

As has been stated, it has been a while since there were enough interested participants to

conduct our business in this manner. The past boards have strived to overcome this problem and have not had any success. Perhaps someone will attend Saturday who has a solution? Or perhaps more shareholders will have assigned their proxies to someone this time to permit a quorum? We'll see on Saturday.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 08:51 AM

Let me first apologize for my part. I really don't think you are a jerk but you appeared demeaning in your tone.

You confirmed the point I was trying to make and that is, giving your proxy to a board member is a redundant act unless your expecting that board member carry some action contrary to the rest of the board.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 11:09 AM

It has been the custom of the board to provide a luncheon for themselves, their spouses and employees after the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. The luncheon is held at the office of the water company. If you want to see what a portion of your high water bill is paying for you should be sure to stop by after the 10:30 a.m. meeting.

I would think that would be a conflict of interest when you do not have an independent third party to validate the fact that the people returning a proxy are actually a homeowner, not a renter and how many shares they have = the number of votes they have to turn over. Since the secretary is a board member and your Terry works for you I can see conflict all over the place. A neat little set up.

My answer to your question about what should the board do if a quorum is not reached---- Well, since this board has found a cash cow and the folks that own property don't seem to care they should continue to do exactly what they have been doing for years.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 01:45 PM

Eagle: You seem to be misinformed on a number of issues. I'm not sure what kind of "cash cow" you allude to but the company operates under a set of bylaws that conform to the California Corporations Code. All meetings are open to the public except when personnel issues are discussed during an executive session. There are two attorneys on the board and another attorney who represents a number of shareholders before the board and is proactive in company operations. Board Members are volunteers from among the shareholders and our compensation is \$50 per meeting and some free cookies. In exchange we provide quite a few hours outside the meetings reviewing financials, discussing issues, auditing operations and additional effort in committees formed to explore options on behalf of the board. This is the first I've heard about a free lunch, but I'm the newest member and this is my first annual meeting as a board member. I never dreamed that My several hours on Saturday Morning and the several more hours in the afternoon during the annual meeting and the following business meeting would be rewarded by a free lunch. Now I'm really glad I volunteered. 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 01:50 PM

Mostly Sunny: I still think you are missing the primary purpose of giving your proxy to anyone. That is to achieve a quorum. If every shareholder showed up for the meeting there would be no need for proxies. If enough showed up to achieve a quorum, there would be no need for proxies. One other purpose might be to speak on behalf of those whose proxies are held to add weight to a particular view on some issue. If a shareholder with 5 shares and 500 proxies representing 2000 shares spoke up, it would seem to be a weighty argument on behalf of the position to be taken.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 01:54 PM

Regarding Eagle's characterization of our water bills being high, perhaps that is the best reason to attend Saturday's meeting? If you think our bills are high, you should acquaint yourself with the cost of operating our little company and how our rates compare to the other purveyors on the mountain. Come and ask questions and tell us how we can do better. That is the purpose of attending any meeting. You don't have to await the annual meeting if you have a concern or gripe. That's why I have been at many meetings over the years.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: MostlySunny

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 02:13 PM

I say with all the BS the Board has to put up with (I have been to those meetings) They deserve a lot more than a free lunch.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 02:23 PM

Is that a motion? 😊

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 03:59 PM

Out of curiosity I called the office and asked about this lavish spread that is "traditionally" held every year for employees, families, et al. I am now informed there will be an assortment of finger foods, the usual cookies, water and soda, since some of us will be there virtually all day. It is not the big spread reported here and is not open to all employees, families and board members at some large, unstated cost to the company shareholders.

I am happy to clear that up for you Eagle, but now I will have to go back to my original plan, which was to take a break and run some errands between meetings.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Friday, July 25, 2008 01:55 PM

The annual meeting is scheduled Saturday July 26 starting at 1:30 pm.

We need at least 2187 shares represented to have a quorum to conduct the important business of the company, such as the election of two directors whose terms are expiring. Your presence is needed or at the least your proxy assigned to someone who will be present to vote.

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about your water company, its operations, its policies, its financial condition, rates, water quality, future plans, etc.

If you are aware of the problems other water companies face such as those serving Cedar Glen and Lake Arrowhead, you may want to help us steer a better course, as we have so far, in my opinion.

Two hours of your time once a year is not too much to ask, is it?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2008 07:09 AM

Regular monthly Board meeting starts at 10:30 am today (Saturday)

1:30 pm: Annual Shareholders Meeting in the CPP Community Room (voting venue)

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: panga1949

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 06:55 AM

Ron

Was the water board meeting in CPP well attended? Were elections held?

Ed

"the way of one water company may be the way of others"

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 03:12 PM

We did not have a quorum. I think the number of shares represented was just over 400. More than last year but insufficient to conduct an election. We had a full room and it was a productive day starting with the regular meeting at 10:30.

The sumptuous meal consisted of sandwiches, cookies, water and sodas and all who were there were welcome to indulge. No employees or families in evidence other than Terry Mabile, but he was working.

We have some big issues to deal with and costly projects we will be required to fund in the near future. Next regular meeting will be 8/19 at 7PM.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: CP_Maynard

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 04:31 PM

Ron, glad to hear you are on the board. Thank you for your service. If you look at any organization here on the mountain, you will see it is always a core group of the same people, time and again, that make things happen. I have had the pleasure of meeting Ron and know a little about his background. Ron and Lion took me on a dirt bike ride up Monument Peak. Anyone that has read his posts knows he is intelligent and cares about our community. I am signing my proxy off to Ron until he pisses me off.

Steve Ferrera

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Monday, July 28, 2008 04:44 PM

That shouldn't take long. ☺ We will have to consider rate increases in the near future to address some urgent needs. The discussion is how much and how soon to avoid situations we should anticipate. Isn't that vague phrasiology? Come to the next meeting if interested. Otherwise I'll be happy to try to answer any questions here, on the phone or in person.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

Local Nannies

Avoid high nanny placement fees. Sittercity has your perfect nanny!

Sittercity.com/Nanny

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From: Eagle

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 08:51 PM

I am sorry I did not get back to this blog before the board meeting.

My question about the conflict of interest was not addressed.

1. Who mailed out the voting materials and made sure they went to the OWNERS of the property not the renters? The property OWNER is the only one that should vote their shares or sign a proxy.

2. Who verified the number of shares recorded on the proxies was correct? A board member or employee? There must be an independent person to verify this.

3. Who counted the votes? If this was done by a board member or employee again, there should have been an independent person to verify every step of the process. If the verification process is done correctly then the board would not be questioned. The independent person should not be a friend or relative of any board member or employee.

I did not say anything about a "lavish spread", "large unstated cost" or "big spread" those are your words. In the past a luncheon was provided for board members, employees and family members in attendance. It's a long day when the board meets at 10:30 a.m. then has the annual meeting in the early afternoon. It's also a long day for the shareholders that attend both meetings. I feel that if lunch is offered to some in attendance then it should be offered to the shareholders as well.

The board members receive \$50.00 per meeting. I know that is not much and does not come close to compensating you for your time and efforts. My dictionary has a definition of volunteer as being "a person that performs a service willingly and without being paid". I do not receive nor do I expect to receive any compensation for the volunteer work I do. Yes, I spend hours outside of the board meeting doing things for the board. I do not even get the "usual cookies" you speak of. I would not put myself out there as a volunteer if I expected compensation. It is my understanding that the position that you "volunteered" for had other applicants just as there were other applicants for last Saturday's meeting. You must be either appointed or voted onto the board. Since the current board has all the power they appoint anyone they wish. That is why it is so very important for shareholders to get involved to see exactly what is going on.

I am not sure if your reference to having two attorneys on the board is meant to make us believe everything is being done in a legal manor. I have worked with attorneys and law enforcement most of my life so I know that just because someone is a lawyer or cop does not make them upstanding citizens. I don't know if these guys are or not but it would be best to keep all the checks and balances in place so that no one can come along and say something different.

My reference to a cash cow and your statement of the high expenses seem to go hand and hand. For example how much does your part time field manager make per hour? Is this the same field manager that was employed by another local water company that could not provide enough water to the fire department to keep many, many homes in that community from being burned to the ground? What is his attitude toward the homes in CPP? If a fire does occur will there be enough water to save our homes throughout the CPP water district? Is there a home being built for one of your employees who can't have any property in his name because of problems with the IRS, yet he has access to all the funds in the CPP water company. Just how much does that employee make per year and why is he so busy he has to have an assistant? Have CPP water trucks been seen at a known local drug dealer's residence on a regular basis? Why did the company change where they were getting fuel to a much more expensive station that is further away? These are just a few questions to ponder. I know you will say they are old news but they are things that are unresolved and every shareholder should be concerned enough about them to attend every meeting learn what is going on and vote!

The water rates in the CPP water district are the highest in the area. Now you want to raise them more! I think the shareholders should consider turning this company over to another water district, perhaps Crestline. After all the entire board is comprised of "volunteers" that only make \$50.00 per meeting.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 06:26 AM

I know you will say they are old news but they are things that are unresolved and every shareholder should be concerned enough about them to attend every meeting learn what is going on and vote!

Clairvoyance and being unaware of several answers to some of your questions indicate two extremes in your viewpoint. Some of the issues you cite have been discussed at the annual meeting and the regular meetings and some are being resolved. Reading the minutes would give you some of this information and attending the meetings and asking your questions would take care of the rest.

Specifically, in response to your statement that our rates are the highest on the mountain, several shareholders who have actually surveyed the other companies refute that statement. In a recently completed audit by the arm of the USDA which monitors the company for compliance with their requirements, stated, among other requirements, we need to raise our rates.

The discussion at the meetings included some details of specific projects that have been under study by our engineers for some time. Our challenge is to determine where the funds will come from to address these capital projects and the priorities.

And finally, if your agenda includes advocacy for allowing another entity to take over our assets and the management of the company, you will have to make that case on your own. You have raised important issues, but none of them have been ignored and you are apparently not current on several of them.

It has been proposed in the past that VOE would be willing to get access to our wells for the benefit of their ratepayers but they were unwilling to compensate us for them. Why would that be a good deal for us? Do you really think it is a good idea to give away nearly \$5 million dollars of our shareholders property without compensation? As for another entity taking us over for any reason, perhaps you can lay out some justifications we have not considered in open meetings? The changes in management in some other companies should be a factor which might discourage consideration of such a move. There are other ways to enhance our position to achieve some long term goals.

So I suggest *you* attend the meetings and ask your questions. Once you are current on where we are on the issues you raise, perhaps you can provide input in some form other than allegations?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 06:38 AM

My definition of volunteer includes those who willingly take on responsibility not required of them and reimbursement on any level doesn't invalidate that sacrifice. One obvious example is our volunteer armed forces. You believe the fact that our military members getting paid makes them something other than volunteers?

The \$50 stipend was not a factor in my volunteering to assume this role. The fact that few would even consider doing it is a more relevant factor. Some boards pay their members. We do not have the funds to do so and without shareholders stepping up, the company would be worse off. Giving up control of our water company to others is not an option in my opinion. Others may disagree.

I have one vote as a board member and 5 votes for my shares in the company. I will do my best to make sure the company continues to provide high quality water to our community, maintains fireflow capability for emergencies and that the company is managed efficiently and honestly. I believe that is the only reason the other members are willing to take the time required to contribute to our mutual interests.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: CP_Maynard

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 03:16 PM

Ron - What are the major projects that have been identified? What percentage of a rate increase may be necessary?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 03:35 PM

There are several on the list and we just got some estimates this last week. One of the projects is establishing an additional connection on the east end of the district with CLAWA. This would provide us with higher capacity to replenish the system when unusual events occur. Estimated cost \$350k. We just got a reply from CLAWA to our inquiry and they want \$4000+ to cover their engineering costs.

The other major project is the Sawpit tank site. It was damaged by heavy runoff in the rains of 2004/05 and the Engineers have been studying the site all this time. We just got a preliminary finding which has determined the site is unstable and the existing tanks needed to be drawn down to 50% of capacity immediately to reduce the risk of failure. Both tanks which are 180,000 gallons of our system capacity will have to be removed. We will have to determine if the site can or should be rehabilitated before rebuilding the tanks or finding another site to build a replacement for the site. Estimated cost %500k. Then there is the ongoing replacement of existing meters and equipment. We currently are losing about 20% of our water to leakage we have not located. This huge project can cost another \$350k.

The challenge now is to evaluate how much of this we can do and how quickly. We have to raise rates in any case to offset operating costs which have risen over time since the last increase. We have spent money developing new sources of water and maintaining the existing system. The engineering studies and the development of a modified water plan which will give us a blueprint for long term planning and to maintain our certification to continue in business has been in the works for a while.

So ongoing operations and the special projects represents a lot of money. Some can be borrowed as we did for the system upgrade performed a few years ago. But long term debt has to be serviced by revenue from the sale of water and/or the membership fees assessed. How it will shake out is to be determined. It will be a top priority in the near term to determine what we should do and how. But soon is the timetable.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 03:42 PM

The concern I have for those who think simply surrendering our assets to another company is that a change of ownership will not change the need for these projects to be completed. Our water is the most consistent source on this mountain. We are one of the few companies who own wells and storage sufficient to meet all of our needs except in dry periods. We have CLAWA when we need them but that source is not assured. If snail darters prevail up north our allocation could be cut. This is worse for those other companies who already depend on CLAWA year round due to lack of well capacity and/or storage.

Can you imagine surrendering \$5,000,000 in assets to another company, watching them hook up and start sucking our water into their system and then sending us a bill for their trouble?

We can control our own fate if we can demonstrate competent operation of the company. It is the little companies that cut corners and end up in trouble that get taken over. The large companies will only do this if there are water sources they can assume control of. That is the primary reason this "solution" keeps popping up.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 03:58 PM

I suspect some of our shareholders do not realize they own the company and they are paying "cost plus" to ensure they have clean water coming from their taps anytime they want it. This has some impact on the value of our homes.

If we lived in Cedar Glen, can you imagine the disclosures about bankrupt owners, missing funds, defective pipes and a need for the county to take over, rebuild the system and assess every property owner for the cost of doing so?

Selling a home over there has to be far harder than here. At least to those who are used to taking water for granted. "What do you mean you don't know how much the water will cost or how much the bond debt service will be?"

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From: Rhondalee

Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2008 09:02 PM

Ron of cpp water co: I used to get the minutes of each meeting of the board. Then they stopped sending them. As a shareholder I would really like to receive them again. I have written to them (included in my check for water payment), but never have gotten a response. Please let me know how I can receive them again. Thank you for your help.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Friday, August 8, 2008 06:26 AM

Call Terry in the office. He has a mailing list for the minutes. If you can go in personally you can review past minutes as well.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Friday, August 8, 2008 06:27 AM

They will be available on the website at some point as well. I'm not sure of the timeframe, but our intention is to make the minutes and agenda available online for all to see.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: panga1949

Sent: Friday, August 8, 2008 06:55 AM

Ron;

Posting the minutes of the water board meetings is a great way to let the sun shine in. I for one would opt for the same at our VOEMWC. Maybe even keep track of the use of company trucks and other equipment using simple gps attachment. Or the cell phones provided by the company likely have gps.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 03:44 PM

Regular board meeting next Tuesday at 7pm in the community meeting room.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Friday, August 15, 2008 06:16 PM

Please all homeowners attend the next board meeting Tuesday August 19 at 7:00 p.m. Ask the board some of the questions posted here. Ron, are you now the vice president? Why the position changes?

My "agenda" as you call it is to question things that are going on within the CPP water company not to have any assets taken over by anyone. I have read the minutes and how do you know that I have not attended any meetings? My "other agenda" is to point out some inconsistencies so others will become aware of them and interested in their water company.

As I stated these questions are UNRESOLVED. Just because they might be mentioned at a meeting does not mean appropriate action has been taken. Why do you fail to address all of the unresolved issues?

I think you are playing word games with me. When I say the water in CPP is the highest on the mountain I am talking about the bottom line amount that has to be paid to the water company each billing period. I think the WATER price is in line. It's all your added "extras" that make the bills the highest on the mountain. Why does each and every home in CPP have to pay a meter charge of \$33.92 six times per year? The cost of a meter is only \$30 to \$40 each. The meter lasts 10+ years so that is \$203.52 per year times over 2,000 homes so we are at about 1/2 a million dollars for meter charges per year and they only have to be replaced every 10 to 20 years. Do the math! What about the membership fee of \$27.60 six times per year. Over 2,000 homes there is another 1/2 million with nothing to be replaced! New homes are charged several thousand dollars to hook into the CPP water lines and have a meter set up. You folks now want to raise the rates?

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Gemini

Sent: Friday, August 15, 2008 07:57 PM

Sounds like the CPP water company learned a few tricks from LACSD on how to rip off ratepayers.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 05:39 AM

My observation was based on your failing to include outcomes of issues which have been dealt with during meetings. It's true not all issues are resolved but are in progress.

As for charges such as meter charges, they do not reflect the cost of an individual meter but are a class of charge used to cover operating expense which includes ongoing maintenance and replacement of infrastructure, including meters. We have 3 categories of revenue as I understand it. Sale of shares, meter charges (actually membership charges) and consumption. All three go into the coffers to run the company. The financials are public.

As for my position, there was an election conducted by the board as provided by the bylaws in the absense of a quorum at the annual meeting. Terms expire, board members express their wishes and decisions are made. As noted in the unapproved minutes of the Organizational meeting held after the annual meeting on July 26, 2008, "There being two vacancies on the Board of Directors and after due consideration, Directors, Robert Friedman and Perry Dahlstrom were reappointed to the Board of terms of three years each. After due consideration, the following slate of Officers of(sic) the Board was elected:

Perry Dahlstrom, President
 Ron Albright, Vice President
 Bill Steiner, Secretary
 Howard McLeod, Treasurer
 Bob Friedman, Director

As for your question regarding not dealing with all of your questions here: The question regarding the process of counting the proxies and recording the shares represented should be handled by some outside service, is a function delegated to Terry Mabile and overseen by the Board. If there are any questions regarding this practice, I think it is best brought up at a meeting directly to the board. You seem to think we are required to hire outside services to conduct our annual meeting. I'll leave that to you to make your case.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 05:45 AM

In response to your question about rates and how they are determined and what should be raised to accomplish the capital projects necessary to maintain the company, that will be a topic of discussion at the next meeting. We can learn together.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 08:19 AM

If meter charges are actually membership charges why the additional membership fee on each bill? That would total a million per year you are receiving from owners in membership type fees. Yes, you need operating expenses but I think the fees are excessive.

You mention Cedar Glen and the problem within their water company. I believe you hired the field manager from Cedar Glen just as the company was being taken over by the county. He was the field manager in Cedar Glen during the fire which burned many of the homes. This is the guy that is to keep everything in great shape so the fire department has water if needed. Your "part time" field manager is paid a very large salary PLUS over \$500.00 per month in a benefits package. If I had a part time job with benefits like that I wouldn't need to work fulltime. Does your field manager run his construction business from the offices of CPP Water Company? We should be compensated for the office space and utilities used.

How much are you paying your office manager? We OWN the company therefore we are entitled to this information as owners. Is he in fact making in the neighborhood of \$90,000 per year? Have you done a google search to see what office managers are paid? \$60,000 is the highest I found and that was in New York. L.A. is less. On top of that you folks have hired a part time assistant adding to the office expenses. Does your office manager owe the IRS and/or Internal Revenue Service so that property can't be put into his name or they will lien it?

Has your field manager built a home on a piece of property that has no water access? How did a will serve letter that is necessary before the county will issue building permits come to be issues by CPP water company? The house is complete but still has no water service.

If you are comparing your service as a volunteer to the service our servicemen give I think you have a very over the top picture of importance in what you are doing.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 11:08 AM

If you are comparing your service as a volunteer to the service our servicemen give I think you have a very over the top picture of importance in what you are doing.

I actually volunteered a couple of years in the United States Marine Corps also. I have no inflated notions about my service.

Since you have basically aired your agenda, and it is a familiar one, and do not apparently know what progress is being made in addressing all of them, I suggest you come to a meeting and ask these questions along with your cohorts. Next Tuesday, 7 pm.

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2008 12:19 AM

I commend you for your time spent in the Marines. The people that volunteer to defend our country are what keeps all of us free from oppression and enables us to express ourselves as we wish. I thank you and every serviceman or woman for the time spent in the military so that each and every one of us can enjoy those freedoms.

Why do you continue to play word games taking the focus off what is being said? You go on and on about things but never answer any questions. If these things are being worked on then I think you would want those reading this blog to know what is being done. Unfortunately, I have a prior commitment on Tuesday and will be unable to attend the meeting.

Please tell me exactly what you mean by "along with your cohorts". Are you by any chance calling other shareholders my "cohorts"? I feel your comment was very degrading. As far as I know I do not have any "cohorts".

Just to let you know, I have not "aired" my agenda. I have asked some questions that need to be answered. I have several more questions to ask. Perhaps someone out there can attend the meeting on Tuesday and ask the questions for me. Maybe they can get some appropriate answers. Perhaps this board will be more open with their answers than the last board----oops, same people. If we can't get answers then it appears there are things that are being hidden. Why set yourself up for criticism?

Here is another question..... Why do the employees drive water company trucks home? Fuel was over \$5.00 per gallon the last time I checked.

Gemini, I am not familiar with LACSD what does it stand for? Thanks!

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Cedarpines Park



CedarPines Park Mutual Water Company

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From: Roncpp

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2008 05:10 AM

Questions are good. However, since all of the questions you have asked have been the subject of much discussion and are being addressed, it appears that you have a complete list that could have been lifted from minutes of meetings with the answers expunged.

That is not to say all issues have been fully resolved. To replay the past years discussions here is not practical. Since you are not up to date and cannot attend the meeting, perhaps you can make a future meeting and ask them in person?

Your questions involving personnel issues which require confidentiality cannot be addressed as fully as you would like. But it is clear your interest in company operations is keen. The rest have been ongoing issues since I joined the board last year. I was fully briefed on these matters, some of which I was already aware of, and have been involved all year in trying to deal with each one. The public comment portion of every public meeting has been taken up with aspects of them all year. The fact that you have such a comprehensive list of the issues we are dealing with, but none of the answers is baffling.

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From: oldschoolfamily

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2008 08:44 PM

I am glad to see someone else also knows of the double dipping by our field manager. He has and continues to run two other business (Dock Building and Construction)while getting paid on water district time. The Cedar Glen water district had a Darel Surcharge on there bill when it went bankrupt from the conservator, on top of this the overtime for his employees to fix leaks not once but twice due to incompetence (confirmed by LACSD employees hired off duty to do the work correctly). Some things never change during my 48 years of mountain living. His son in law handles the tires and mechanic work for the district, the house he is building for another water district employee in his wifes name, and trying to get us the water rate payers to pay for the road, what next? Just tired of the 30 years of corrupt Water politics on the mountain (my brother was a LACSD board member years ago).

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Eagle

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 06:07 PM

The reason I have no answers from the meetings or minutes is because none have been given. Just look at your agenda for the upcoming meeting. Items have been placed on the agenda for over a year but never resolved. They are just placed on the next agenda. Questions are asked but the board does not respond or do anything about them.

Thank you oldschoolfamily. I am happy to see that someone else is reading this and also has questions. Do you have any suggestions about how to get shareholders interested enough to take a closer look at the things that are going on? When I see all the folks that just blindly sign their proxy over to the current board it makes me ill. There are other people that apply for the positions but are not considered. Since the board has control they appoint the people they want. The positions may change but the people do not. Doesn't anyone else out there see what is going on? Do you just not care how much you pay to the water company or how the money is used?

Another question... what happened to the bedrock under the Sawpit tank? Did the rain wash it away? Are you going to make ALL the engineer reports available to the shareholders? You have an estimate of 500k. Now, during fire season you are going to reduce the capacity by 50%! It has been holding up just fine. Do Not endanger our homes at this time of year!

With all these things and more I do believe having a reliable water company take over this one would be the answer at this point in time. Perhaps that could be avoided if the current board would simply answer or I think a better word would be RESOLVE the things that are so very troubling to some of the shareholders.

I do have more questions that are UNRESOLVED.

Panga1949 had some good ideas. Did anyone notice that Roncpp did not respond to any of them? The GPS idea is great!

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 06:56 AM

The reason I have no answers from the meetings or minutes is because none have been given. *And you made this determination how? You have admitted not attending most meetings and have formed this opinion based on your interpretation of the minutes. Of the many items on the past agenda, some are complex and require time and information to resolve. You apparently assume that nothing has been discussed, contemplated or accomplished.*

Just look at your agenda for the upcoming meeting. Items have been placed on the agenda for over a year but never resolved. They are just placed on the next agenda. *Making baseless allegations and mistating the facts is not how issues are resolved.*

Questions are asked but the board does not respond or do anything about them. *Asked by whom? I have not seen any questions ignored during my brief tenure. Not all questions have quick, pat answers and require time to address. In no case have questions been ignored.*

Thank you oldschoolfamily. I am happy to see that someone else is reading this and also has questions. Do you have any suggestions about how to get shareholders interested enough to take a closer look at the things that are going on? When I see all the folks that just blindly sign their proxy over to the current board it makes me ill. *Who does this? The board has not had a quorum based on assigned proxies in decades making this statement completely specious.*

There are other people that apply for the positions but are not considered. Since the board has control they appoint the people they want. The positions may change but the people do not. Another misstatement. *How do you know that applicants have not been considered? I was chosen from among 2 or 3 applicants last year by the board which has the authority and obligation to do so in its judgment under the Bylaws. This authority also comes from the majority of the shareholders who chose not to attend or assign their proxies to someone to speak and vote for their interests. I was a new person selected to replace a resigning board member.*

Doesn't anyone else out there see what is going on? Do you just not care how much you pay to the water company or how the money is used?

Another question... what happened to the bedrock under the Sawpit tank? Did the rain wash it away? Are you going to make ALL the engineer reports available to the shareholders? You have an estimate of 500k. *Is there a conspiracy theory about that too? Any shareholder may go to the office and read a copy of the preliminary engineering report the board has just received. There are no secrets. I've read the report and can assure everyone, the bedrock is where it has always been, but not immediately under those tanks. They were built on fill dirt and subsidence has occurred as well as erosion from heavy rains. The engineers have recommended that the water levels be reduced to 50% as a precaution against failure of the tank under stress from earthquake or further earth movement for the safety of homes in the vicinity of the tanks. There was significant discussion of this subject at the last two meetings. That is why we need to address the possible solutions, the cost, and the urgency of replacing infrastructure. Instead of waste of funds, the board, representing every shareholder must determine the best course and how to pay for such projects. This is one of several priorities we face. When people complain about how money is spent who have not acquainted themselves with the facts, and then pronounce their opinions as if based on those facts, misunderstandings are spread needlessly. My suggestion has been to attend meetings, ask the questions and get the facts as we know them and provide your input toward the solutions.*

Now, during fire season you are going to reduce the capacity by 50%! It has been holding up just fine. Do Not endanger our homes at this time of year! *So you suggest we ignore the engineers recommendation and accept the consequences if the tank should fail and someone loses their home due to tank failure? Would that be a sound business practice in your opinion? Which outside company would you prefer make that decision for us?*

With all these things and more I do believe having a reliable water company take over this one would be the answer at this point in time. Perhaps that could be avoided if the current board would simply answer or I think a better word would be RESOLVE the things that are so very troubling to some of the shareholders. *The implication that our company is "unreliable" by someone who clearly is only casually acquainted with the facts is one of the many challenges the board deals with continually. Would a rational person wonder why we have to exercise some caution in selecting who might join this board?*

The shareholders hold the power. If things are truly so bad that abandoning our assets to some outside entity that some assume has better judgment, more concern for our local issues and the qualifications to run this company, they can act as a group. I think the absense of such action and the very few who take the time to acquaint themselves with the details of daily operations and long term planning is evidence that the company is being operated on a sound basis and our primary mission is being fulfilled. That does not mean that there are not problems which are being addressed and are still not resolved. This does not mean there is no merit to concerns expressed at meetings and in writing to the board. The objective of this board is to deal with all issues in an open, effective and legal manner. Those who have accepted this responsibility serve at the pleasure of the shareholders and a few have probably had their fill of the accusations, slanderous comments and conspiracy theories which some make. Eagle makes assumptions based on 2nd hand interpretations, incomplete information and failure to address the questions

directly to the board in an open meeting. I continue to suggest anyone with concerns come to the meetings and find out the actual status of ongoing issues and find out how far some have progressed over time. The money some complain is being poorly spent has gone to such frivolous items as engineering reports, compliance audits, solicitation of legal advice and other expertise including consultation with other water authorities to ensure we are on the right path to resolving what is in our power to resolve.

I do have more questions that are UNRESOLVED.

Panga1949 had some good ideas. Did anyone notice that Roncpp did not respond to any of them? The GPS idea is great!

[Complain About This Message](#) |

From: Roncpp

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 06:59 AM

The next meeting is tonight at 7pm in the Community Center as usual.

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