

CPP shareholders stood up by water board

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Staff Writer

Tuesday's meeting of the Cedarpines Park Mutual Water Company shareholders and board of directors was canceled only three hours before the 7 p.m. meeting. The stated reason was "Lack of a quorum," according to the notice posted inside the darkened community center building. The meeting has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. next Tuesday, October 27.

Shareholder Charles Williams had to shine his vehicle's headlights on the unlit building so the 40 or so shareholders that arrived to attend the meeting could see the notice. The only other notice of the cancelled meeting was posted on the Internet at 4 p.m. Such a short notice seemed suspicious to the many shareholders who went out of their way to attend the weeknight meeting. It was anticipated that 100 shareholders planned to attend the meeting.

Over 200 fliers had been distributed since Saturday to try and get a large number of shareholders at the meeting. Some suspected the board was afraid to speak with the shareholders. "I think at least one director should have been here to explain the meeting's cancellation," said one of the weekenders homeowners who drove up to attend the meeting.

"They should be scared. Because of their mismanagement, we will have to pay a rate increase, and I believe we have the highest water rates on the mountain, if not the state," offered another ratepayer.

Several shareholders rushed up the mountain earlier than usual to attend the meeting. The agenda for Tuesday's meeting was only available less than 24 hours beforehand and only if you went to the water company's office. At that time, the financials were still not ready so residents would have time to review

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them before the meeting. The meeting had only been announced by a posting at the post office the previous Saturday. Shareholders who had gone to the office to look at the minutes and financials from the last meeting were told Monday, "They aren't ready yet."

Many members of the community are not happy with the consulting company that was hired six months ago to get the small mutual water company back on track. "The consultants were supposed to make things better, but it is getting

worse instead," said one disgruntled shareholder. It was stated by another shareholder that many CPP residents believe that fraud is involved with the Canyon Vista property and that was one of the items on the agenda under new business, along with an office reorganization update and rate increase informational update. Shareholders were complaining their rates are already unreasonable and were pointing out areas of suspected fraud in the expenses.

The board members of the Cedarpines Park Mutual Water Company are Ron Albright, Don Peterson, Bill Steiner, Howard McLeod and

Perry Dahlstrom. One person who arrived at the cancelled meeting said he had personally driven by three of the directors' residences and they were home, so a quorum could have been reached after all. Another said four were home. The president of the board had called in ill the afternoon of the meeting, not long before the meeting was canceled.

If any shareholder has questions about the rate increase, contact shareholder Cheryl Turpin at 338-4591. She said she attends all the meetings and will explain the details and what you can do to protect your interests.