

Cedarpines Park Water Company shareholders unhappy with two-year contract

Gail Fry - Staff Writer

Shocked gasps could be heard when shareholders learned that their board had approved a two-year contract with ECS Company, Inc. at a substantial increase at the Cedarpines Park Mutual Water Company meeting on March 18.

Director Perry Dahlstrom reviewed the financials when shareholders asked for clarification on the money for administrative contract services. The January financials indicate \$12,500 for administrative contract services while February financials indicate \$20,500.

Shareholder Fred Turpin noticed, "The changes are thousands of dollars." Shareholder Barbara Jones asked, "Did the board offer to pay for that? I don't particularly want to."

Cheryl Turpin questioned, "Now I would like to know on this \$12,500 a month to \$20,500 a month for administrative contract services, what period does that cover?"

ECS Company, Inc. administrative consultant Rhiannon Gowan said, "This month reflects three months back pay for when our previous contract ended when the board approved a new contract in January."

Cheryl Turpin said, "If you're making \$15,500 a month and you retroactive back to October, don't you think that's more than \$5,000 or are we not through paying the difference?"

Dahlstrom responded, "The board authorized the new contract. The new contract is at the dollar value that we agreed." Fred Turpin questioned, "Is that a public record so we can see who voted for it?"

Dahlstrom said, "I think it was unanimous. Everybody went along with it." Jones said, "I just want to be clear. The resignation happened and then we went ahead and gave them a raise?" Dahlstrom responded, "After the resignation, we renegotiated the terms of the agreement."

Fred Turpin said, "I need some clarification." Dahlstrom responded, "What we are doing right now is reviewing the financials."

Fred Turpin insisted, "This is relevant to that. I was of the understanding that we hired that company for six months to come in and take care of business and get it back on track." Dahlstrom responded, "We are paying them a flat rate for interim general manager and the office accounting. The contract ends in two years."

Fred Turpin exclaimed, "Wait a minute it was only supposed to be for six months that's what you told us. That's outrageous! We were never told two years. You people are out of control." Jones reacted, "You sold us on six months. Oh my God!"

Dahlstrom responded, "Well that's what we did. It's in the minutes." Fred Turpin said, "So we're stuck with this overhead for the next two years, right Don?" Director Don Pederson responded, "Well, actually the contract can be terminated by either party at any time for virtually anything."

Fred Turpin said, “At the rate we are paying they are not performing and we should get rid of them. We can’t afford this. This isn’t Lake Arrowhead. We got people losing their jobs and homes.”

Dahlstrom said, “We are still working on issues. It will take a year or two to get everything resolved.” Fred Turpin said, “It’s taking this long to clean up your mess.” Dahlstrom said, “I don’t think there are many more questions on the financials.”

The shareholders then expressed concern about the meeting minutes being too vague. Cheryl Turpin said, “I should be able to read this and at least have some idea of what you said about it. It only takes a few sentences or words.”

Jones said, “My point is if you did not know what was going on you would have heightened concerns like we do on this side of the table.”

Photo of Cedarpines Park Water Company business office Photo by Gail Fry