

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000090095

Sheila Stoeller

From: barbara [barbara@axismarketingpr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2008 9:51 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail

RECEIVED

2008 OCT 30 P 2:05

Subject: Groom Creek Water Users Association, Docket No. W-01865A-07-0384 and W-01865A-07-0385

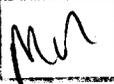
Reference: Docket No. W-01865A-07-0384
Reference: Docket No. W-01865A-07-0385

ARIZONA COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL
Arizona Commission
DOCKETED

OCT 30 2008

Re: Groom Creek Water Users Association

Dear Commissioner Mayes,

DOCKETED BY 

I have hesitated writing to you as I know from monitoring the e-docket you have had many letters by now regarding our rate increase in order to replace the old water pipes in our community. So far you and the other commissioners have received 70 letters in favor of the water increase and 4 against it since the hearing October 15th. Needless to say our community was very upset by your vote of "no" for us to proceed with replacing the water system. However, I feel I need to answer a few of the charges that have come in from the 4 people against this project and to point out a few mistakes. I will try to be brief and not embellish on why I feel you and the other commissioners made a terrible mistake in our case.

- 1) First the petition. The petition that you accepted was flawed. There were 11 pages of names that were not signed by the person collecting signatures which should make those pages invalid. You had no idea what signatures were valid when you accepted this petition. Twenty two of those names were repeated signatures or signatures of persons that were not members of the association. Ms. Berry's statements to the commission regarding the petition were not correct. The Association has still not received the petition she wrote. As it turned out, the statements on the petition were false (See Mr. Miller's letter to the commission, dated October 20th). The make up of our community is not made up of just retired people; 60% are 2nd homes or vacation homes, and of the 40% who live their full time, many are families. Ms. Patty Berry who is the spokesperson for the interveners is part of the 60% who have two homes.
- 2) Your concern for retirees being able to afford the rate increase is commendable. But please keep in mind these folks will be receiving a large increase in social security come the first of the year which will more than off set the increase of the base water rate that your staff recommended. Also keep in mind that if our water company becomes bankrupt because we can't afford to keep up with the repairs, having no water or money to fix the system will not help the retirees. Mr. and Mrs. Cree who wrote to you regarding their concern for the elderly are part of the community who will have their social security increased after January 1st. Mrs. Cree is also part of the previous board that was voted out of office by more than 2/3rd of the community for misconduct in handling the water association business. Although she has every right to her opinion, you must keep in mind that she and the other interveners made up a good portion of that previous board who did nothing to maintain our system or plan on rate increases for future improvements which is why we are in the present predicament.
- 3) A Ms. Sheri Moran wrote that she felt that the present board is using scare tactics as a way to push

this project through. That is absolutely absurd. The board has always presented the facts to the community. This is probably the most honest, most open board we have had in years. When Ms. Patty Berry sent around an anonymous letter to many in the community misstating the facts about the water project, the board immediately sent out a letter to everyone letting them know what the true facts were, plus they held an open meeting for the community to answer many of the questions they had. All the documentation has been out there for the community to read. The board has presented nothing but the truth. There was never any scare tactics used.

- 4) You have had letters from people wanting to do this project in phases as well as the rate increase done in phases. If you have read your staff engineer's report, you will understand that the best way to go about this project both engineering and financially is to do the project as one. Right now with interest rates down, and construction down, it is imperative that the board get permission to start this project while we can get the longest interest rates. Our application to WIFA was supposed to be presented to their board in December, but now, because of your vote and the other commissioners vote, we will have to wait until February when the WIFA board meets to present our application for a loan, and that assumes you and the other commissioners move in a timely manner to readdress our case.

We need a proper hearing immediately, with enough time allocated for our board to present the facts and information on why we need to move forward as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Barbara Miller
1301 Stagecoach Rd.
Groom Creek