



## Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)

### SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING February 1, 2022

#### **Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President **Sharmane Estolono** called the meeting to order at 6:33 at the Library Community Room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sharmane asked for a moment of silence to honor the people of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals; and an appreciation of those currently serving to protect us, including Health Care workers and Teaching Professionals.

**Directors Present:** Sharmane Estolano, and Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers and Sharon Coleman

#### **Members Present:**

**Guests Present:** Julio Garcia from the Sheriff's Department. other guests present were Julie Garin, Billy Trer, Lyn Bautista and a gentleman who signed in as Bill.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Sharmane asked for a motion to approve minutes. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Mike Clowers provided the second. Minutes approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported the February 2022 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>February 2023</u>
Checking	\$ 1,280.61
Grant Received	\$ 145.81
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 1,429.92
Ending Balance	\$ 2,856.34

Previous Balance was \$3036.31.

There was a charge to KIG of \$180.00 for Web Service.

The report was accepted as written.

Stephen also reported that SVCA taxes are due in April and that he will file.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims came early to the meeting but was unable to stay because he was on active duty for the Dog Rescue which was in his area of responsibility. Chief Sims did provide the following written report.

In the Month of January, there were 157 Emergency calls. During this same period, there was 96.1% time compliance for all medical related ambulance calls. There was a Car accident on Corral Canyon Road involving a solo vehicle that ran up onto the curb, through the first yard, through the second garage/yard, and ended up resting on the carport roof of a third house. This call utilized units from Bonita, Chula Vista, San Miguel, La Mesa, CHP and Sheriffs.

There was a Dog rescue on Vista Drive involving a 9-year old retired police dog named Indy. He fell down a 40 foot deep abandoned well that the property owner was unaware existed. It took crews from Bonita, Chula Vista, San Miguel, National City, Humane Society, Animal Control, Sheriffs and CHP about 3 hours to rescue Indy from the well. He was taken by his owners to a local emergency veterinarian clinic for treatment, and the latest amazing update is that he had no serious injuries. The opening to the well has been covered and well-marked as dangerous along with being within a fenced area. The homeowner is making plans to have the hole filled in.

The Fire Department's vegetation mitigation project along Bonita Rd / Sweetwater Rd is now complete. A total of 140 dead palms were cut down and the brush has been cleared 15 feet back from the two roadways. The Bonita Fire Department will now maintain the 15-foot clearance moving forward.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Heartland Fire Academy started on January 9<sup>th</sup> with Bonita providing 3 instructors as part of a 16 person cadre.

We are working with Judy and Supervisor Vargas' office to schedule a date for the Art Contest Award Ceremony to be held at the Bonita Fire Station.

#### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia:** Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia provided a Crime map for our area which will accompany these minutes when they are sent out. Julio pointed out that our area continues to be the safest in the county for Crime; however, stolen cars are still an issue because of the close proximity of our area to State route 54, which provides an easy get-away. A different issue with stolen cars exists in Imperial Beach where trucks are targeted and often end up over the border in Mexico. He reminded us that old Hondas are stolen and used for parts. The vandalism issues in section 722, shown on the Crime map, is due to the darkness and seclusion of the area.

Crime Specialist Julio Garcia told us that he is still waiting for new senior volunteer brochures but left some of the previous issues on the meeting room entryway table. Julio reminded us of the YANA (You Are Not Alone) program, people are seen in person once a week for welfare checks. He noted that this program has saved lives! Julio also reminded us that vacation checks are available but that you have to contact the Sheriff's Department to set up an appointment. An attendee asked if any Sheriff Department special/sponsored events were happening in the near future. Julio advised they are upcoming, but usually happen in the March-September time frame. He will let us know when the next event occurs.

**CHP Public Information Officer, Jesse Matias.** Not in attendance.

#### **Elected Representative Reports:**

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas' Representative:** Andrew Harvey was not in attendance since he was at the State of the County presentation, but he did send the SVCA a short note. Adrew reminded the SVCA that the County has Community grant money available and that if anyone needs to get started on an application to contact him, his email address is [Andrew.Harvey@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Harvey@sdcounty.ca.gov).

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** Amanda was also at the State of the County presentation but did send the SVCA the following report.

On behalf of the Mayor's Office of the City of Chula Vista, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

The Mayor's Office understands that SDGE bills have been high lately and that people are struggling to pay them. SDGE had sent the Mayor resources to share with constituents that can provide solutions for financial relief. Below are the websites that SDGE has provided to us:

- [sdge.com/levelpay](http://sdge.com/levelpay) -- makes bills more predictable by evening out high-bill months with low-bill months
- [sdge.com/myenergy](http://sdge.com/myenergy) -- energy savings and bill management tips and tools; energy efficiency programs
- [sdge.com/assistance](http://sdge.com/assistance) -- payment plan, bill discount and debt relief
- [sdgeratesinfo.com](http://sdgeratesinfo.com) -- a breakdown of what goes into energy bills, what they pay for and why. For more information, please review the press release we issued this morning, available at (SDG&E Announces February Natural Gas Commodity Price To Decline 68% Compared To January | SDGE | San Diego Gas & Electric - News Center ([sdgenews.com](http://sdgenews.com))).

Additionally, Judy Tieber had asked me about the parking situation at MTS E Street parking, due to the new development (707 F Street High Rise Development). It is still currently being designed, so there is no final say on the parking, yet. However, MTS does have 267 parking spots on the specific lot and the parking must be replaced on site.

Please contact Amanda if you have any questions. Amanda's Chula Vista City Line is (619)691-5175 and her email is [aangulo@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:aangulo@chulavistaca.gov).

I noticed in Amanda's email that she is now a Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Chula Vista, John McCann. Congratulations to Amanada!

**U. S. House of Representatives Juan Vargas Office Representative Michael Rivas.** **Michael Rivas** attended the meeting for the first time and indicated that he would attend future meetings which will be appreciated. Representative Juan Vargas represents California District 52. His contact information is <https://Vargas.House.Gov>. Michael's contact information is [Michael.Rivas@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Rivas@mail.house.gov). Thank You Michael for attending.

**California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez.** David Alvarez represents California's district 80. The Assemblyman provided us with a copy of Assembly bill AB91, which is a bi-national exemption pilot program for Local community colleges. His website <https://a80.ASMDC.org> has an extensive discussion of this bill.

New Business. Rawsan Salha, City of San Diego Engineering and Capital Department Projects Department. Rawsan Salha presented a plan for the Otay 2<sup>nd</sup> pipeline phase 3 replacement plan. Rawsan, the project manager used a power point presentation with handouts to convey the plan. Rawan wa assisted by other members of her planning group.

The presentaion showed a map, noting portions have 100 year old pipe needing replacement. The City of San Diego operates the Otay 2nd pipeline. Phase 3 will run from State Route 54

and traverse Sweetwater Rd/Willow/Alameda/Valley roads. The SVCA minutes will be accompanied by a map of the route of the pipeline.

The project will entail the replacement of 3,400 ft of 36" pipe with 48 " pipe. The advised design phase is nearly completed. The design moves the new pipeline out of easements onto a right of way. Thus, property owners will get their easement properties back!

The project team has met with all affected residents who will get new water meters installed. Traffic will be affected. Several streets will only have one lane of traffic, including Willow Street (north side), Alameda (east side) when the pipe is installed. The trenches for the pipes will be covered every night to allow residents to enter/exit homes. During construction, there will be dust, noise and detours. The design/Development team plans to outreach to residents as much as possible before/during the construction work.

### **Community Forum:**

Traffic and Roads Mile Clowers: Mike Clowers reported that the County re-certified Central between Bonita Rd and Corral Canyon to be 35 mph/radar enforced. This recertification recommendation will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for a vote, which Mike assumed they will vote to approve.

The CHP is still very very scarce in our area for enforcement. Mike reported the CHP is down 200 officers, doing a hiring blitz and offering big signing bonuses to attract candidates.

The Valley Vista School zone still has no flashing lights, and the neighbors continue to ask for the flashing yellow lights like Sunnyside school has.

Bill, an attendee who lives along San Miguel Road, asked Mike Clowers about Proctor Valley Rd and Conduit near where he lives. He indicated that neighbors along San Miguel are concerned about water runoff, onto their properties during recent big storms. Bill noted that this area is not fully developed for sidewalks, gutters, sewers, etc and that the neighbors believe runoff is excessive. Furthermore, Bill noted that speeding is very bad in that area and the speeding causes storm water to be distributed everywhere including onto his and his neighbors properties. The flooding causes hydroplaning, and this could be the cause of an accident. Mike said he was not aware of plans to address runoff, but can check with County Works. Bill said 7 of his neighbors have elected him as their spokesperson regarding this issue as many have reported issues to the county but have failed to obtain a mitigation effort from the county. The residents are concerned about property damage from the flooding.

Mike and Sharmane commented that Bill is in the right place, this is what the SVCA is for-getting action! He was extremely grateful to have our organization and wants to support us. Mike reminded , all of us, that issues in that area are directly impacted by traffic from "toll road avoidance". Mike said he would speak to Bill after the meeting for more information.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse:** Stephen did not present a report since the planning group had not yet met in February.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford:** Jim was not in attendance.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon reported on the current membership level and provided the following membership report.

Individual 12

Family 14

Gold/Org 1, non-profit 1, for profit 2

Gold 18

Silver/Family 1

Org/Profit 4

Org/Non-Profit 5

Sharon reviewed membership prices and invited all non members who wanted to join the SVCA to see her after the meeting.

Trails Report Mark Kukuchek: Mark was not in attendance

Other Announcements. Sharmane reminded everyone how/where Sweetwater Community Planning group works for new people who may want to get more involved. She also invited anyone interested in Neighborhood Ambassador positions to let the SVCA know.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony P. Tieber, with lots of help from Sharon Coleman  
Secretary, SVCA

**Mission Statement:** The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.