



## 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 June 7, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** President **Judy Tieber** called the meeting to order at 6:38 at the Library Community room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy 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:** Judy Tieber, Sharmane Estolano, Tony Tieber, and Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman.

**Members Present,** Bill Coleman, Jim Woodford, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Mike Parnell, Daryl Hern, Nancy Cornell, Dana Cornell, Donna Hodge, Shlomit Haim, Teresa Capanis, and a member's name that could not be read.

**Guests Present:** Amanda Angulo of Mayor John McCann's office, Fire Chief Mike Sims, Andrew Harvey of Supervisor Nora Vargas' Office, Sheriff's Department Alfred Gathings, Lieutenant of the IB Station, Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia, and Thomas Lawton of State Senator Steve Padilla's Office. Other guests present were Maria Cunningham, Dave Schlesinger, Beverly Grant-Davison, Wilson Stucy, John Burke, Richelle Farley, Terri Dillon, Lisa Schmidt, Susan Torres Tacata, and Karen Cornery.

**Introduction:** Judy introduced the members of the Sheriff's Department who were there to make a presentation and provide technical support.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported the June 2023 Treasurer's Report.

|                | <u>June 2023</u> |
|----------------|------------------|
| Checking       | \$ 1,033.76      |
| Grant Received | \$ 529.16        |
| Ending Balance | \$ 1,562.92      |

The previous Balance was \$1,882.92.

There were two charges to KIG of \$180.00 for Web Service  
There was a membership deposit of \$40.00.

The report was accepted as written.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims gave a highly informative video presentation regarding "Fire Service in the San Diego Region." This video presentation is posted to the SVCA Web site.

In addition to the presentation, Chief Sims told us the whole San Diego region collaborates for fire services and that is different than other parts of California. Most calls to the fire department are for medical services, and this results in the paramedics heading to the incident site.

In response to a question about homelessness, Chief Sims responded that the fire department makes two calls per month to homeless encampments.

Steve Stonehouse thanked the Fire Department for assisting him when he broke his leg and getting him to the Mercy Trauma Center.

Mike Clowers thanked the Fire Department for helping his daughter with a project.

Judy Tieber thanked Mike Sims and the Fire Department for assisting with the SVCA school art contest.

Chief Sims said that the Fire Department would participate in a demolition Derby with two cars on Sunday June 11, 2023. This is a fund -raising event for the Burn Institute.

In addition to the above, Chief Sims also submitted a written report which provided the following:

- a. The station generator project is now completed.
- b. The new apparatus bay doors have been installed and are beautiful as well as being super-fast opening.
- c. All annual pre-wildfire season training has been completed (14 hours for every Bonita firefighter)
- d. Bonita Fire has formed an engine build committee that has begun meeting with apparatus manufacturers to determine which one will supply a new engine for Bonita. The cost will be approximately \$1.2 million and it will take two years to receive the one that is ordered.
- e. Vegetation has become significant this year and that vegetation has begun to dry out, so the Fire department will be sending notices to abate that vegetation in the next month or so.

## **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff Dept. Lieutenant Alfred Gathings:** Lieutenant Gathings talked about traffic. He encouraged drivers to be aware of how fast they are going and the traffic environment in which they are driving. Specifically, he encouraged people to pay attention to the different zones such as traffic mph zones and construction zones. About traffic citations, 90% of the traffic citations are written by the CHP. However, sometimes the sheriff assists in traffic enforcement.

Briefly, Lieutenant Gathings gave us his Bio. He was in the Navy and when he exited the Navy, he joined the Sheriff's department and was assigned to the IB Station. He has now been a sheriff for 22 years.

Talking specifically about Bonita, the lieutenant said that Bonita is a safe place to live but the sheriff is there to solve problems if they occur.

Talking about his job goals, the lieutenant said that one of his goals is improving the IB station to better serve the people. He indicated that the IB station consists of forty-six personnel; forty are sheriffs and six are professionals.

The Lieutenant talked about crime. He said that vehicle theft is the number 1 problem, but also talked about theft in general; and encouraged women to protect their purses. He encouraged Commercial property owners (such as owners of apartments), to enroll in the Sheriff's crime prevention program.

Talking about the Senior Patrol, he indicated that they need volunteers and encouraged people to volunteer to give back to the community. As an aside, he said we are the last generation to volunteer for the sake of volunteering.

Speaking about non-crime issues, the Lieutenant encouraged seniors and other people who need assistance to sign up for YANA (You Are Not Alone) Program, and to make sure that all people at risk are signed up for the "Take Me Home" registry.

Judy talked about the difficult situation with the mentally ill and the availability of guns. She suggested that this be an area of concentration emphasizing that small steps often bring big dividends.

Mike Clowers commented on Lieutenant Gathings statement about "commitment to the community" Mike said this commitment can be compromised by the availability of sheriff department personnel.

Tony Tieber talked about the speed trailer which could be used to slow down traffic.

Mike Parnell said that the sheriff's front desk personnel were excellent and that they should be commended.

In response to a question about the Senior Patrol. Lieutenant Gathings said the Patrol can write parking tickets but cannot write speeding tickets.

Chief Sims stated that the Fire Station was available for use by the Sheriff, if needed, and that the sheriff can use that facility.

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

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas' Representative:** Andrew Harvey reported that a mural on the side of Jalisco Café building was vandalized and that Judy Tieber as President of the SVCA had agreed to accept funds from the County in the SVCA grant to repair the mural. Andrew thanked the SVCA for their assistance.

Andrew reported about a "young Supervisors" class. He also talked about grant money that would be available on July 1, 2023.

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** Amanda reported the following:

Funding of \$3.4 million to improve housing of residents of Chula Vista.

Chula Vista to invest in and provide pickleball courts.  
Fireworks display on July 4, 2023.

**U. S. House of Representatives (52<sup>nd</sup> District) Juan Vargas Office Representative Michael Rivas.** Michael Rivas was not in attendance.

**California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez:** David Alvarez represents California's district 80. His representative, Lisa Schmidt was in attendance.

**State Senator (18<sup>th</sup> District) Stephen Padilla office representative Thomas Lawton.** Thomas Lawton gave a brief Bio of Steve Padilla and reminded us that the Senator's district is remarkably diverse.

Thomas made a presentation about SB205 regarding electricity rates that are currently proposed. This presentation is posted to the SVCA web site.

After the presentation, there was a question about how the power companies, such as SDGE, would determine the income of an electricity user. Thomas indicated that no one has an answer for this yet.

Judy talked about solar and about how all new housing should be required to be constructed with solar capability and that the state should encourage existing homeowners to install solar panels on their roofs.

**U. S. Senator Alex Padilla Office Representative Angel Marquez.** Angel Marquez was not in attendance.

#### **New Business.**

**Election of Officers:** Judy Tieber was elected as president, Sharmane Estolano as Vice President, Steven Stonehouse as treasurer, and Tony Tieber as secretary.

**Election of Ambassadors.** All current ambassadors were retained for odd-numbered districts.

**SVCA Grant:** The report, required to be submitted by May 31, 2023, has been submitted.

#### **Community Forum:**

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor:** Harriet Taylor talked about the County's Housing Ordinance and the presentation by the County regarding the ordinance on June 13, 2023, at the Bonita Library Community room.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford:** No report was received from Jim this month.

**Membership Sharon Coleman:** Sharon encourages everyone to renew their memberships.

**Trails Report Mark Kukuchek:** Mark was not in attendance.

**Other Announcements:** Daryl Hern talked about the Bonita Museum and upcoming displays and events, especially the fund raiser in July 2023.

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony P. Tieber, 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.