

Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 16th, 2023

1. **Board Members Present:** Josh Edwards, Pat Sherman, Herb Benshoof, Aaron Parris, Mark Rasdall, Ted Adolay, and Mike Leavitt
2. **Board Members Absent:** None
3. **Also, Present:**
 - a. **Staff:** Brittany Bay and Nick Johann
 - b. **CSCD Attorney:** Roger Young
 - c. Approximately 45 freeholders in attendance & numerous online viewers
4. **Welcome:** Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
5. **Agenda Modifications:**
 - a. Mrs. Bay asked to add line item 7.b Cordry Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Department Expansion.
6. **Approval of Minutes:**

MOTION: Mr. Parris motioned to approve the April 18th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Adolay. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve the May 13th Executive Session Minutes, seconded by Mr. Rasdall. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Benshoof motioned to approve the May 13th Special Session Minutes, seconded by Mr. Adolay. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Freeholder Concerns:

- a. Mr. Edwards introduced Sheriff Stogsdill. Sheriff Stogsdill wanted to make it clear he did not start this, and this was in the works when Sheriff Southerland was in office. He noted that the previous Sheriff had conversations with their attorneys and the previous interlocal was no longer viable or legal to have special deputies here in the lakes. He noted that the previous Sheriff thought that an agreement could be reached before he came into office. He then noted that the last official contact he had with the CSCD was January 25th. He wanted to have a long-term contract in place with a severance package to protect himself and the officers hired.

He said that a lot of things have gone on that gives him cause and some trust issues. He noted that he was not letting his guys work here part time while the Board worked to get approved for their own Marshall's department, he did not want to be used as a temporary fix. He explained his issues with GPS and flock used for accountability. He also said that he is still open to start negotiating with the Board again.

1. Jessica Smith asked if it was insurance issue or a legal issue. Sheriff Stogsdill noted it was the legality of risk management. He explained the way special deputies were being used was illegal; you can not use special deputies as a full-time officer. He then said you will not have 24/7 coverage, that is impossible, but you could come close to that.
2. Chris Boyer asked if anyone in the District called would the Sheriff's Department respond and the Sheriff explained they have been. Mr. Boyer asked if there were a controlled beat or hot spots. Mr. Boyer explained that counties are broken up into different beats. Mr. Boyer then asked how the Sheriff directs his deputies and tracks crime. The Sheriff responded by noting that if calls come in anywhere in the county, they take those calls otherwise the officers patrol around the county. Mr. Boyer explained that he used to be a police officer and has experience in management, and they used hot spot crime. The Sheriff then noted that he has two officers on at a time at best and they must patrol the whole county. He then noted they do have hot spots they patrol, and fortunately the District is not a hot spot. The Sheriff noted that he has had to cover for the Town because they are short staffed. Mr. Boyer asked about calls for service vs officer's free patrol. The Sheriff said there are times when they are back-to-back calls, and they must cover the whole county. Mr. Boyer asked if we were paying for 4 more Brown County deputies, not specifically Cordry Sweetwater Deputies. The Sheriff then explained that not just 4 deputies would be assigned up here only because if he sends one of his younger guys up here, they would be bored, and that is a good thing for the lakes. The Sheriff then noted his plan was to rotate all his deputies up here for 6-hour shifts. Mr. Boyer asked for a quick summary of the different tiers of officers. The Sheriff explained Marshalls are considered tier 2 which is half of what his deputies are as tier 1, the Sheriff then mentioned there is no physical requirement for tier 2. Mr. Benshoof then mentioned that the CSCD could hire tier 1 people as Marshalls, and the Sheriff agreed they could. Mr. Benshoof then mentioned that could be a requirement that CSCD would have for a Marshall.
3. Cully Kinnick noted that prior to this year the CSCD had their own deputies and wants to know why the Conservancy District should pay for all 4 of those if the District is not going to get that 24/7 coverage and it would be spread out all across Brown County. The Sheriff responded that the Conservancy is asking for that extra coverage right here. Mr. Kinnick then asked if he could cover the District without those officers. The Sheriff said they patrol the whole county and with his current staff he can't have someone in the lakes 24/7. Mr. Kinnick then asked so what can you cover in the lakes right now, to which the Sheriff responded the same coverage as the rest of the county.
4. Jessica Smith then noted that most of the taxes come from right here at the lakes, the bulk of the tax revenues come from here at the lakes. Mrs. Smith then noted her concern would be that the money the District is paying for the officers go to that and not Brown County's shortfalls. The Sheriff then noted that the county is not making money from this contract.

5. Mr. Edwards thanked the Sheriff for coming and speaking. Mr. Edwards let the Sheriff know he looks forward to speaking with him again.
 6. Cindy Tribble then asked if the issue with GPS was because he didn't want civilians to have that information and would he still be keeping track. The Sheriff then noted with the CAD system they can create a call and use that system to track and prove that officers are here in the lakes.
- b. Mr. Edwards then introduced Chief Heather Burris of the Town of Nashville and gave her an opportunity to speak. Mrs. Burris introduced herself. Chief Burris thanked the CSCD for allowing her to speak. Chief Burris mentioned that a freeholder at the lakes approached her and asked for help and responded to that request by reaching out to a Board Member. Chief Burris then noted that she proceeded with legal guidance from her counsel on what she could provide. Chief Burris then mentioned that she provided information in the packet she gave to the Board on how to make a successful partnership with the CSCD. Mr. Rasdall asked Chief Burris who from the Board approached her, to which Chief Burris responded no one from the Board approached me a resident reached out to her for help. Chief Burris also mentioned that after this she sent a letter to the Negotiations Committee. Mr. Edwards then thanked Chief Heather Burris for coming and speaking. At this time Chief Heather Burris passed out packets to the Board of Directors.
 - c. Rob Seet introduced himself as a freeholder and the Chief Deputy Prosecutor. Mr. Seet thanked the Board for allowing the Sheriff and Chief to come speak and answer questions. Mr. Seet also mentioned that no matter what gets decided transparency is really important here. Mr. Seet mentioned that he believes at this point a contract with the Sheriff's Department would be best, but that Chief Burris does a great job for the Town.
 - d. Denise Caudill (Bass Drive) mentioned she has been here over 21 years and she has never seen the community so divided. Mrs. Caudill told the Board she wanted to appeal to their humanity, she has been a CPA for over 30 years, she has mediated, mitigated mergers, and she has dealt with a lot of the issues the Board is dealing with. Mrs. Caudill mentioned that she felt by not being transparent it is allowing people to make up their own stories about what is going on, she then encouraged the Board to be straight with the members of this community. Mrs. Caudill mentioned she believes that an outside third-party counsel with no bias could be good for this situation.
 - e. Marcia Harper (WS287) mentioned she was on the wake committee and wanted to address the April wake committee minutes and would be available on the website. Mrs. Harper then noted some people had asked her why the CSCD was doing a wake boat study when there are so many available that are scientific.
 - f. Chris Boyer (WS 272) wanted to mention that serving on the Board is a thankless job. Mr. Boyer then noted that he did not want to offend but it's just good business to look at all options involving security and the Board should look at all options and if the Board decides on exploring Nashville or looking at Marshalls, he doesn't want people to take that as offensive. Mr. Boyer then suggested a third party to help with negotiations who understands law enforcement and offered his services to the Board.
 - g. Dave Jarrett passed out a flyer about kayak races to the Board of Director's and Mr. Jarrett explained that it was just freeholders and only decade kayaks. Mr. Edwards explained he doesn't believe the kayak races need an official motion because it is all freeholders and decade kayaks.

8. Management Reports:

a. Director of Finance & Administration:

1. Mrs. Bay summarized the fund report. The current balance is \$2,701,283.60.

MOTION: Mr. Parris motioned to approve the financial report subject to audit, seconded by Mr. Benshoof. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Mrs. Bay summarized the appropriation report and monthly claims list. The monthly claims total is \$270,631.84. The unexpended remaining balance is \$1,561,020.89 or 69.77% remaining.

MOTION: Mr. Adolay motioned to approve the monthly claims subject to audit; seconded by Mr. Leavitt. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Mrs. Bay discussed using the approved additional funds from Resolution 2023-5 to pay Christopher Burke engineering in the amount of \$ 57,999.50.

MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve issuing a check to Christopher Burke Engineering in the amount of \$57,999.50, seconded by Mr. Benshoof. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Director of Operations:

1. Mr. Johann summarized his report.
 - i. Mr. Johann mentioned there is now a paid Boat Steward and are looking for volunteers.
 - ii. Mr. Johann mentioned deer reduction postcards going out and asked for everyone to turn them in within the next couple of weeks.
 - iii. Mr. Johann discussed the lake weeds and noted that aquatic control would be doing a survey next Monday.

9. Commission Reports:

a. Building:

1. Mr. Sherman reviewed the building applications.

MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve building applications 23-032, 23-037, and 23-038 for approval from the CSCD Board contingent upon lot owners obtaining all permits required by Brown County and meeting all conditions by the Building Commission, seconded by Mr. Benshoof. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Ecology:

1. Mr. Benshoof summarized the Ecology Minutes.

c. Security:

1. Mr. Adolay summarized the Security Minutes.
2. Mr. Adolay discussed stricter enforcement of lake rules.
 - i. Mr. Sherman discussed offshore lot owners that have a friend or someone on the water with an open slip and allowing the offshore owner to use the slip.
 - ii. Mr. Adolay mentioned that how the rule is written now that is not allowed. Mr. Rasdall asked how that could be changed. There was some discussion amongst the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Rasdall motioned to approve off water residents may leave one boat per lot owner on their dock to change the rule that we have in place today, seconded by Mr. Sherman.

Discussion: Mr. Johann asked is this for 24 hours, Mr. Rasdall said this would be indefinite. Mrs. Caudill then asked shouldn't this be something discussed at the security commission meeting. There was discussion amongst the Board. Mr. Edwards then noted the Board would table this for now.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Mr. Rasdall withdrew his motion to be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

d. Roads:

1. Mr. Rasdall summarized the Roads Minutes.

e. Water:

1. Mr. Parris summarized the Water Minutes.
 - i. Mr. Parris thanked Denise Caudill for all she does for the water department.

f. Financial Advisory Committee:

1. No meeting.

g. Wake Committee

1. Mr. Parris summarized the Wake Committee Minutes.
2. Mr. Parris welcomed all freeholders to voice their opinions regarding the wake committee and if they cannot attend the meeting email their thoughts to him.
3. Mr. Parris discussed the wake test that will be happening on June 1st.

10. New Business:

a. CSVFD Expansion

1. Mr. Leavitt went over expansion plans for the Fire Department.

MOTION: Mr. Rasdall motioned to approve the project subject to the Building Commission approval, seconded by Mr. Sherman. Motion passed 6-0, Mr. Leavitt abstained.

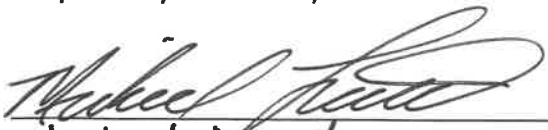
11. Board Members Concerns

- a. Mr. Leavitt appreciated everyone coming tonight and he agreed with Denise about transparency. He appreciated everyone who spoke tonight.
- b. Mr. Rasdall thanked Sheriff Stogsdill for showing up and speaking to everyone and thanked the Chief of Nashville for coming up here to present as well. He also thanked all the freeholders for all their concern and noted that is why the Board is here.
- c. Mr. Benshoof thanked all the freeholders for their information and their thoughts.
- d. Mr. Edwards thanked everyone for being here today, he then thanked both Sheriff Stogsdill and Chief Burris.
- e. Mr. Sherman thanked everyone for being here and thanked both the Sheriff and the Chief of Police. Mr. Sherman noted that there was probably 40 or 50 people in this room and we have 1,600 freeholders so he appreciated everything everyone said tonight, but when we look at doing a contract we have an attorney who has down thousands of them, and noted we want to continue to negotiate with the Sheriff, and he believes using the Sheriff's Department would benefit this community and freeholders. To benefit the full community, they must explore their options which are to use the Sheriff either full time or part time, Nashville Police Department officers full time or part time or looking into Marshalls and determine what is most fiscally responsible for the tax paying freeholders.
- f. Mr. Parris noted that he wanted to second what everyone else had said and they are working to determine what the best option is, and it would be irresponsible to not pursue all options.

12. Adjourn (8:54 PM)

MOTION: Mr. Benshoof moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rasdall. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Leavitt, Board Secretary
Date Submitted: