

Report of Meeting January 16 2019
11:00 a.m. at the CSD building, Newberry Springs

Present:

Sri Srirajan, Division Chief, Public Works, Transportation Planning
Medhat Matta, Pavement Management Engineer, Public Works, Transportation Planning
Christian Guntert, Field Representative, District 1 Supervisor Lovingood
Robert Springer, Newberry CSD Board President
Vickie Paulsen, Newberry CSD Board Member
Minnie Hazlett, Daggett CSD Board Member

Christian gave an overview of why the meeting was requested by the CSD, then Sri and Medhat explained their roles in road maintenance, the financing of roads, and what can and cannot be done.

All roads are financed through the gas tax, a State tax that is divvied out by the state to the counties. San Bernardino county distributes it where needed, including to Newberry Springs. If work is needed, it is done; there is no pro-rated amount per area.

If residents want a paved road or a new dirt road, they must pay for it via an assessment. It was suggested that perhaps Yermo, Daggett and Newberry could join together into an assessment district - but that didn't go far because of the general lack of funds and interest out here.

Here is an answer from Medhat about dirt roads:

"Regarding the question about the cost of grading and maintaining the dirt roads. We contacted our Operation Superintendent at Desert Region, and his answer is it about \$1150.00 per mile the cost for the Grader and the Water Tender and it takes half day to apply that, however they maintain each road 4 times a year. That cost subject to change based on locations and road condition. Please note that labor cost is not included."

It is possible to delete roads; in fact, they are in the process of doing just that. But there is no provision for swapping out roads - an un-used one for a used one. It seems simple, but in fact it is not. Lots of red tape, paperwork, etc. = a big flat "No."

They maintain dirt roads 4 times a year. The work is done by in-house employees; if it were contracted out, the cost would be much much higher.

There was some discussion about the road grader Newberry CSD used to have. The liability was too much, among other things.

Vickie Paulsen