Public Comment at the IVGID 2-21-18 Board of Trustees Meeting
By: Margaret Martini – To be included with the Minutes of the Meeting

It seems that only a few months can go by without another major IVGID scandal. From spring of last year through year-end the General Manager, Chair Wong and Counsel Guinasso wasted our time at Board Meetings and our money on consultants on the Parasol debacle. In the summer of last year, the Nevada Journal exposed the District’s concealment of public records and the destruction of emails and filed a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General. Before this New Year began, we learned that Director of Finance Eick had secretly sold three parcels of public property designated as open space to private buyers without Board approval or public notice. We also learned that he lied to Washoe County and our Board in order to secure 87 tax delinquent parcels from Washoe County for free. This made the front page of the Reno Gazette Journal.

Tonight brings forth another scandal. And it is chilling. Agenda Item F.5 reveals the General Manager and Legal Counsel’s predatory practices in using our public money to harm our citizens and intimidate a respected local business. After secretly spending $43,000 of our money to sue GSGI the parent company of FlashVote without any authorization or approval from the Board, they are now asking for $25,000 more. In addition to all the Nevada laws and Board policies the General Manager and Counsel has violated in initiating this lawsuit—it is also an unlawful attempt to steal our private user data from FlashVote in order to prevent us from voluntarily giving our input through FlashVote surveys. We know from attending public meetings that listening to public comment is of no interest to Chair Wong. One of her first acts as Chair was to reduce the times allotted to the minimum required by law. And her cohorts Horan and Morris have no interest in changing that policy. Clearly, the Board majority, the General Manager and Legal Counsel REALLY don’t like it when hundreds of our citizens use FlashVote to tell their Trustees and public employees what to do. So, they are using our money to silence our voices and to shake down a local business.

This is another outrageous abuse of power and a waste of our public funds. This Board needs to Settle this lawsuit now and protect our citizens from the malicious actions of our General Manager and Legal Counsel.

Margaret Martini
3-21-2018