

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Kelly Fulfer
Peter Hills
Gary Johnson
Fred Lofrano
Bret Tresidder

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; November 7, 2012

1. Call to order; Flag salute; Roll call:

Director Hills convened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Fulfer, Hills, Johnson, Lofrano and Tresidder.

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, Business Manager Lofrano and Captain Nelson.

Guests: Mr. McCray, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart and Mr. Harvey.

2. Agenda approval:

The agenda was approved as posted. (Johnson/Fulfer).

7. Discussion and Action Items

a. Board adjourned into Closed Session, Government Code 54957.6 (a) Labor Negotiations to discuss Memorandum of Understanding. Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:54 pm. Director Hills reported that direction was given to the negotiating team.

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the regular meeting on October 3, 2012 were approved as written. (Fulfer/Johnson).

4. Public Comment:

Mr. McCray inquired about the status of the station signs. Scout Jeffrey Holt should have the signs completed in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Campbell-Stuart has researched "201" rights and would like to discuss the feasibility of a merger with Foresthill FPD. Placer Hills and Foresthill did meet several months ago when their Fire Chief resigned. As elected President of the Placer County Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Gow has created a committee to look into possible mergers within the County. Chief Dowling, Foresthill and Chief D'Ambrogi, Auburn City are on the committee which has had provisional talks with Rui Cunha, Placer County Emergency Services. Director Hills brought up that LAFCO would be a key agency in any merger.

Mrs. Campbell-Stuart also suggested renting or leasing the Applegate Fire Station to AMR. Chief Gow will meet with Mrs. Campbell-Stuart to discuss the above suggestions.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): None

6. Information items:

a. *Fire Chief Ian Gow's report*

- Call volume is normal for this time of year.
- All business inspections are current. Staff will work on pre-plans during the winter.
- Senator Gaines discussed the State Fire Fee at a coffee klatch in Meadow Vista. Chief Gow talked to Senator Gaines' staffer about the \$73,000 owed to the district by the State.

- Placer County Chiefs Association meets tomorrow. Board Presidents will be invited to a future meeting to discuss possible mergers.
- The Intern program is going well. Hiring Apprentices in the New Year. Engineer Slusher has accepted a position with Sonora Fire Department.
- Chief Gow and Chief Paulus, Cal Fire, have been working on pre-plans for wild fires, and evacuations. Local sheriffs deal with credible terrorist threats all the time. Their first on scene operations have changed due to lessons learned from the school massacre in Russia. Sheriffs now carry tourniquets. Chief Gow just finished a 2-day class on terrorism which was interesting but scary.
- Director Hills commented on the well-written article in the newspaper regarding the discussion by the Chiefs on the feasibility of sharing resources to cut costs.
- Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln are sharing Battalion Chiefs.

d. *PHFSEA (Local 3800) report by Captain Nelson*

- No on Proposition 32 passed.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

b. *Policy review and amendments:*

- I. Controlled substance inventory restock; the district can purchase narcotics from both Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital and Life Assist. The union has approved the changes. Director Hills recommended using the *established* level for restocking. Motion made with this change and approved unanimously to accept the policy amendment. (Fulfer/Lofrano).

c. *Cal Fire State Fee:*

Senator Gaines confirmed that the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers League did file a suit to end the fee.

d. *Possible changes to the Final Budget as a result of labor negotiations and review of staff's paper on consequences of staffing reductions:*

Board discussed staff reductions over winter. Director Lofrano was torn between the fiscal need for cost savings and the impact of reducing services. Director Tresidder felt that it could not be put off any longer. Director Fulfer stated that the public would not support a measure in the future if a change was not made now. Chief Gow stated that it was an artificial problem stemming from the \$100,000 needed for depreciation and that someone will die or lose property with the cuts. Staff discussed buying used engines instead of new. It will take a long and concentrated effort to go back to the public with another measure. Director Hills would be less likely to support option 2, eliminating duty coverage during the summer and option 3 eliminating backfill for the Captains due to safety concerns. Motion made and approved by a majority to down staff to 3 personnel on one engine in the winter (December through March). (Tresidder/Johnson, Fulfer against and Lofrano abstained). Director Hills will draft a press release from the Board.

e. *Potential change of district's health benefits carrier:*

We have submitted an application and disclosure statement.

f. *Approval of the Sierra Nevada Energy Watch program to install energy efficient lighting in all 3 fire stations for a total cost of \$630.82:*

All lights will be upgraded to energy efficient light bulbs. The cost of the program will be covered in the utility savings in the first few months. The PG&E rebates will run out at the end of the year. Motion made and accepted unanimously to approve this program. (Lofrano/Tresidder).

g. Winchester Loan Payment:

Currently there is about \$44,000 in the Winchester fire facility fees fund. District counsel advised two options for the Board:

- I. Follow the statute of limitations and move any monies collected over 4 years ago into the general Fire Facility Fee Fund
- II. Ask the Superior Court to validate our claim to the monies. This would cost about \$5,000 in attorney and court fees but this issue would be resolved forever.

Motion made and approved unanimously to go with the second option and resolve this issue once and for all. (Lofrano/Johnson). The Fire Facility Fee plan and schedule must be revised every 5 years – due next year.

h. S-SV EMS Agency and AMR response times:

AMR is meeting the response requirements.

i. Approval of the expenses of \$127,399.35 for October 2012:

Apparatus maintenance costs were up due the repair of a steering pump and turbo. Staff discussed reducing Don Bush's involvement. John Lippold is doing the normal engine maintenance. Placer County Chiefs are discussing possible ways of sharing mechanic services. Motion made and approved by all to accept the expenses for October 2012. (Lofrano/Fulfer).

8. Directors' comments:

a. Report on activities of interest to the District which the Director is engaged in or is considering. No action will be taken on these items at this meeting.

This was Director Fulfer's last meeting as a Board member.

b. Request items for inclusion in subsequent meetings, or request a special meeting:

The signing of the MOU will be on next month's agenda.

c. Reminder of next Board meeting:

Next regular Board meeting: Wednesday December 5, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. (Fulfer/Lofrano)

Respectfully submitted by: 
Gill Lofrano, Office Manager

Approved by:
Kelly Fulfer _____

Peter Hills 

Gary Johnson _____

Fred Lofrano 

Bret Tresidder 