

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 350, Meadow Vista, CA 95722
(530) 878-0405 Fax (530) 878-0959
www.placerhillsfire.org



Kelly Fulfer
Peter Hills
Gary Johnson
Fred Lofrano
Bret Tresidder

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; December 5, 2012

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

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

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

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

Guests: There were approximately 40 members of the public including current and past members of the fire district concerned about the closure of the Meadow Vista Fire Station.

2. Agenda approval:

Director Lofrano asked if there were any options for the Board to change last month's staffing decision as it was not on the agenda. The agenda was approved as posted. (Lofrano/Tresidder).

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 6:58 pm. Director Hills reported that direction was given to the negotiating team.

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the regular meeting on November 7, 2012 were approved as written. (Lofrano/Johnson).

4. Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Mora, current member of the fire district, stated that there was no notification to the community about the fire station closure. Director Hills said that the Board discussed the budget for many months and that a station closure was part of that discussion. Mr. Mora felt that with the Chief's offer to take a 10% salary cut and with a cap on the administrative health benefits there was funding for staffing. With a station closure people will die.

Past Fire Chief, Bob Jeffries was glad that Measure E for additional funding did not pass. He stated that the salaries are too high and suggested furloughs. The volunteers got the ISO rating down to a 5. This is a bedroom community and our firefighters cannot expect city salaries.

Director Hills stated that the Board looked at the long term plan for replacement of engines and equipment and that the district cannot sustain the current level of operations.

Mr. Mora noted that the part-time firefighter pay-rate has not changed since he worked here about 9 years ago. He asked for the map showing call volume and time of day. Another gentleman was insulted that the responders were making so little and that 2 full-time personnel were making outrageous salaries.

Director Hills explained that revenue from property taxes has declined due to the downturn in the economy. Staff has been looking at different options for health benefits.

Mr. Kevin Wegener stated that the closing of the station was a knee-jerk reaction and was appalled at what has happened. He questioned why the 5 members of staff on the engine this evening was not split up to cover 2 engines.

Mr. Tim Robinson was upset about the station closure. He related that the Board about 9 years ago had taken away his paramedic training money but had approved a Board stipend at the same time. He also had to pay his own contribution to the Public Employees Retirement System. He suggested that the money which had been put into the future capital facility fund last year could be used to keep the station open.

The Board did not discuss the operational plan, the Board made the policy to reduce staffing to 3 personnel on one engine during the winter. Director Tresidder advised that this is a "small bailing out of a sinking ship". The district requires approximately \$300,000 to "right the ship". Director Lofrano explained that no monies have been set aside for the future purchase of apparatus and safety equipment and that the reserves will be gone within 3 years. Mr. Robinson countered that there is funding today to open the station.

Captain Pat Nelson, formerly assigned to Station 84, gave the Local 3800 report. He stated that the union was strongly opposed to closing a station and fought hard to keep it open. All goals were met. He believed that there was a possible violation of the Brown Act as the closure was not put on the agenda.

Another gentleman asked the Board to reverse their action and do the right thing. Chief Gow could only open the fire station with Board direction. Engineer John Lippold felt that the Board was "quitting" by closing the station.

Director Hills appreciated the feedback. The Board has struggled with this problem. The Board has a fiscal responsibility for the district and has been pursuing avenues to reduce costs.

Mr. Mora questioned the purchase of a generator for the unmanned Applegate station. Mr. Wegener felt that the community was being held hostage because of the failure of the measure. Mr. Robinson stated that the community was being put in jeopardy.

Engineer Matt Slusher stated that the district has some personnel making too much money but there are full-time paramedics making only \$33,000 per year. As the political action committee president he was very active during the campaign for Measure E and offered to run another measure in the future.

It was stated that the Board must be transparent and must do all they can to make it work.

After some discussion about the Brown Act with Mr. and Mrs. Stuart and the suggestion that the station closure might not have been properly posted on the November agenda, Director Hills stated he would entertain a motion to add the station closure as an emergency item to this evening's agenda and make it a specific item on next month's agenda. Director Lofrano made the motion which was seconded by Director Johnson and approved by all present. (Director Fulfer was absent).

Director Lofrano moved to rescind the station closure motion from last month and re-open the station effective 8:00 a.m. tomorrow. Director Tresidder seconded the motion that was approved by all present. (Director Fulfer was absent). The attendees clapped and cheered at this decision.

Director Hills stated that the fire district provides incredibly cost-effective services. A gentleman said he would donate \$79.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): The district's audit will be on next month's agenda.

6. Information items:

a. *Fire Chief Ian Gow's report*

- Crews saved the life of a motorcyclist who landed face first on the bike's muffler. Crews contained a structure fire on Orchard Ln that was caused by welding in the attic. There was a delayed response as the homeowner had to drive to get cell service. A vented propane tank was dislodged from its location and rolled down a hill due to the wet weather. Chief Gow closed the valve.
- McElroy road is being cleared through a grant by the Fire Safe Council.
- Chief Gow and Ms. Stuart have been discussing possible revenue opportunities with renting out the Applegate Fire Station to AMR and teaching EMT classes.
- Placer County Chiefs Association is looking at opportunities for sharing costs and possible mergers. They are drafting a survey and will invite Board Presidents and City Managers to the meeting in February.

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

- Already given in public comment.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

b. *Personnel Promotion; Firefighter Eric Brittner to Engineer:*

Chief Gow recommended the promotion of Firefighter Brittner to Engineer. Motion made and approved by all present.

c. *Policy amendment; Engineer's job description:*

The operation of Water Tender 85 was removed from the requirements for this position. Motion made and approved by all present to the change in policy. (Lofrano/Johnson).

d. *Preliminary discussion of a future special tax measure:*

More preparation, time and funding is needed to run a campaign. Director Johnson recommended a company who specializes in election services. They will give a presentation at next month's meeting.

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

Golden State Risk Management Authority declined to provide the District's health coverage. Staff is looking at the programs offered by CalPERS. A CalPERS presentation will be scheduled for a finance meeting later this month.

f. *Winchester Loan Payment:*

Still waiting for direction from district counsel.

g. *S-SV EMS Agency and AMR response times:*

AMR is meeting the response requirements.

h. *Approval of the expenses of \$108,913.34 for November 2012:*

Motion made and approved by all to accept the expenses for November 2012. (Lofrano/Tresidder).

8. Directors' comments:

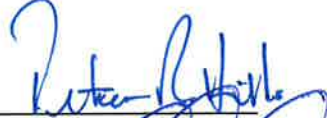
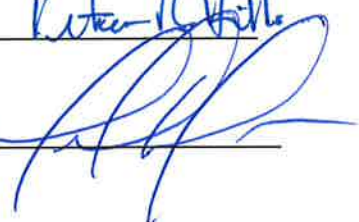
- a. *Report on activities of interest to the District which the Director is engaged in or is considering. No action will be taken on these items at this meeting.*
- b. *Request items for inclusion in subsequent meetings, or request a special meeting:
Presentation by election services company and approval of the district's audit.*
- c. *Reminder of next Board meeting:
Next regular Board meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2013*

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. (Tresidder/Lofrano)

Respectfully submitted by: 
Gillian Lofrano, District Manager

Approved by:

Kelly Fulfer _____ Peter Hills 
Gary Johnson _____ Fred Lofrano 
Bret Tresidder 