

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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www.placerhillsfire.org



Alex Harvey
Peter Hills
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Mark Wright

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; February 22, 2017

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

Director Hills convened the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Directors in attendance: Hills, Lofrano, McCray and Wright.
Directors absent: Harvey
Staff in attendance: Chief Gow and Captain Nelson

2. Agenda approval:

The agenda was approved as posted. (Lofrano/Wright)

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting were deferred to next month.

4. Public Comment: A Meadow Vista resident, who fully supports an assessment, had some questions that were addressed under 7a.

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

6. Information items:

a. Chief Ian Gow's report:

- Many storm related incidents. Newcastle was dispatched to a public assist that turned out to be fully involved structure in the mobile home park. They saved the mobile home but everyone was up all night. Many vehicle accidents due to hail storms.
- Placer Hills and Foresthill are finding it difficult to recruit part-time employees.
- Newcastle is amending the Placer Hills policies to suit their needs.
- Chief Gow introduced Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong of Rio Vista. Chief Armstrong was a former member of the district and is now back in a part-time capacity.

Captain Nelson's report and Association report:

- The district has run 182 calls so far this year with many of them storm related. Several road and school closures. We had 22 calls in a 24 hour span.
- The KME Type 1 engine is in Southern California for warranty work and should return next week. The Type 3 engine will then have warranty work in Sacramento. The pump and roll capabilities will be modified which will extend our warranty by 1 year.
- The Placer Hills Association is planning an open house and hands only CPR training for the public.
- There was discussion about putting a campaign message on the Pioneer Day cups. The mail ballots will go out June 9, 2017 for an election on July 11, 2017.

e. Board Committee reports:

- The flyers for the Fire Chief position were sent out. Chief Gow has had a couple of calls from interested parties. Applications close on March 17, 2017.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Consider a County-run Election for a special tax measure:

Director Hills gave a recap of the events that led up to a possible county-run election for voter approved funding. The fire districts are struggling financially. The County contracted with a consultant to conduct the survey. The consultant made it clear that it would be difficult to get a tax passed that was over \$100. A tax of \$300 is needed to sustain the district over the years. The time frame for an election in July is very tight. Foresthill did a survey in 2016 which resulted in 57% support of a tax. The survey results will be out in March. It is unknown if the County will pay for the election. The Board then addressed the questions from the Meadow Vista resident. The district's retirement plan has a significant impact on the district finances. CalPERS has changed the discount rate which will further impact the district's liability in the future. Foresthill and Penryn Fire Districts do not have an employee retirement plan which makes it difficult to consolidate. The district made adjustments this year to address the minimum wage requirements. This compacts the pay rate scale. The district struggles to maintain constant staffing which increases the overtime. The district is lucky that prior Boards funded depreciation. The Meadow Vista resident thought that \$96 is a small price to pay to continue the district's services and keep home and property insurance. Chief Armstrong offered his expertise in social media to educate the community about the election. The Board can provide information on the measure but cannot be a proponent of it. The Board will decide on the election at the March meeting. Chief Gow reported that Foresthill has a Blue Ribbon committee that produced a PowerPoint presentation about their tax measure. We can modify it for Placer Hills' use. The County has researched on whether the new funding would be included in the Gann limit calculations. They advised to include it in the tax measure.

b. Approve Mid-year Revision of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017:

Motion made and approved by all present to accept the changes to the current budget as presented by the Finance Committee. (McCray/Wright).

c. Ratify the Extension of Chief Gow's contract:

Motion made and passed by all present to ratify the extension of Chief Gow's contract to June 30, 2017. (Lofrano/McCray). Director Harvey was absent.

d. Budget update and approval of expenses:

No report, deferred to next month.

8. Directors' comments:

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

c. *Reminder of next Board meeting: March 22, 2017 at 6 pm.*

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all present to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____



Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Alex Harvey _____

Peter Hills _____

Fred Lofrano _____

Russell McCray _____

Mark Wright