

# 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](http://www.placerhillsfire.org)



Alex Harvey  
Peter Hills  
Fred Lofrano  
Russell McCray  
Mark Wright

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; April 5, 2016

(Meeting changed to Tuesday, April 5, 2016 due to the "State of the Fire District" presentation at the Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016)

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

Director Hills convened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Harvey, Hills, Lofrano (arrived late), McCray and Wright.

Directors absent: None

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, Captains Nelson and Yee, Engineer Chambers and Firefighter Rae.

2. Agenda approval:

The Cal PERS Presentation by Actuary Kelly Sturm was moved to the first item on the agenda.

The amended agenda was approved. (Wright/McCray)

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting on March 2, 2016 were approved. (Wright/McCray).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

7. a. Presentation by Kelly Sturm, Senior Pension Actuary, Cal PERS.

Ms. Sturm gave an informative overview of the funding and projections for the district's Cal PERS pension plans, and the benefit options that are available. The Finance Committee will discuss the unfunded liability obligation at the next budget meeting.

6. Information items:

a. Captain Nelson's report:

- The district has run 289 calls so far this year. There was a fatal vehicle accident at West Paoli. The "Jaws of Life" were used to extricate the passenger who was transported to the hospital. A man, who suffered a double pulmonary embolism, returned to the fire station to thank Engineer Chambers for saving his life.
- The Critical Incident Stress Management Team was called out to assist a neighboring agency. It has been several years since the team has been activated.
- Engineer Beals received a Hero Award from Placer SPCA for rescuing a dog from the canal. He has adopted the dog.
- Captain Nelson attended the Placer County tree mortality task force meeting. 6 counties have declared a state of emergency due to the bark beetle infestation in distressed trees. Data is being gathered and forwarded to the state foresters in the hope that federal funding will be available to eradicate this problem. The East and West Slopes of Placer County are working collaboratively on this issue.
- The Fire Chiefs now have a countywide Knox box system which requires a second key.

- The countywide Wildland drill is scheduled next month at the Weimar Institute. A countywide Multi Casualty incident is also scheduled.
- The Type 1 engine has been delayed a couple of weeks.
- Engineer Wood and his wife, Brittany had a baby boy.
- Local 3800 held a Candidates forum. The union did not support Mr. Babich who is running for the Supervisor of District 5.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

b. Placer LAFCO, Call for Nominations for Special Districts Representatives:

There was no interest from the Board members. Director Reams from Foresthill is interested in running.

c. Reconsider Leasing Agreement with Leasing 2 Inc for the HME Type 3 engine after district's counsel's opinion:

The district did not follow the state bidding requirements or the district's policies for the financing services of Leasing 2 Inc. The district's attorney gave 3 options for the purchase of the HME Type 3 engine:

1. Purchase the engine in full
2. Comply with state bidding laws and the district's policies and accept a financing agreement with the lowest bidder
3. Finance the purchase of a new engine by entering into a statewide contract for equipment financing with an approved vendor

Motion made and passed unanimously to enter into a statewide contract with an approved vendor for the HME Type 3 engine. (Harvey/Lofrano). Staff will send a letter to Leasing 2 Inc., with a copy to the district's attorney that we cannot move forward with their agreement because we did not comply with the bidding requirements.

d. Discuss Foresthill FPD's agreement for Administrative Services:

Directors Hills and Reams discussed a 2-year contract and an increase in the annual cost to \$65,000 to cover the increase in the Chief's salary and benefits. They also discussed the process for hiring a new chief as Chief Gow's contract is up in December. Director Reams will report back to the Foresthill Board. Director McCray suggested that language needs to be added to address potential cost changes due to the possibility of a new Chief. The proposed contract will be on the agenda at the June meeting. The Chief's command car is due to be replaced next fiscal year. Placer Hills pays for all of the gas. Director Hills will put this on the table when he meets with Director Reams again.

e. Discuss Funding Sources and Placer County's Consolidation Study:

The LAFCO study is due out next week. The Consultant has given the draft of the Placer County Study to county staff. The Fire Chiefs want to know any changes that have been made. The Consultant said he would not make any substantive changes to the study. The Directors group met. The County still wants the districts to go back to the public for funding. The Penryn lawyer is consolidating all the data of the fire districts to make a presentation at the Supervisors' budget meeting in June. The draft of the Placer County Study is an internal document and therefore not public. Director Wright suggested that under the "Freedom of Information" Act we may be able to access the county's emails.

Chief Gow reported that the community of Foresthill may support a ballot measure for additional funding. The survey gave 2 options for funding, \$500,000 (\$180 per parcel) or \$700,000. The larger number would support a chief's position. Director Hills reported that Placer Hills has a baseline deficit of \$750,000 and that for a fully funded fire department the deficit is \$2.1 million.

*e. Discuss the goals for the District in the coming year:*

The goal is additional funding.

*f. Budget update and approval of expenses in March 2016:*

Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the budget update and the expenses for March. (Harvey/McCray).

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.*

- Director Harvey attended his first meeting of the Placer Hills Fire Safe Council. The main topic was the bark beetle infestation. The Forest service is concentrating their efforts in eradicating trees in parks and public areas. It is 100% funded with grant money.
- Director Hills noted that the parking lot at Station 85 needs repair – staff will get bids.

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

*c. Reminder of next Board meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7 p.m.*

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Alex Harvey \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Hills \_\_\_\_\_

Fred Lofrano \_\_\_\_\_

Russell McCray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Wright