

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Alex Harvey
Peter Hills
Gary Johnson
Stephanie Stuart
Bret Tresidder

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; May 1, 2013

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

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

Directors in attendance: Harvey, Hills, Stuart and Tresidder; Johnson absent.

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, Captain Nelson and FF Hernandez

Guests: Mr. McCray and Mr. Stuart.

2. Agenda approval:

The Solar presentation was moved to next month. The company is revising the numbers as the District does not qualify for the County's "mPower" program. The amended agenda was approved. (Harvey/Tresidder).

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 3, 2013 were approved as written. (Harvey/Tresidder).

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): The Board received a copy of Weimar Hills School's RFP for a solar system. This is a good template.

6. Information items:

a. *Fire Chief Ian Gow's report*

- Several articles in the Auburn Journal regarding county collaboration and Senator Gaines bills against the State Fire Fee. Chief Gow has been attending many meetings. The Chiefs retreat will be at Winchester. They will discuss the short term goals of joint purchasing and standardization of equipment and the long term goal of fire department mergers. The Chiefs have received direction from the Supervisors and elected officials. This effort shows good intent to reduce costs. Mr. Hoffecker, who volunteered to gather donations on behalf of the fire department after the failure of the ballot measure, has gone door-to-door but no-one is willing to contribute due to the State Fire Fee. Chief Gow and Director Hills attended the hearings of Senator Gaines bills to address the Fire Fee. Chief Gow testified in support of the bills. The Committee Chair announced before the vote that he was opposed to the bill. Both failed in committee. The Senators lacked an understanding of how the fire service works. Bills for this year's fire fee have not been sent out as they are still processing the petitions for reconsideration from last year.
- All Captains attended the annual Strike Team Leader refresher training.
- There was an arson fire in Shirland Tract, Auburn today.
- The sign for Station 86 is almost done and the signs for Station 84 and 85 will be ready in the next couple of weeks.

- Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital still has to sign the paperwork for the students' observation time which is part of the EMT curriculum.
 - Yesterday crews performed a complicated extrication on a driver crushed in a small car. They removed the doors and roof. The driver was unhurt. This was followed by a CPR call, a couple of medical aids and then a public assist that turned out to be carbon monoxide poisoning from a fuel filled stove.
- b. Captain Nelson reported that the Association has not met. Meetings are now quarterly. Association will be selling pulled pork sandwiches at Pioneer Day on June 2nd. Awards Dinner is on June 1st at the park. "Fill the boot" for burn victims raised \$2,113. We will be sending an engine to the 6 days of RT130 wildland refresher training. Volunteers will be augmenting staff on the engine and we will backfill the fire stations. Captains will be able to work on their task books. New vegetation fires are breaking out in Napa, Butte and Riverside. Staff is looking at the Cal FIRE specifications for structure turnouts. Traditionally new sets go to the full-time employees, then active part-time employees. RIC operations have been scheduled for next month.
- d. Meet and Confer meeting will be scheduled.
- e. Board committees meet on an as needed basis.

Workers Compensation Insurance: Director Hills and District Manager Lofrano attended the Northern California Special Districts Insurance Authority quarterly meeting. Director Hills reported that the draft budget was presented with the district's cost allocation being reduced by over \$1,000 from last year. The JPA is in an excellent financial position and is looking at refunding a dividend. There are a couple of large compensation claims that will impact the JPA in the future.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. *Solar system presentation:*

This item was continued to next month.

b. *Discussion of the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 :*

The Board received the Finance Committee's comments and observations. Director Hills reported that it is generally a rollover budget from the current year. Property tax revenue is estimated to increase by 1%. The draft budget does not include funding for a special election or solar systems. Chief Gow received confirmation from Senator Gaines office that the State will reimburse the \$73,000 before the end of June. Presumably this money will go back into reserves. CalPERS "smoothing policy" has been reduced to a five-year period which could increase contributions up to 50% in 2015. The draft budget does reflect the reduction in health benefits. Captain Nelson added that the finance committee recommends a small increase for the apprentices who currently earn less than the part-time employees they supervise. This will raise morale. The committee also recommends a CPI adjustment. \$60,000 has been estimated for strike team revenue but this is open for debate. Director Harvey felt that we must consider another ballot measure, maybe with a sunset clause. The outcome of Higgins Fire District's special assessment will be known in a week. Director Stuart stated that we must show the public that we have exhausted every avenue for funding. She appreciated the Chief's memo regarding the overtime. Director Hills noted that there have been no pay or benefit increases for full-time staff for several years and the

rebuild of Station 84 has not been addressed. Chief Gow stated that we need professional assistance and more funding to run a successful campaign. Mr. McCray informed the Board that Newcastle did use a consultant for their measure. He added that the State Fire Fee may be billed twice this year and that from the public's perception the station at Meadow Vista looks in good repair. Placer County Fire is considering another ballot measure.

c. *Ballot for the Governing Board of Directors for FAIRA:*

Motion made and passed by all present to vote for the members from Alpine FPD, Humboldt No. 1 FPD, Lakeside FPD and Rancho Cucamonga FPD. (Harvey/Stuart).

d. *Update to Shift Scheduling Policy:*

Chief Gow requested more leeway in the policy regarding the 96 consecutive hour work limit. This arises very rarely with little fiscal impact. Motion made and approved by all present to accept the changes to the Shift Scheduling policy. (Harvey/Stuart).

e. *Staff request to surplus Water Tender 85 and Grass 85:*

This was also part of the Finance Committee discussions. Chief Gow reported that Grass 85, a 1987 Ford 350, has not been used for a long time and maintenance costs will just increase in the future. He expects it is worth about \$20,000. Water Tender 85, a 1990 Ford with 275,000 miles, has had the top end replaced 4 times and is a drain on the maintenance budget. It never responds as only a few of our employees can drive a manual transmission. Construction companies may be interested in the tender. Motion made and passed by all present to surplus both the Water Tender and Grass unit, and authorized the Chief to sell them. (Tresidder/Stuart).

f. *Budget update and approval of \$80,965.28 expenses in April 2013:*

The maintenance account is over budget. Chief Gow has reviewed 2 sets of plans for new homes in Winchester. Motion made and approved by all present to accept the budget update and expenses for April 2013. (Tresidder/Harvey).

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:*


Solar system presentation continued to June meeting. Meetings for the Finance and Personnel committees will be scheduled.

c. *Reminder of next Board meeting:*

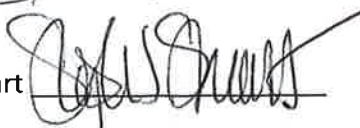

Next regular Board meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Station 84.

c. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. (Harvey/Tresidder).

Respectfully submitted by: 
Gillian Lofrano, District Manager

Approved by:  Alex Harvey  Peter Hills  Gary Johnson

Stephanie Stuart  Stephanie Stuart  Bret Tresidder