

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; May 4, 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, McCray and Wright.

Directors absent: None

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, Captains Lippold and Nelson, Engineers Chambers and Pratte.

2. Agenda approval:

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

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting on April 5, 2016 were approved. (Wright/McCray).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information items:

a. Chief Gow's report:

- The district runs between 70 and 80 calls every month. Foresthill had a suspicious structure fire with a suspect in custody. The State Fire Marshal was too busy to investigate the fire. Chief Gow and Foresthill staff investigated the fire with help from Cal Fire.
- Auburn City Fire wants to start an Advanced EMT program. Chief Gow has agreed to sponsor Auburn City through Foresthill and Placer Hills.
- Foresthill's sample survey resulted in a 57% support of a ballot measure. The Consultant advises that this is not enough to pass a measure. There was the same support for both options of funding: \$180 and \$220. Foresthill's Board will decide tomorrow night on what to do next.

Captain Nelson's report:

- Crews had an extended animal rescue on Interstate 80 at Weimar when a family of geese were displaced. After a chase with lights and sirens, the entire family of geese were caught and relocated to a pond by animal control.
- The 80,000 inhabitants of Fort McMurray in Alberta Canada were evacuated due to a massive wildfire. Over 1,680 homes and buildings have been destroyed. There are only 200 firefighters at the scene at this time.
- Captain Lippold has secured the Winchester Swim and Tennis Center for the district's awards dinner to be held on October 7, 2016. We will cook our own food.
- Pioneer Day preparations are moving along.

e. Director Hills' report on the NCSDIA meeting

- There was an extensive actuarial report. There will be no dividend for next year. The excess insurance for \$200,000 to \$5,000,000 is increasing by \$40,000. Preliminary figures for Placer Hills' workers compensation coverage for next fiscal year is approximately \$56,000. The Claims Manager is retiring at the end of this year. They are not looking to hire a replacement. The current Executive Team will submit a proposal to take over the business.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Placer LAFCO, Ballot for Special Districts Representatives:

Motion made and passed unanimously to vote for Joshua Alpine (PCWA) and Chris Reams (Foresthill FPD). (Wright/McCray)

b. Approve Leasing Agreement with State approved lender for the HME Type 3 engine:

The State only received one bid from US Bank, for the financing of our engine. The district's attorney approved the Purchase Orders for both the purchase and financing of the engine and advised the Board to approve outside bond counsel to complete the IRS requirements. Motion made and passed by all to approve the bid for financing from US Bank and the outside Bond Counsel. (Lofrano/Wright).

c. Resolution Number 2016-002 Declaring an Election and Requesting Election Services:

Motion made to approve and adopt Resolution Number 2016-002 declaring an election for four Board positions and requesting election services through Placer County. (Lofrano/Wright).

d. Review draft of the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017:

The Finance Committee met and recommended a 3.5% increase in property tax revenues. The purchase of a new command vehicle and the lease payment for Brush84 have been budgeted. Director Hills reported that the proposed budget will be \$158,000 in the red after funding capital depreciation. The district will run out of reserves in 2019-2020. The district is \$2,000,000 short of running a fully staffed and operational fire department. Newcastle Fire District is unstaffed today and will be for many days in May. The Preliminary Budget will be adopted next month.

e. Discuss Agreement with Foresthill FPD for the Chief's services:

Director Hills met with President Reams. They discussed a 2-year agreement and increasing the annual cost to \$65,000 to cover a share of the Chief's increased salary and benefits. They also discussed that the Foresthill Board will be a part of the process for the future fire chief but the ultimate decision will be with Placer Hills' Board. There was discussion on the gas charges and wear and tear on the Chief's vehicle. Consensus was that this was part of the initial contract and to leave the annual cost at \$65,000.

f. Discuss the district's PERS Unfunded Liability Obligation:

The Finance Committee will discuss this at the next meeting. Director Wright suggested paying a little bit more and not looking at a bond. This item was removed from the agenda.

g. Discuss Funding Sources and the County's Consolidation:

The Fire Chiefs and Board Presidents met at the request of Mr. Myers who chairs the Penryn Community Group. The 3 candidates running against the incumbent Placer County Supervisors were also invited and discussed the 172 funding issues. The Fire Chiefs strongly criticized the Placer County study as it reflected the County opinion that the voters should pay for the level of service. Director Hills attended the Placer County Board of Supervisors meeting. The proposed Preliminary Budget was discussed. The Supervisors approved requests for additional law enforcement personnel, a new CAD for the Sheriff and funding for the homeless. Mr. Myers gave a presentation at the meeting and misinformed all that he was representing the 6 fire districts. The Chiefs and Board Presidents will meet to discuss a presentation at the Supervisors' meeting on June 7th when the Preliminary Budget will be adopted. The County wants a fully independent audit of Penryn, Newcastle and Foresthill Fire districts and wants the districts to go back to an election. Supervisor Duran stated that he would lose his "leverage" if he gave the fire districts \$3.6 million. Director Hills was disheartened by the meeting. They "glossed over" the funding for Placer County Fire. "Citigate" will do a study and business plans for the 3 struggling fire districts. The audience clapped after the Sheriff spoke. Director Hills feels that there are no real solutions and that the Board must figure it out. There is some talk that the County may pay for the elections but they cannot be a proponent of it.

h. Discuss the goals of the district for the upcoming year:

Need to raise money, educate the public and create a list of all local organizations. We need to come up with a generic presentation that can be given at Foresthill, Newcastle and Penryn.

f. Budget update and approval of expenses in April 2016:

There is a proposed development in Weimar with 38 new homes and hydrants every 500 feet. Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the budget update and the expenses for April. (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.*
- b. *Request items for inclusion in subsequent meetings, or request a special meeting:*
- c. *Reminder of next Board meeting: Wednesday, June 1, 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