

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; June 4, 2014

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

Director Stuart convened the workshop and regular meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Hills (arrived at 6:24 pm), Harvey, Stuart and Wright.

Directors absent: Tresidder

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano.

Guests: Several guests.

BOARD WORKSHOP

The Board discussed the draft of the District's Bylaws. This was continued to next month.

There was a short recess before the regular meeting was reconvened at 7 pm.

2. Agenda approval:

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from the regular meeting on May 7, 2014 were approved.

4. Public Comment:

Mr. Russell has known Chief Gow for many years. Chief Gow has intimate knowledge of the district. He is dedicated and personally cares about the residents. He visited Mr. Russell's mother in hospital when he heard she was sick. Chief Gow forfeited last year's pay raise. There is no guarantee that a nationwide search for a Chief would not cost more. The district would lose the level of competency with a new Chief. Mr. Russell likes what we have!

Mr. Jeffries likes what Chief Gow is doing and recommended a 1 or 2 year contract. Mr. Jeffries concerns are gone with the possibility that Foresthill Fire District would be paying for 50% of the Chief's salary. The administrative costs are 25% of the budget. He recommended distributing the administrative costs down the ranks.

Mr. Root commented, that due to economy of scale, the administrative cost is money well spent to manage the fire department appropriately. The district needs more density to generate more revenue. Sharing administration is a piece of the solution. These are challenging times for the Board.

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

Captain McCarthy passionately introduced the recipients of the district's annual awards to the Board:

Officers' Award: Josh Curley

Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: Andrew Beals

Firefighter of the Year: Justin Wood

The Board appreciates their commitment to the department and community.

Chief Gow presented Director Hills with his 5 year service award.

6. Information items:

a. *Fire Chief Ian Gow's report*

- The air unit and water tender responded to a multi-family structure fire.
- All inspections are up to date.

- Foresthill Fire District's preliminary budget is \$50,000 in the red but Chief Gow expects the final budget to balance. One of Foresthill's Captains has been hired by Cal Fire. The Foresthill Board President is resigning after the July meeting.
- The ISO inspector talked to the water company representatives and left after one hour. Hopefully our rating will move from a 5 to a 4.
- Maintenance has been busy. All medics are logged into the program for the drug safes. The last safes will be installed soon.
- Captains have been busy training. All agencies involved in the countywide wildland drill.
- The ambulance contract is still ongoing. District Manager Lofrano is completing the extensive survey for LAFCO's municipal services review. Loomis has signed an agreement with South Placer. Newcastle and Penryn already share a Fire Chief.
- c. *Engineer Paskey*
 - Apprentice Engineer Paskey is a 10 year member of the district. Apprentices and part-time employees make up 75% of the district's daily staffing. They have no bargaining unit so this is the only forum to voice an opinion. They earn less than employees at "In and Out". Engineer Paskey pointed out the error in the proposed pay rates. (Some of the rates did not reflect the 1% increase from the current year). Engineer Paskey asked the Board to do something.

7 Discussion and Action Items:

- a. *Resolution No. 2014-02 declaring a Board election in November 2014:*

Motion made and approved by all present to adopt Resolution No. 2014-02 declaring an election for 3 Board members (Hills, Tresidder and Wright) whose terms expire in November 2014 and requesting election services by the County Clerk. (Wright/Harvey).
- b. *Ballot for LAFCO Special District Representative:*

Motion made and approved by all present to select Candidate Treabess, Tahoe City Public Utility District. (Harvey/Wright).
- c. *Adoption of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015:*

The Final Budget will be set in September. The Finance Committee met several times. Property Tax Revenue has increased about 4.5% this year and the County expects an increase of 2% for the coming year. Director Hills reported a significant increase in Workers Compensation Insurance to \$85,000 with no expectation of a dividend. The district is looking at increased retirement costs in 2016. The district will deplete its reserves in 2018. Staff modified the apparatus replacement schedule and pushed back the water tender purchase. The purchase of a new engine this year will be funded by two thirds from General Reserves and one third Fire Facility Fees. There was discussion about the pros and cons of running a quick attack as first out engine. Mr. Lofrano questioned the Board on how it proposed to fund the manning chart. Mr. Root noted that the only way would be to reduce to one company. The meeting room was filled with concerned citizens when the Board tried this in the past. Engineer Paskey wants the best delivery service for everyone and retain current staff. The Personnel Committee will meet to develop goals for salaries and pay scales. Motion made and approved by all

present to accept the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 with the corrected pay rates. (Stuart/Harvey).

d. *Resolution 2014-03 requesting assessments to be collected on the tax roll:*

Motion made and passed by all present to accept Resolution No. 2014-03 requesting Placer County to collect the benefit assessments on the tax roll. (Wright/Harvey).

e. *Draft contract with Foresthill FPD to provide administrative services from July 3, 2014 to June 30, 2015:*

Directors Hills and Tresidder met with the Foresthill Fire Board committee. Direct Hills would like funding to backfill when Chief Gow is at Foresthill. Negotiations began at \$80,000 for the administrative services. Foresthill has budgeted \$60,000 in their Preliminary budget. Foresthill is cutting their Fire Prevention Officer's hours in half. Foresthill Board approved the May and June payments for the administrative services at last night's Board meeting. Their bookkeeper is only there every other month. Chief Gow has corrected significant staff issues and District Manager Lofrano assisted with their budget. Chief Gow is negotiating a contract with Placer County for the Middle Fork monies. Chief Gow will meet with Supervisor Montgomery and Rui Cunha, OES to discuss the Federal Government's Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Director Stuart requested a copy of Foresthill Fire Board's minutes. Board requested the actual cost incurred by Chief Gow and District Manager Lofrano for the administrative services to Foresthill.

f. *Fire Facility Fee Plan and Schedule update:*

Director Hills reported that the Committee disagrees with the consultant's interpretation of the plan and the one fee for all dwellings. Still ongoing.

g. *Budget update and approval of expenses of \$111,458.64 for May 2014:*

Safes for the narcotics have been purchased for Stations 84 and 86 and Engines 84, 84B, 86 and B86. Motion made and passed by all present to approve the budget update and the expenses for May. (Harvey/Stuart).

g. *Draft Bylaws/Policies for the District's Board of Directors:*

Board consensus was to continue the bylaw discussions at the July meeting at 6 pm.

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:17 p.m.

h. *Adjourn to Closed Session:*

a.i. Govt. Code Section 54957.6 (a) Labor Negotiations: Board to discuss Memorandum of Understanding with NCPF Local 3800

a.ii. Govt. Code Section 54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators (Hills and Stuart) (Fire Chief)

Board reconvened into open session at 10:30 pm. Director Hills reported that the Board gave direction to the negotiating team in regards to the MOU with Local 3800. Under item ii of Closed Session, Director Hills reported that the Board approved unanimously the Fire Chief's contract with some amendments. This item will be on the agenda at the regular meeting in July.

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, July 2, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Meadow Vista Fire Station.

b. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all present to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Gillian Lofrano, District Manager

Approved by:

Alex Harvey _____

Peter Hills _____

Stephanie Stuart _____

Bret Tresidder _____

Mark Wright _____