

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
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Alex Harvey  
Peter Hills  
Fred Lofrano  
Russell McCray  
Mark Wright

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING; August 5, 2015

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

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

Directors in attendance: Harvey, Lofrano, McCray and Wright.

Directors absent: Director Hills.

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano and Engineers Wood and Lyons.

2. Agenda approval:

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

3. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting on July 1, 2015 were approved. (Lofrano/Wright).

Item 4e of the minutes for the special meeting on July 27 was amended. The district will give 24 hours per 12 month period for qualified employees. Staff will get clarification on when the employees will be qualified and if the leave is given on a calendar, fiscal or 12 month basis from hire date. The amended minutes for the Special meeting on July 27, 2015 were approved. (Wright/McCray).

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below):

None.

6. Information items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow's report:

- Cal Fire's Chief Paulus did a remarkable job keeping the Lowell fire out of the drainage to Dutch Flat. A third county strike team was sent to this fire as 2 other strike teams were already deployed on other incidents. All staff stepped up. The wildfires are terrible in Northern California. A Forest Service Firefighter lost his life last week. He was a forward observer and was overrun by a fire. An engine was burned over and 4 firefighters sustained burn injuries. Cal Fire thoroughly reviews all accidents and injuries.
- The district's water tender has been out multiple times. There have been 3 serious motor cycle accidents, one of which was a fatality, 2 suicides and a couple of heroin overdoses.
- Foresthill Fire Department is discussing hiring Mechanic Lippold one day per week. They suggested that Placer Hills could employ him three days per week and they would contract his services from Placer Hills for one day a week. This would create issues with benefits. Job Descriptions and Policies from Placer Hills have been modified to suit Foresthill and should be approved in the next couple of months. Foresthill's budget is under control. The Brush rig has already been out 14 days on a

strike team. Foresthill received \$36,000 from GEMT (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation) for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in 2014.

- Chief Gow is meeting with Colleen Lewis of the Auxiliary.

7 Discussion and Action Items:

a. Resolution 2015-004 setting the Appropriation's Limit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016:

This is the district's upper limit of spending for tax revenues. Motion made and approved by all present to accept Resolution 2015-004 setting the Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 at \$1,467,183.25 as calculated by the Auditor-Controller of Placer County. (Wright/McCray).

b. Discussion on PILT and Proposition 172 monies as potential funding sources:

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are Federal payments to local governments to provide, fire, law and road services to Federal lands. South Placer Fire District provides services to Folsom Lake and Foresthill services 500 acres of the Tahoe National Forest. The fire agencies have been asking for a share of this money from Placer County for the past 2 years. Chief Gow was interviewed by Channel 13. Mr. McEldowney, OES Program Manager was also interviewed and stated that Foresthill should go back to its public for more funding. Foresthill's Fire Board is really upset and has an action item on tomorrow's board meeting to cancel its response to the Federal Lands unless the County comes up with a plan. Director Wright wondered what the actual tax revenue would be from the properties within the Forest boundary if they were privately owned. Chief Gow continued that the responses into the forest involve long response times leaving Foresthill uncovered until cover comes from Auburn. He is hoping County staff will show up at the Board meeting with a solution. The Forest Service has never paid directly to an agency. Foresthill is looking to hire 2 part-time employees with these monies.

Chief Gow met with the Local in Sacramento. They are well organized and have set up a meeting with Senator Gaines. The County is conducting a study on Consolidation and costs of fire services countywide. Chief Gow met with Chief Morris, Cal Fire, who wants to keep their services in Placer County. Cal Fire's union wants to keep these jobs. When asked if the cities were interested in consolidation, Chief Gow noted that Chief Ruffcorn of Auburn City is on the County's study committee and would be agreeable to consolidation. Rocklin's Chief is about to retire and there are no plans to replace him. Roseville has just finished interviewing applicants for the Fire Chief's position and Lincoln has an interim chief. The County's study should be completed by December. Directors Wright and Lofrano raised some concerns about losing local control and dilution of services. Chief Gow noted that there would be no immediate savings but over time there would be savings in joint purchasing. Director Lofrano added that the County should be experiencing the same increase in their revenues as the fire district.

c. Budget update and approval of expenses in July 2015:

Chief Gow reported that 80 new homes are planned from West Paoli to Heather Glen. Another development of 40 homes is going in behind Heath Glen. The sewer from Applegate goes under the freeway and connects into the Winchester sewer system. Motion made and approved by all to accept the budget update and the expenses for July.

(Lofrano/Wright). Director Lofrano recused himself from the line item concerning District Manager Lofrano.

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.*

Upon Director McCray's request, Chief Gow will contact CHP to monitor trucks on the 3-mile grade. There seems to be more brake fires recently.

Director Wright requested the time of the next meeting to be put on the agenda.

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

- c. *Reminder of next Board meeting:*

September 2, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Meadow Vista Fire Station.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by:

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

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

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

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

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

