

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: July 24, 2019

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

Director Hills convened the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

Directors absent: None.

Staff in attendance: Chief Kushen, District Manager Lofrano, Fire Marshal Brothers and Battalion Chiefs Nelson and Slusher.

2. Agenda approval:

Item 7a, closed session regarding existing litigation was moved to item 7h with the other closed session items. Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the amended agenda. (Lofrano/Wright).

3. Approval of the minutes: Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 26, 2019. (Wright/Lofrano).

4. Public Comment: Gary Mapa introduced himself to the Board and was thankful that Measure A had passed. He is a local real estate agent and suggested that the Board should consider the land for sale opposite the "Tin Lantern" if the fire district has plans to expand in the future.

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

- Director Hills sent a letter of confirmation to the Board Presidents of both Foresthill and Newcastle Fire Districts approving the service contracts for each agency for 2019-2020. He also requested to meet with both agencies to discuss fire prevention and apparatus maintenance services.
- Received a proposal from Robert Johnson Accounting for audit services for the next 3 years. This was added to next month's agenda.

6. Information items:

a. *Fire Chief Kushen*

- The district has responded to 148 calls for service over the past 30 days. There have been several small vegetation fires and a vehicle fire next to the train tracks.
- Staff put on an all-day orientation for the interns for both Placer Hills and Newcastle.
- We are applying for a grant through S-SV EMS Agency for ballistic vests.
- Chief Kushen intends to surplus the Draeger SCBAs as he has an agency interested in purchasing them.
- Placer County OES met with several County department Heads and Fire Chiefs to ensure preparedness for fire season emergencies.
- PG&E is holding a Public Safety Power Shutoff public meeting at the Holiday Inn in Auburn to inform the public of the planned outages and wildfire safety.
- PG&E's contracted forestry company has made significant progress in the fuels reduction work on Sugar Pine Mountain and the Winchester shaded fuel break.

- Director Hills and Chief Kushen attended the Placer County Board of Supervisors meeting in Tahoe. Truckee Fire Protection District requested funding for the areas served by the fire district. They do not receive any AB-8 revenue for these parcels. There was overall support to move forward with a tax sharing agreement that will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors in the near future.
- Chief Kushen met with Supervisor Gustafson and discussed the financial status of the fire districts.

Battalion Chief Nelson

- The new Scotts SCBAs have been ordered. We were awarded 22 units in the regional grant and we will be ordering 10 more. We are considering training someone in house to do the service and repair.
- We had the walk through the proposed office building and we are waiting for the home, pest and elevator reports. We are officially in escrow.

Battalion Chief Slusher

- Swift water training class is scheduled for August. The cost per student is approximately one third of the usual class fee. This may be a revenue source in the future through the California Fire Assistance Agreement.
- Company Officer training is scheduled for every second Tuesday.

Fire Marshal Brothers

- We conduct approximately 20 defensible space inspections per month. Many homeowners are losing their home insurance.
- The service and maintenance of the hydrants is ongoing for the ISO evaluation.
- We collected \$250 in new construction inspection fees this last week. We project \$30,000 to be collected annually.
- Winchester is starting Phase 5 of the project. The new owners are considering decreasing the size of the parcels and increasing density.
- Fire Marshal Brothers has given several safety talks to local organizations. He will be attending National Night Out on August 6, 2019.
- Fire Marshal Brothers will be assisting local schools in the development of their comprehensive safety plans required by AB 1747.

e. *Directors reports:* None.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

b. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2019-03 Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation:
Fire Marshal Brothers modeled the Ordinance from Sonoma County. He received several recommendations from the Board. This item was continued to next month.

c. Approve the Directors' Special Districts Financial Stability Task Force and appoint an ad hoc committee:

Penryn FPD has opted out. Chief Kushen will check with Foresthill to see if they want are still interested. Retired Chiefs Gow and D'Ambrogi have agreed to co-chair the task force. Motion made and passed unanimously to continue the task force and appoint Directors Harvey and Hills on the ad hoc committee. (Lofrano/Wright).

- d. Approve the amended Limited Term Seasonal Firefighter Job Description:
Acting Battalion Chief Slusher presented the amended job description with the inclusion of the minimum wage pay rate and uniform allowance of \$400. 7 candidates tested for the 3 positions at Station 86. This will keep the station staffed when the water tender is requested. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the job description for the Limited Term Seasonal Firefighter. (Lofrano/Wright). Chief Kushen was appreciative and also thanked his Battalion Chiefs.
- e. Approve the agreement with KP Research Services Inc. for background investigations:
Chief Kushen reported that KP Research Services come very well recommended by local agencies in Placer County. The owner is a retired PCSO employee and teaches background investigations for the California Peace Officer Standards and Training. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the agreement with KP Research Services Inc. (Harvey/McCray).
- f. Measure "A" appeals process:
Staff is working on a policy and application. Motion made and approved to waive the parcel tax requested by Ms. Murray for her remnant parcel for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. (Lofrano/Harvey). Director McCray abstained.
- g. Budget update and approval of expenses:
We have not received the county report for month 13 for fiscal year 2018/2019. The financial report was continued to next month.

The open meeting was adjourned at 7:39 and the Board went into Closed Session.

- a. Closed Session:
 - i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION; Pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.9 Tess Clark v. Placer Hills Fire Protection District SCV0040302
- h. Closed Session:
 - i. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6(a) District negotiators: Directors Harvey and Lofrano;
 - ii. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.8;
 - iii. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION pursuant to California Government Code § 54957(b)(2): Fire Chief

The open meeting was reconvened at 10:18 pm. Director Hills gave the following report for the Closed Session items:

- a (i) The Board gave direction to legal counsel regarding the existing litigation.
- h (i) The Board gave direction to the negotiating committee. The two side letters dated 7/22/2019 were unanimously ratified by the Board with the proviso that item 3 describing the eligibility for benefits will not go into effect until the Board has received a petition for recognition for the employees currently designated as the Apprentice Engineer and Apprentice Engineer/Medic.
- h (ii) The Board gave direction to the Real Property Negotiator
- h (iii) The Board conducted the public employee performance evaluation of Fire Chief Kirk Kushen.

- i. Ratification of the two side letters between the District and Local 3800 dated 7/22/2019:
Motion made and approved unanimously to add the ratification of the two side letters with Local 3800 to the agenda. Motion made and approved unanimously to ratify the two side letters with Local 3800 dated 7/22/2019 with the proviso that item 3 describing the eligibility for benefits will not go into effect until the Board has received a petition for recognition for the employees currently designated as the Apprentice Engineer and Apprentice Engineer/Medic.
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: Regular meeting August 28, 2019 at 6 pm.*
9. Adjournment:
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____


Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: _____

