

# 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: October 23, 2019

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

Director Hills convened the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Harvey (arrived a few minutes late), 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:

Business item 8i was tabled because the Resolution with Zions Bancorporation for the lease purchase of the office building was still being reviewed. Motion made and passed by all present to accept the posted agenda with the change.

3. Approval of the minutes: After the closed session, a motion was made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting on July 9, 2019. (McCray/Harvey). Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting on September 12, 2019. (Lofrano/McCray). Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 25, 2019. (Lofrano/Wright).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

- Thank you letter from Mr. Dizon.
- Director Hills and Chief Kushen signed loan documents with the County for the new Type 1 engine. Staff will check with the auditor on how to report this revenue. We will make the change at the midterm review.

6. Discussion and Action Items:

The open meeting was adjourned and the Board went into closed session at 5:10 p.m.

a. Closed Session:

- i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6(a) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS; Discussion of memorandum of understanding with Local 3800, District negotiators: Directors Harvey and Lofrano;

The open meeting was reconvened at 6:05 p.m. Director Hills reported that the Board approved unanimously the MOU agreement with Local 3800. The Board also continued this closed session at the end of the open meeting.

7. Informational Items:

- a. *Fire Chief Kushen*

- Crews responded to a structure fire in Meadow Vista. The elderly homeowner drove to the fire station to alert staff as she had no phone services during the public safety power shut down by PG&E. The fire was contained to the basement but unfortunately 3 dogs expired. Chief Kushen praised the crews for a job well done. Crews responded to a shooting victim who later succumbed to her injuries. A suspect was arrested by PCSO. A vehicle fire was intentionally set by a despondent person at the Clipper Gap Park and ride. She attempted to jump off the overpass but was restrained and taken into custody. Multiple serious vehicle accidents in Foresthill.
- We have a potential employee in backgrounds to fill the temporary engineer's vacancy.
- Staff is working on the S-SV EMS grant for ballistic vests. The FEMA grant for a live burn simulator at Station 86 has been extended to the end of the year. The Civil Engineer is working on the plans. We were unsuccessful the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety grant for 2018.
- Shaded Fuel Break projects will continue in the New Year.
- We met with ISO on Monday. All data has been submitted for all 3 fire districts.
- Chief Kushen met again with Supervisor Gustafson and discussed fire districts' funding needs and the public safety power shut offs (PSPS).
- We have a red flag warning with a possible PSPS later this week. All agencies participate in daily conference calls to prepare for these shut offs. We have links on our websites with important information on disaster preparedness.

*Firefighters Association report by Engineer Froggatt*

- "Fill the Boot" for the burn institute is scheduled for November 15 in Meadow Vista.

*Local 3800 report by Acting Battalion Chief Slusher:*

- Acting Battalion Chief Slusher is stepping down as shop steward.

*Administrative Building update by Director Lofrano:*

- Battalion Chief Nelson and Director Lofrano are working on the tenant improvements. All recommendations are welcome.

8. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Approve the MOU with Local 3800:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3800. (Lofrano/McCray). Director Lofrano appreciated everyone's patience in this process.

b. Approve the new safety positions:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the creation of 2 new full-time Captain's positions, 1 temporary Captain's position, 5 full-time Engineer's positions and 1 temporary Engineer's position. (Wright/Lofrano). Retired Chief Gow inquired about the Acting Battalion Chief position and the trickledown effect on the temporary positions. Director Hills was optimistic that this position will be resolved in the near future.

c. Approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2019-03 Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation:

Fire Marshal Brothers reported that the Ordinance has been updated with the Board recommendations. It will address complaints of hazardous vegetation on both improved and unimproved parcels. The County still has not adopted an ordinance. Motion made and approved unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2019-03. (Lofrano/Wright). Director McCray still had concerns about mailing the notices. The District can assess penalties up to \$1,000. County Code Enforcement can impose a lien on property taxes. Liens can also be attached to State tax returns.

d. Approve County application for temporary borrowing of funds:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the annual application to borrow County funds. (Wright/McCray).

e. Budget update and approval of expenses:

We have taken in almost \$10,000 in fire code inspection fees. There seems to be a slight upturn in new construction. We are over in legal fees. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$185,426.17 for the period of September 21 – October 20, 2019. (Lofrano/Wright). Director Hills noted that a midterm adjustment will be made for the loan for the new Type 1 engine.

f. Set dates for the Board meetings in November and December:

The meeting for November was set for Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6p.m. by consensus of the Board. The date of the December meeting will be decided at the November meeting.

The open meeting was adjourned and the Board went back into closed session at 6:44 p.m.

6a. Closed Session (continued):

- i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6(a) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS; Discussion of memorandum of understanding with Local 3800, District negotiators: Directors Harvey and Lofrano;

g. Closed Session:

- i. Pursuant to California Government Code §54957 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT. Title: Fire Marshal
- ii. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR Chief Kushen pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.8; Property location: 17020 Placer Hills Rd., Meadow Vista. Property Owner: GEI Company, LLC

The open meeting was reconvened at 8:14 pm. Director Hills reported that under item 6(a) (i) of closed session, the Board gave direction to the negotiating team. Under item g(i), the Board unanimously approved the employment contract for the Fire Marshal. The Board gave direction to Chief Kushen as the real property negotiator under item 8(ii).

h. Approve Fire Marshal's employment contract, salary and benefits:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Fire Marshal's contract to the end of the calendar year, set at an annual salary of \$60,000, with full benefits and working a 30-hour workweek. (Wright/Lofrano). Board representatives from the 3 districts will meet to discuss options for the Fire Marshal's position. This item will be continued at future Board meetings.

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.*

- Director Hills reported that the parking lot at Station 85 is in disrepair.
- Director Lofrano complimented the crews for their service as recognized by Mr. Dizon in his letter.
- Director McCray thanked the crews for assisting him in his times of need.

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

c. *Reminder of next Board meeting: Special meeting November 25, 2019 at 6 pm.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:   
Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: 