

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: September 23, 2020

Held in Unit 2A, 17020 Placer Hills Rd., Meadow Vista.

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

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

Directors in attendance: Hills, Lofrano (late arrival), McCray and Wright.

Directors absent: Harvey.

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, Battalion Chief Nelson.

2. Agenda approval:

Motion made and passed 4-0 to accept the posted agenda. (Wright/McCray).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed 4-0 to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 26, 2020. (Wright/ McCray).

4. Public Comment:

Stacy Wiseman introduced her new business. She assists with healthcare directives. She wants to get involved with the community.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow

- Chief Gow sadly reported the passing of Chris Coombes who was a frequent visitor every Monday at Station 84 for many years. We also lost the father of John Ireland – John used to be a volunteer of the district.
- Congratulations to Matt and Megan Slusher who welcomed a healthy baby boy Caden Dean.
- Engine 86 was involved in a fender bender while going code 3 on a narrow road. There was some damage to the chrome. The internal investigation is still on going.
- Our tenant is holding an art show at our administration offices during fire prevention week. We will have a table with fire safety information.
- Chief Gow has been working on the “Lexipol” policies. They are well written and he wants to keep them consistent with South Placer. He will get them out chapter by chapter for approval.
- Chief Gow and the Battalion Chiefs are keeping up with the fire prevention and hazard abatement requests, but it is very time consuming. Chief Gow is completing the plan checks. The main focus is to get the commercial inspections up to date.
- Chief Gow has taken down the “No Parking” sign from the administrative offices parking lot. Staff is working on larger signs, the back-up generator installation and an alerting system for the new offices.

- Chief Gow reported that Foresthill Fire District's ISO rating was downgraded from a 3 to a 4. Foresthill is going to appeal the decision and Chief Gow has offered to help.
- The new fire station for Newcastle Fire District will cost \$3,600,000 to build. The cost was originally \$2,100,000 when Newcastle originally approached the Placer County Treasurer for a loan. At this time Treasurer Windeshausen was unable to make the numbers work. She will get back with the amount Newcastle can qualify for. The new station site reverts back to the original donor in one year and the repair to the sewer must be completed by July 2022.

Battalion Chief Nelson

- There were 115 calls for service during the past month. No significant incidents in our district. Brush 86 has been out for the past 6 weeks on a strike team deployment and is currently on the North complex in Quincy. The reserve Engine 85 will be back in service on Friday. The air unit had some warranty work done.
- The Chiefs have conducted over 75 inspections since Division Chief Brothers' departure.

Shop Steward Captain Wood

- Captain Wood reported that he had met with Director Lofrano. He is looking forward to the next negotiations.

e. Board Committee reports:

- The Finance committee met to discuss the final budget.
- The Negotiating committee met with L3800.

The open meeting was adjourned and the Board went into closed session at 6:30 pm.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Closed Session

- i. California Government Code § 54957.6(a) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING PROPOSED UNIT REPRESENTATION (BATTALION CHIEFS/LOCAL 3800) District Negotiators: Directors Harvey and Lofrano
- ii. 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. Director Hills reported that no action was taken under item (i) as it was approved last month. The Board gave direction to the Negotiating team under item (ii) of closed session.

- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-07 accepting the Petition of recognition of Nevada County Professional Firefighters, Local 3800 as the Exclusive Representative for Battalion Chiefs: Motion made and passed 4-0 adopting Resolution No. 2020-07. (Lofrano/McCray).

c. Approve Chief Gow's Staffing and Hiring proposal:

Chief Gow presented his staffing proposal. He recommended hiring a third Battalion Chief and part-time Fire Marshal as soon as possible to administer all fire prevention duties. The additional cost for the Fire Marshal will be \$40,000. The Battalion Chief's position will be open to the outside and the job announcement will give the applicants some time to attain the educational qualifications. Captain and Engineer testing will follow. The staffing proposal will improve staff efficiency and safety. Motion made, amended and

approved 4-0 to hire the third Battalion Chief and the part-time Fire Marshal and to defund the Division Chief's position. (Wright/McCray).

d. Adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021:

The Finance Committee recommended purchasing a new command vehicle for the Battalion Chief immediately to replace the 2003 expedition. An additional staff vehicle for next fiscal year was also recommended to replace the other 2003 expedition and will be used by staff for meetings, classes etc. The chassis on the water tender will be replaced next year. The 1999 Brush rig will be surplus and replaced by the Type 6 from OES. OES now allows agencies to utilize the rigs in their own districts and it is not a requirement to staff them when called upon by OES. Revenues have been increased to reflect strike team activity. \$35,000 has been budgeted for the Fire Chief Recruitment process. The draft final budget has a carryover of \$128,000. Director McCray expected additional expenses which are not reflected in the final budget. Motion made and passed 4-0 to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented. (Lofrano/Wright).

e. Approve staff's recommendation to surplus the 1999 International Type 3 Brush engine:

Chief Nelson reported that it would cost \$25,000 to overhaul the vehicle and replace the pump. It has reached the end of its life. Staff is researching private companies to sell the vehicle. Motion made and passed 4-0 to surplus the 1999 International Model 14 with the recommended reserve of \$15,000 to \$18,000. (Lofrano/Wright).

f. Approve the RFP for recruitment services for a new Fire Chief:

Director Hills recommended getting the RFP out as soon as possible with proposals due at the end of October and awarding the contract at the November meeting. The target start date for the new Chief will be July 1, 2021. Motion made and passed 4-0 to approve the RFP and to publish it as soon as possible. (Wright/McCray). The Board meeting in November was scheduled for November 23, 2020.

g. Budget update and approval of expenses:

Motion made and passed 4-0 to accept the budget update and the expenses of \$293,708.54 for August and September, 2020. (Lofrano/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(s): October 28, 2020*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: 