

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 28, 2021

Held in Unit 2A, 17020 Placer Hills Rd., Meadow Vista and by a Zoom teleconference.

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

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

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

Directors absent: None

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, District Manager Lofrano, Battalion Chiefs Slusher and Williamson.

2. Agenda approval:

Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the posted agenda. (Lofrano/Wright).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 26, 2021. (Harvey/Wright). Director Harvey's comment was removed from item 8b of the minutes of the regular meeting on June 23, 2021. Motion made and passed to approve the amended minutes. (Harvey/Wright).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow

- The OES Type 6 rig was deployed to the Dixie Fire earlier this month. The crew will be changed out tomorrow
- We will resume the approval of the Lexipol policies next month.
- Staff is working on a proposal to purchase MDTs with vehicle locators to improve dispatch services. Chief Gow recommends moving forward with this proposal.
- Auburn City is opening their second station. A Newcastle Fire Captain has been hired by Auburn City.
- Chief Gow believes South Placer has selected a new Fire Chief. Chief Fowler is staying on until the end of the year to help with the transition. South Placer is not merging with Sac Metro Fire.
- Newcastle Fire's application for a USDA loan is almost done with a great effort from Board members Heisterkamp and Bettencourt. Newcastle's Board and union signed a Memorandum of Understanding for 1 year.
- Penryn is moving forward with their CalPERS application. The engine bay exhaust system will be installed next week and staff is getting bids for a back-up generator.

b. Fire Marshal Mark D'Ambrogi

- New construction has slowed down. Chief D'Ambrogi completed 5 sprinkler plan reviews and inspected 2 new single family dwellings. He has received 26 hazardous vegetation complaints with 3 moving on in the process and 1 sent to Placer County Code Enforcement.
- As of July 1, 2021, Assembly Bill 38 requires home sellers to provide documentation of a defensible space inspection to home buyers at time of sale. This only applies to homes within a Very High Fire Severity Zone or High Fire Severity Zone area. CalFire will be conducting these inspections and has set up the process on their website.

c. Battalion Chief John Williamson

- The parking lot at Station 85 has been repaired.
- All apparatus is in service.

Battalion Chief Slusher

- The OES Type 6 was in service for less than a week before it was deployed to Oregon to the Bootleg Fire. Chief Nelson also went as Strike Team Leader. They were then redeployed to the Dixie Fire. The crew will be replaced tomorrow and Chief Nelson will return home. We have a fire line medic on the Dixie fire who will be gone until July 31.
- We had 118 calls for service. A vegetation fire caught a structure on fire in Weimar. There were 2 technical rescues and a hazmat fuel spill. The Battalion Chiefs' call volume has increased. Penryn had 9 vegetation fires in June.
- The Operations Group is working on the Closest Resource Agreement. Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) and Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) enhance dispatch and response capabilities. Staff is working on a proposal to install MDCs in the command and frontline vehicles and install a mount for the computers in the other units. Approximate cost is between \$35,000 and \$40,000. This will provide better operational responses. Penryn already has these units but Newcastle does not. President Hills noted that this is the standard nowadays, especially for Battalion Chiefs' Vehicles.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association Captain Froggatt: No report.

e. Local 3800: no report.

f. Board Committee reports:

- Station 84 replacement: Director Lofrano reported that he met with 3 Church Elders. They were all in favor of our proposal but had some legal and fiscal concerns. Discussed options for buying or leasing.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Consider Chief Gow's Paramedic Retention proposal:

Chief Gow requested to table this item to next month as he would like to meet with the Local. Motion made and passed unanimously to table this item. (Wright/McCray).

b. Update on the district's Cal PERS unfunded accrued liability:

The process went really fast. The funds have been paid to CalPERS.

c. Consider entering into a Joint Operations Agreement (JOA):

Board members from both Placer Hills and Foresthill have met to discuss the JOA over the past several months. A JOA keeps all the stations open and gives experience working at different districts. Foresthill has current staffing issues although historically they assisted Placer Hills. Penryn's captains are working back to back due to a vacancy and cannot participate in Strike teams. Chief Gow discussed the JOA with Chief Ridley and Chair Michelini. He is highly reassured and confident that all past issues have been addressed and believes that the agreement will work. The union recommended going forward with the JOA and suggested that the withdrawal from the agreement should be reduced to 90 days. Additionally the Battalion Chief's should be automatically dispatched for all first alarm incidents in Foresthill. Foresthill Director Chris Reams stated that the Battalion Chiefs were welcome any time. President Hills' primary concerns were with the handling of employee discipline and accidents. The JOA covers discipline. President Hills recommended amending the agreement and submit to the other agencies for their approval prior to Placer Hills' approval. Motion made and passed unanimously for staff to move forward with amending the agreement, obtaining legal approval and submitting to the other districts. (Wright/Harvey).

d. Approve Placer County Auditor-Controller's services agreement for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and the cost of \$1,547.64:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the services agreement and the associated cost. (Lofrano/McCray).

e. Approve direction to Placer County Auditor-Controller to combine the Winchester Mitigation Fund PG700022 and Mitigation Fund PG700023:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve directing the Auditor-Controller to combine the two funds. (Lofrano/McCray).

f. Consider the revised bid from Johnson Accounting for audit services for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and give direction to staff:

Johnson Accounting submitted a revised bid for audit services for Fiscal Year 2021. The revised bid was for \$12,250, an increase of \$6,000. There was discussion on the legality of the revised proposal. Motion made and passed unanimously to direct staff to contact Johnson Accounting regarding the change in the agreement and to request proposals from firms for a 3-year term. (Lofrano/Wright).

g. Update on the Department's COVID-19 response:

Chief Gow reported that OSHA has modified its regulations. We are keeping in compliance. The Stations are disinfected every month and staff are wearing the required protective equipment.

h. Budget update and approval of expenses:

President Hills noted that the district was able to put money into the Capital depreciation accounts last fiscal year. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$183,644.92. (McCray/Wright).

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): August 25, 2021.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: 

Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: 