

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: August 25, 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 Nelson, Slusher and Williamson.

2. Agenda approval:

The Finance Committee met and gave a brief report under Board Committee reports. Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the agenda. (Wright/McCray).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 28, 2021. (Lofrano/Wright).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow

- Foresthill Fire has staffing issues.
- South Placer Fire hired Mark Duerr from Stockton as their new fire chief. Chief Fowler will stay on till the end of the year to assist with the transition.
- Auburn City is staffing the second station. They are testing for Captains.
- Newcastle Fire completed the application for the USDA loan. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the union has been signed.
- Penryn Fire's MOU is up at the end of the year. Penryn submitted the application to CalPERS for 2 retirement plans. The process will take 4 to 6 months to complete. The engine bay exhaust extraction system has been installed. Getting bids for a back-up generator and wall repair.
- Chief D'Ambrogi is working on the state mandatory inspections and a "firewise" community in Weimar.

c. Battalion Chief Pat Nelson

- Chief Nelson was the Task Force Leader at the Bootleg Fire in Oregon and then reassigned to the Dixie fire. Placer Hills' OES engine was also deployed to the same incidents.
- The tanks of both Placer Hills reserve engine and Newcastle's engine will be repaired later in the week

Battalion Chief Matt Slusher

- Chief Slusher thanked staff for their amazing efforts during this very busy fire season. Placer Hills had a resource on the Grass Valley fire. There were 100 calls for service in July with 11 fires. Chief Gow, all 3 Battalion Chiefs, the water tender and 2 engines from Placer Hills were on the initial attack at the River fire. Chief Slusher thanked Captain Palombi, his crew and Penryn's engine for saving numerous homes. A lot is being asked of our staff at this time.

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

e. Local 3800: No report.

f. Board Committee reports:

- Finance Committee report: President Hills reported that the committee met last week to review the final budget. The district anticipates \$300,000 in reimbursement from the strike team deployments. The committee authorized staff to move forward with the purchase of Mobile Data Terminals/Computers at a cost of \$45,000. MDTs are a vital component of communications in the fire service. The purchase will be taken out of the equipment depreciation fund. Engine 84 had a close call on the River Fire. The engine was trapped and was unable to relay the GPS coordinates to the air attack for water drops. A CalFire engine managed to relay the coordinates and the helicopters were able to protect Engine 84. Captain Froggatt is working on the MDT package. The Finance Committee will meet again next month to finalize the budget.
- Station 84 replacement: Director Lofrano reported that the Church Elders are very supportive of the district's proposal. They proposed the following:
 - A perpetual lease of \$1 every year for the corner property.
 - A second legal firm to review any documentation and all legal costs to be paid by the district.
 - Landscaping and irrigation in front of the wall.
 - District to be responsible for the removal of the trees in the corner.
 - Removal of 2 other trees on the church property.
 - District staff to deal with their brush piles every year.
 - Notice to the community of the Church's support.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Consider Chief Gow's Paramedic Retention proposal:

Chief Gow requested to table this item to next month. Motion made and passed unanimously to table this item. (McCray/Wright).

b. Consider entering into a Joint Operations Agreement (JOA) for shared staffing:

The Penryn Board reviewed the agreement and were more comfortable limiting the contract to only sharing staff. Chief Gow reported that Foresthill amended the contract to allow the Duty Chiefs to respond as agency representatives if they have staff working under this agreement. President Hills preferred the original agreement which included the verbiage to move forward globally. He is concerned about the agencies having different policies. Chief Slusher noted that there is a 90-day clause to get out of the contract and that the union is willing to move forward and evaluate the JOA. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the JOA with Chief Gow's changes. (Wright/McCray).

- c. Approve an application to borrow County funds to cover any budget shortfalls until property tax revenues are received:

Staff amended the amounts from the posted documents. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the application for dry financing. (Lofrano/Wright). Staff is working with the Placer County Treasurer regarding the district's checking account and the Treasurer's compliance with the Health and Safety Code for borrowing County funds.

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

Chief Gow reported that staff are responding to many COVID calls. Chiefs Gow and Slusher are working on a memo to escalate cleaning, closing stations and reducing community outreach. Sacramento has mandated that all city employees be vaccinated. The District's Command staff and the Union representatives are not interested in making this mandatory for our employees.

- e. Budget update and approval of expenses:

Chief Gow reported that the salaries are over budget due to the strike team deployments. All agencies must pay a share of LAFCO's budget. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$183,644.92. (McCray/Harvey).


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): September 22, 2021.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____


Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: _____

