

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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www.placerhillsfire.org



Alex Harvey
Peter Hills
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Mark Wright

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: September 22, 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 by teleconference.

Directors absent: None

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

2. Agenda approval:

Mr. Ellis was unable to attend to give his presentation. Chief Gow still needs to meet with Local 3800 and requested to continue the paramedic proposal to next month. Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the amended agenda. (Harvey/Lofrano).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on August 25, 2021. (Lofrano/McCray).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow

- All district resources are back home from strike team deployments. This is the most requests we have ever received from the State.
- Newcastle is confident that they will get the USDA loan for their new fire station.
- Lexipol Policy review and approval will begin again next month.
- Penryn is installing a back-up generator and requesting proposals for station repairs.
- Both Penryn and Newcastle will be back to full staffing soon.
- Chief Gow is signed up for a CSDA webinar on the COVID fund application process.

b. Fire Marshal Mark D'Ambrogi

- Chief D'Ambrogi has received 4 sets of plans and completed 3 final, 2 rough and 2 fire alarm inspections this month.
- He has received 30 hazard vegetation complaints and is processing 4 of them. 50% of defensible space inspection requests are due to home insurance renewals and 50% to fire activity.
- The California Insurance Commissioner has issued a 1-year moratorium on home insurance cancelations.
- Winchester is proposing to put a gate on Ridgemore Drive, which is a public road. Chief D'Ambrogi has responded his concerns to the Planning department.

c. Battalion Chief Pat Nelson

- Chief Nelson reported that all resources are back home. The OES engine was gone for 10 weeks at the Bootleg, Dixie and Caldor fires. The crews experienced significant fire activity. 12,000 miles were put on the OES engine. Director Lofrano thanked staff for all of their efforts. The OES engine is in the shop being serviced.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: No report.

e. Local 3800: No report.

f. Board Committee reports:

- Station 84 replacement: Board consensus was to reach out to the architect to move forward with the schematics and for district counsel to draft a lease in perpetuity. The Surveyor has already specified the points of the Church's property.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

c. Approve the amended Joint Operations Agreement (JOA) for shared staffing with Newcastle, Penryn and Foresthill Fire Districts:

Changes were made to the insurance limits. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the revised JOA. (McCray/Wright).

d. Adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022:

President Hills reported that the Finance Committee met and recommended the following:

- Increase strike team reimbursement to \$495,000
- Increase the depreciation schedule for apparatus to \$200,000 to properly fund the Rescue Unit. Staff will proceed with the specifications for this unit as delivery will take 2 years
- Move up the replacement of the Type 1 engine from year 2031 to 2027 to have a more robust reserve engine

Chief Gow reported that the water tender is due to get a new chassis and will be out of service for 6 months. The new chassis will cost \$225,000. The Committee also discussed a tactical water tender that would cost \$400,000. Chief Gow has contacted Chief Spencer of Auburn City to find out if their water tender may be available to either lease or purchase. The committee discussed the OES Type 6 as it is frequently requested for deployments. Chief D'Ambrogi is working on the administrative rate which will increase the district's reimbursement. Staff is reviewing all the engine options. Manufacturers of fire engines anticipate an annual increase in cost of between 8% and 16%. The County has projected a 6% increase in property tax revenues. Director Lofrano brought up accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and how they will be assessed by the County. Motion made and passed unanimously to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 with the Finance Committee's recommendations. (Lofrano/Wright).

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

Chief Gow reported that the stations are still closed to the public and masks are required at the administration offices. The stations are fumigated twice a month and staff are wearing the appropriate protective equipment. In-house testing is available. 2 or 3 members have been exposed to the virus by family members. Staff is not interested in mandating vaccinations.

f. Budget update and approval of expenses:

Chief Gow reported that the salaries are over budget due to the strike team deployments. Everything else looks good. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$333,550.34. (McCray/Lofrano).

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: Discuss dates for the meetings in November and December.*
- c. Reminder of next Board meeting(s): October 27, 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: 