

# 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: January 26, 2022

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. President Hills thanked everyone for their kind thoughts during his illness.

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:

The PG&E presentation was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the amended agenda. (Lofrano/Wright).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 22, 2021. (Harvey/Wright).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

7a. Presentation: Evacuation Preparedness by Brent Stangeland, Public Safety Specialist for PG&E: Battalion Chief Slusher introduced Mr. Stangeland who grew up in our area and who is our fire service contact for PG&E. He showed the evacuation video featuring Battalion Chief Slusher and Engine 84. It showcased a family that was given 10 minutes to evacuate their home due to the threat of a wildfire.

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Gow

- Chief Gow has drafted an After Action Report on the historic winter storm last month. Staff will have input and then it will come before the Board. We have requested damages from the County as the storm was declared a disaster. Chief Gow's command car was damaged when a large branch landed on the roof and hood. There were downed trees and power lines across multiple roads in the district – it was like a war zone. All 3 Battalion Chiefs were working and all staff put in a heroic effort. Engine 41 also came to help. At the same time, the generator at Station 86 died. The County loaned us a generator which we replaced with a rental. The new motor for the generator should be here in the next couple of weeks.
- An Engineer's test is planned to fill the vacancies at Placer Hills and Penryn and to create a list for all 3 districts. There are 6 applicants so far.
- Chief Gow has written a white paper on the Capital replacement plan. It will be discussed by staff and the Finance Committee before coming to the Board.

- Newcastle is fully staffed with their new employee starting in February.
- Penryn has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3800 and are waiting for the valuations from CalPERS.
- Director Lofrano suggested that a sound wall should be built around the administration generator to minimize the noise from our neighbors.

b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi

- Chief D'Ambrogi has inspected 4 new single family homes and approved 3 sets of plans. He has inspected several propane gas lines for generators and expects a lot more.
- Placer County did declare the winter storm a disaster, however there are no local programs currently available to assist in the storm damage clean up. The chipper program has been ramped up using people requiring community service hours. The current wait time for the chipper is only 2 days.
- Chief D'Ambrogi is seeing several 1,000 gallon underground propane tanks being installed in Newcastle and Penryn.

c. Battalion Chief Williamson

- Scheduling ladder, hose and mask fit testing.
- The winter storm "Snowmageddon" was crazy having to triage the life threatening incidents. The crews worked all night long with the Sheriffs and Search and Rescue. The Board appreciated the monumental efforts by staff.

Battalion Chief Slusher

- Chief Slusher reported that the district ran 158 calls during the storm -12/26/2021 to 1/2/2022. There were 1759 calls for service in 2021. Placer Hills gave more aid than we received.
- Chief Slusher discussed the extended wait times at the hospitals.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: No report.

e. Local 3800: No report.

f. Board Committee reports: President Hills attended the Northern California Special Districts Insurance Authority's quarterly meeting. There will be no change to the district's contribution. They have received over 50 new claims probably related to COVID. They anticipate costs going up in the future.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

b. Approve the promotion of Battalion Chief John Williamson to full-time status:

Chief Gow recommended the promotion of Chief Williamson in the highest terms. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Battalion Chief Williamson's promotion. (Lofrano/Wright).

c. Approve the 2nd reading of the Catastrophic Leave Policy:

Both Newcastle and Penryn have ratified this policy. The union also approved it. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Catastrophic Leave Policy. (Wright/McCray).

d. Station 84 replacement project; approve a Perpetual Lease Agreement with Faith Lutheran Church:

Director Lofrano reported that the amended lease was sent to the Church elders for their review. This item will be continued to next month. We received updated renderings and cost estimates from the architect. The project will cost approximately \$5,000,000. President Hills suggested that the Long Range committee should meet next month and invite Jeff Small to advise of funding options. We should discuss community outreach. Additionally, staff will work on temporary housing for the staff and vehicles during construction.

e. Approve the same 3% salary increase for Chief Gow that was given to all the other full-time staff on January 1, 2022:

President Hills recommended that Chief Gow should be given the same 3% salary increase that was given to all the other full-time staff. Motion made and passed unanimously to adjust Chief Gow's salary by an increase of 3%. (Lofrano/McCray).

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

Chief Gow reported that the Omicron variant is much more contagious but is generally less virulent than the other variants. The usual protocols remain in effect. One of our engine companies contracted COVID but it was isolated to the 3 employees. Chief Slusher managed to obtain several boxes of COVID tests from the County. Great Britain has dropped all restrictions.

g. Budget update and approval of expenses:

Chief Gow reported that we are over in overtime expenses due to strike team deployments. Fuel costs were also up. Staff is hopeful that the budgeted Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) and vehicle tracking systems will come in under budget. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$347,386.94. (McCray/Lofrano).

h. Discuss potential future re-organizations in Placer County through the LAFCO process:

President Hills reported that reorganization and merger discussions have been going on for many years. After meeting with LAFCO and representatives of the Newcastle Board, it is time to move forward. President Hills and Chief Gow will meet with the Penryn Board Chair to see if they are interested. President Hills hopes to attend the Board meetings of both Newcastle and Penryn to put forward the process. He distributed a draft resolution for a merger of all 3 districts with the new district Board comprising of 3 members from Placer Hills and 2 each from Newcastle and Penryn. He recommended putting the resolution on next month's agenda. Placer Hills' assessments would overlay the parcels of Newcastle and Penryn in the new district. Director Harvey was in favor of moving forward with the process. The Newcastle Board has already designated a committee to discuss re-organizations. Both President Hills and Director Harvey volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee for inter-district cooperation and reorganizations.

i. Election of Board Officers and appointment of Committee Assignments:

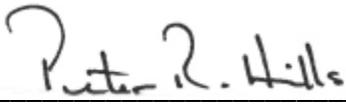
Motion made and passed unanimously to continue the same officers and committee assignments from 2021. (McCray/Wright).

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:*  
Long Range and Finance Committee meetings to be scheduled.
  - c. *Reminder of next Board meeting(s): February 23, 2022.*
9. Adjournment:  
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by:   
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Peter Hills, President