

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 350, Meadow Vista, CA 95722
(530) 878-0405 Fax (530) 878-0959
www.placerhillsfire.org



Alex Harvey
Peter Hills
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Mark Wright

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: February 23, 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.

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

Directors absent: Harvey.

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, Battalion Chiefs Nelson, Slusher and Williamson.

2. Agenda approval:

Motion made and passed by all present to accept the posted agenda. (Lofrano/Wright).

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed by all present to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 26, 2022. (McCray/Wright).

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Gow

- Chief Gow reported that the Joint Operations Agreement for staffing between Placer Hills, Newcastle, Penryn and Foresthill is working well.
- Candidates have completed the written and oral portions of the Engineer's test. The skills portion will take place next month. Looking at options to reduce the time frame for pre-employment background checks.
- The generator at Station 86 is back in service and the rental generator has been returned.
- Union Pacific will allow us to use the property at Station 86 for the training center. There may be an additional annual cost for the lease.
- Retired South Placer Fire Chief Tony Corado has tragically died. His memorial service will be on March 5, 2022.
- Newcastle Fire: Site work has started at the new fire station location. Working on the moving logistics for staff and equipment. The Board is looking into selling the existing station.
- Penryn Fire: The back-up generator is in service at the fire station. A request for proposals for the station wall repairs has been posted. We should receive the Cal PERS valuations in the near future.
- South Placer Fire: They are going back to the voters for a benefit assessment. Most of the potential revenue is earmarked for staffing costs.

- Sheriff Bell is retiring at the end of this year. Undersheriff Woo is running for the position. Chief Gow and his wife Jerrilyn, attended the campaign kick-off fundraiser for Undersheriff Woo. Ryan Ronco will be running again for his position as Placer County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters. Unfortunately Placer County Treasurer Jenine Windeshausen is also retiring. Her number 2 will be running for her position.
- Chief Gow reported that Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi completed 15 inspections last month. He is making requirements to ensure that fire engines will have full access into the Winchester sub-division if they go forward with their plan to install a gate at Ridgemore Road.

c. Battalion Chief Williamson

- Chief Williamson reported that the annual ladder testing has been done. Starting hose testing. Several hose lengths are out of service. We will need about \$13,000 to bring the hose compliment up to standard level.

Battalion Chief Slusher

- Chief Slusher reported that the district ran 131 calls in January with several large structure fires. All staff performed well. The devastating winter storm forced staff to think outside the box.
- The manipulative portion of the Engineer's test is scheduled on March 12, 2022.
- The cost of the chassis and body for the new Rescue truck is within the budget. We are using the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) procurement service for the bid process.
- Captain Lippold and the mechanics have been putting in lots of hours in equipment maintenance.
- Everyone has stepped up in Chief Nelson's absence to cover all his responsibilities.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: Chief Slusher reported that the Association is planning a full scale Pioneer Day this year.

e. Local 3800: Clayton Thomas, President of Local 3800 reported that he attended the Penryn meetings discussing the CalPERS retirement plans. President Hills thanked President Thomas for his comments at the Penryn Board meeting regarding reorganizations.

f. Board Committee reports:

- Finance Committee: Due to the current quarterly increase of 7.5% for new fire apparatus, the Committee and staff recommended moving the purchase of the Type 1 engine up. This will save the district approximately \$200,000. The cost of the new engine with tax will be approximately \$775,000. President Hills projects that the district will have a rolling 5-year loan for engine replacement. Director Lofrano made a motion to move forward and gave direction to staff to bring back the bids for the Type 1 next month. Director Wright seconded the motion that passed 4 – 0. The committee also recommended budgeting \$15,000 for hose in the current budget.
- Long Range Committee: Director Lofrano reported that Faith Lutheran Church wanted some minor changes and that they have sent the lease to their attorney.

- iii. Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations: President Hills gave a presentation to both the Newcastle and Penryn Boards regarding the LAFCO process for reorganizations. The Placer Hills and Newcastle Committees will meet to discuss a concurrent resolution to proceed with the process. They will then meet with the LAFCO Executive Officer. President Hills went over the timeline for the North Tahoe and Meeks Bay merger. The process can be stopped if 25% of the voters are against the merger. The voters are weighted on the values of the property they own. President Hills was hopeful that the resolution to reorganize with Newcastle will be on next month's agenda. Penryn voted to appoint an ad hoc committee to gather information on the reorganizations. Penryn's CalPERS retirement contract would revert to Placer Hills' plan if they reorganized with Placer Hills and were not the lead agency. Clayton Thomas, President, Local 3800, reported that the long term Penryn employees may not be able to buy back prior service, but this will be up to Penryn's Board. There will be fees associated with the LAFCO process. Chief Slusher added that Chair Kahrl of Newcastle made some excellent points in favor of a reorganization at the Penry Board meeting.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Station 84 replacement project;

- i. Approve the Proposal from Capitol Public Finance Group, LLC (CPFG) for financial advisory services concerning the replacement of the fire station in Meadow Vista: Jeff Small from CPFG attended the Long Range meeting to give options for funding the potential debt for the replacement of Station 84. Mr. Small reported that there is a lack of certainty of getting a USDA loan and it is also a lengthy process. Another option is debt issuance through the public market. This is a quicker process but will probably have a higher rate of cost. Mr. Small suggested that he can provide the District a financial feasibility analysis for the project which will include other borrowing options such as a USDA loan and various options for structuring a loan. President Hills noted that USDA requires that the district provide 3 letters of refusal from lending sources. Motion made and passed by all present to approve the agreement with CPFG for the Financial Feasibility report at a cost not to exceed \$7,500 and to consider the authorization of the issuance services at a later date. (Lofrano/Wright).
- ii. Perpetual Lease Agreement with Faith Lutheran Church: continued to next month. Chief Gow met with the Placer Hills School Superintendent and discussed temporary housing for staff during the construction of the new station. The contractor for the Newcastle fire station also has good contacts for temporary living accommodations.

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

Chief Gow reported that COVID cases are dropping. The stations are still closed to the public and staff are continuing with the sanitizing the stations and equipment.

c. Budget update and approval of expenses:

Chief Gow reported that we have spent 82% of the fuel budget. Motion made and passed by all present to add \$15,000 to planned equipment for the hose purchase and to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$270,133.93. (Wright/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:*

President Hills and Director McCray will meet with the representatives from Newcastle and Penryn to discuss administrative services. They will show them the actual cost. The overlay of the special taxes with Newcastle will bring in revenues to offset the additional staffing costs.

c. *Reminder of next Board meeting(s): March 23, 2022.*

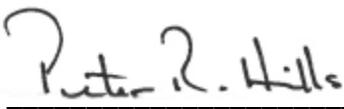
9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: 

Peter Hills, President