

# 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: February 22, 2023 amended

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 6:02 p.m.

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

Directors absent: Harvey

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

2. Agenda approval:

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

3. Approval of the minutes:

Motion made and passed to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on January 25, 2023. (McCray/Wright). Director Lofrano abstained.

4. Public Comment: None.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief's Report

- We have an applicant in backgrounds for the vacant Captain's position.
- Finishing up LAFCO's Municipal Services Review.
- Chief Gow, Presidents Hills and Kahrl and Director Harvey met with Supervisor Landon. They discussed the reorganization effort and the funding of capital equipment.
- We may have to follow the County guidelines for replacing the sign at Station 84.
- Chief Gow met with Judy Cook regarding the Applegate Library. She is interested in the fire department purchasing it. The Civic Center needs more parking space. The transfer of the Library back to the Applegate Civic Center is on the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 28, 2023.
- Staff has emptied the old Newcastle fire station. The appraisal should be ready soon and then it will be on the market.

b. Fire Marshal report by Chief Gow

- Fire Code inspections/plan review: 4 sprinkler plans, 4 sprinkler inspections, 1 single family dwelling final, commercial fire alarm final at the Meadow Vista Community Center, several propane line inspections and defensible space inspections to assist in insurance coverage.
- Planning projects: 2 Cell tower upgrades at Eden Valley & Mt Howell, 1 lot split of a 6 acre parcel into 2 3 acre parcels at 1489 Meadow Vista Rd.

c. Battalion Chief Slusher

- There were 125 calls for service in January. Mutual Aid was given 27 times. We did not receive any mutual aid. There were several vehicle accidents.
- Purchasing radios and structure turnouts through Cal Fire's Volunteer Fire Capacity grant. (50/50 share). Structure turnouts now cost over \$4,000 a set.
- The Western Placer County Fire Chiefs Association has subdivided the operations group into 3 additional groups with staff as members; EMS: Captain Craig, Training: Captain Wood and Interoperability: Chief Slusher.
- Captain Lippold is now working a 40-hour week in the shop for spring maintenance and equipment annual testing.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: None.

e. Local 3800: Shop Steward Hodges reported that the union voted unanimously to approve the district's proposal. Looking forward to the arrival of Captain Reams.

f. Board Committee reports:

- Finance Committee: The Committee met and discussed budget amendments.
- Long Range Committee: No report.
- Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations: Met with Supervisor Landon.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Approve a nomination for the Fire Agencies Insurance Risk Authority's Governing Board:  
No action was taken on this item.

b. Approve the Audit for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 prepared by Smith & Newell CPAs:

President Hills reported that the fund balance increased by \$76,000 and the Mitigation Fund dropped to \$46,000. CalPERS is funded over 90%. Requested that the auditor breakout the general funds into the depreciation/replacement funds in future years. Motion made and passed by all present to approve the audit for Fiscal Year 2021-22 prepared by Smith and Newell CPAs. (Lofrano/McCray).

c. Approve the updated Fire Recovery costs for fire services:

District residents are not charged fire service costs. Motion made and approved by all present to approve the updated Fire Recovery costs. (Lofrano/Wright).

d. Approve a mid-term amendment to the current budget:

The Finance Committee recommended the following:

- Increase Strike Revenues to \$300,000 due to the activity during fire season and repositioning during extreme weather.
- Increase administration salary costs by \$40,000 to provide for the workload related to running 3 districts and succession planning. Transition the Administrative Assistant into a full-time position.

There was discussion on solar power for Station 86. Solar plans must be submitted by April 24, 2023 to take advantage of the better reimbursement rate for extra power. Motion made and passed by all present to approve the Finance Committees' recommendations and to allocate \$500 for preliminary solar plans. (Wright/Lofrano).

e. Approve the Budget update and monthly expenses:

Motion made and passed by all present to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$415,567.51. (Wright/Lofrano).

The open meeting was adjourned and the Board went into Closed Session at 6:45 pm.

f. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6(a) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS; Discussion of memorandum of understanding with Local 3800. District negotiators: Directors Harvey.

The open meeting was reconvened at 7:12pm. President Hills reported that the Board approved the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Nevada County Professional Firefighters, Local 3800 by 4 votes to 0. The Board also approved the amendment to the Battalion Chief Unit by 4 votes to 0.

g. Approve an Amendment to the MOU with NCPF, Local 3800 and the MOU with NCPF, Local 3800 Battalion Chief Unit for the term through December 31, 2023:

Motion made and passed by all present to approve the amendment to the MOU with NCPF, Local 3800 Firefighters. (Lofrano/McCray)

Motion made and passed by all present to approve the amendment to the MOU with NCPF, Local 3800 Battalion Chief Unit. (Lofrano/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.*

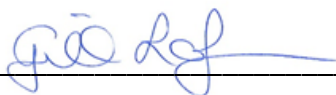
b. *Request items for inclusion in subsequent meetings or request a special meeting:*

c. *Reminder of next Board meeting(s): March 22, 2023.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: 

Peter Hills, President