

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 23, 2023 Amended

17020 Placer Hills Rd. Suite 2A, 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, Lofrano and McCray.

Directors absent: Wright.

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

There were some technical difficulties with the Zoom teleconference. The meeting continued at 6:09 pm.

2. Agenda approval:

Director Wright moved to approve the agenda. Director Lofrano seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes:

Director Harvey moved to approve the minutes for the meeting on July 26, 2023. Director ~~Harvey~~ McCray seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0. Director Wright abstained.

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): All Board members received a letter from Congressman Kiley. President Hills requested a meeting with the Congressman.

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Gow's Report

- i. President Hills welcomed Chief Gow back to his duties.
- ii. Newcastle approved a paramedic stipend for qualified staff when they work at an ALS agency.
- iii. Auburn City signed the Joint Operations Agreement for shared staffing. Chief Gow met the new Auburn City Manager at the farewell party for one of the Auburn Battalion Chiefs who is leaving for Rocklin. Auburn City will probably fill the vacant Fire Chief's position from in-house. Chief Gow offered Auburn City any assistance they may need.
- iv. Dennis Martin, a Battalion Chief from Vallejo, is Foresthill's new Fire Chief. He is a proponent of consolidations. He is concerned about Battalion Chief Coverage.
- v. Chief Gow has an upcoming meeting with Beverly Roberts, Supervisor Holmes' Chief Staffer. He has also scheduled a meeting with Supervisor Jones.
- vi. The consultant for the Municipal Services Review plans to meet with the agencies in October.
- vii. Chiefs Gow and D'ambrogi met with Sheriff Woo and Chief Duerr from South Placer regarding the Tablet Command incident management software. South

Placer has a committee meeting with County and State officials to discuss revenue sources. South Placer is dealing with LAFCO regarding their merger with Loomis.

b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi's report

- i. Inspections conducted: 3 single family dwellings (SFD), 1 rough sprinkler system, 2 final SFD, 1 commercial final and 3 propane.
- ii. Dealing with setbacks and variance applications.
- iii. Battalion Chief Williamson is doing a great job overseeing the commercial inspections.
- iv. The County has identified 3 parcels in Applegate for possible rezoning for high density housing – 20 units minimum to 30 units maximum per acre.
- v. Chief D'Ambrogi reviewed his white paper regarding the parcels owned by the Applegate Civic Center Club (ACCC). Chief D'Ambrogi is working on agreement between the District and ACCC for the use of the parking lot at Station 85.

c. Battalion Chief Slusher

- i. The UTV is being striped and lettered. Hope to have it for the opening ceremony for the local kids' soccer season. The Association will be selling hotdogs.
- ii. 137 calls last month, 21 mutual aid given and 1 received.
- iii. Brush 86 and Brush 38 are on a strike team in Hayfork, Trinity County with no anticipated release date.
- iv. Crews contained a structure fire to the garage. They did an awesome job.
- v. The candidate turned down the job offer for the vacant Engineer's position.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: No report.

e. Local 3800: No report.

f. Board Committee reports:

- i. **Finance Committee:** The committee will meet to discuss the final budget. Met with the Placer County Auditor-Controller and the Treasurer. By law, the district is not allowed to have a separate checking account if applying for dry financing. This will take effect January 1, 2024. Newcastle will also have to close their checking account. The County does not keep score of sick and vacation time. The Memorandum of Understanding will be at the September meeting.
- ii. **Long Range Committee:** See closed session.
- iii. **Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations:** President Hills is working on a combined budget for Placer Hills and Newcastle for Fiscal Year 2022-2025 and extending it to 2028-2029. He has added in the additional CalPERS unfunded liability starting in 2024-2025. The numbers are positive.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Public Hearing to consider updating the Fire Facility Impact and Mitigation Fee Schedule and to adopt Resolution No. 2023-06 increasing the fee to \$1.07 per square foot:

Chief D'Ambrogi reported that the district has the ability to increase the mitigation fees annually by a construction cost index. The average for 2022 was 9%. The past 3 years increased by 28%. He recommended that the Board start the process every

February/March so that the process can be completed by the start of the new fiscal year. President Hills opened the Public Hearing for comments. President Hills closed the meeting as there were no comments. Director Harvey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-06 approving the Fire Impact Study and the Mitigation Fee Schedule increasing the fee to \$1.07 per square foot. Director Wright seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The new fees will go into effect 60 days after the Board of Supervisors approve the charges.

b. Approve entering into an agreement with the Placer County Treasurer for a 5-year loan to finance the new Smeal Engine with a projected delivery date in October 2023:

The County is offering to finance the loan for the new engine at 4% interest. Director Lofrano moved to approve the financing with the County. Director McCray seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

c. Update on the hiring process for the District Manager's position:

The notice had been sent out and posted on line. There is 1 applicant so far. Working on the process.

d. Approve the Budget update and monthly expenses:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$432,733.62. (Lofrano/Wright).

The open meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm and the Board went into Closed Session.

e. Closed Sessions

- i. Pursuant to California Government Code § 54956.8 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS: Directors Lofrano and McCray regarding the Applegate Civic Center properties
- ii. Pursuant to California Government Code § 54957 Public Employment (Fire Chief) *The Board will receive an update regarding the Fire Chief and review current contractual matters.*

The open meeting was reconvened at 8:49 pm.

President Hills reported that for item 1 of closed session, the Board gave direction to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Applegate Civic Center Club properties.

The Board took no action on item 2 of closed session.

Director Harvey suggested getting a sign made to prohibit parking in the Administration parking lot on Board meeting evenings.


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): August 23, 2023.*

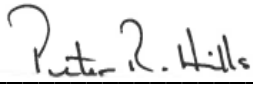
9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Gillian Lofrano, District Manager

Approved by: 

Peter Hills, President