

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Alex Harvey
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Nicole Paskey
Mark Wright

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: September 24, 2025

17020 Placer Hills Rd. Suite 2A, Meadow Vista

1. Call to order; Flag salute; Roll call:

Director Wright convened the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Lofrano, McCray, Paskey, and Wright

Directors absent: Harvey

Staff in attendance: Fire Chief Ian Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, District Manager Armstrong, Battalion Chief Williamson, and Battalion Chief Slusher.

2. Agenda approval:

Director Lofrano moved to approve the agenda. Director McCray seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

3. Approval of the minutes:

Director McCray requested a clarification on the Chiefs report a) iii on which directors are being referred to. Director McCray moved to approve the minutes with the suggested amendment. Director Paskey seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

4. Public Comment: N/A

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): N/A

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Gow's Report

- i. Crews were out on a strike team for a bit of time, appreciate their effort.
- ii. Still working with the City of Auburn on the command staff sharing plan. Hope to be able to present a report in a few months.

b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi's Report

- i. Completed plan review for 2 single family dwellings, 2 single family dwelling finals, and 2 propane lines
- ii. Planning projects; Lot map modification in Winchester, 1 variance on Ponderosa
- iii. Working on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Evacuation Plan

c. Battalion Chief Slusher

- i. At the evacuation plan training they were interested in access to Placer Hills Rd.
- ii. Lower call volume, compared to previous years
- iii. Recently ran an incident to a semi-truck accident that was carrying tesla batteries
- iv. Made a short document on the LAFCo process and shared with the board

Battalion Chief Williamson: N/A

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: N/A

- e. Local 3800: Battalion Chief Slusher reported that they held nominations and elections. As of January 1st Eric Reams will become the Placer County Vice-President and Dillon Burbank is the new shop steward for Placer Hills rank and file and I will become the shop steward for the Battalion Chiefs.

f. Board Committee reports:

- i. *Finance Committee:* Director McCray reported that we had a meeting and staff has managed to reduce the deficit and will have further information on the budget agenda item. Director Lofrano reported that there was a discussion about the updated financials for the Placer Hills/Newcastle reorg and that he has now reviewed the information. Director Lofrano reported that if he had the information prior to the meeting he would not have abstained at the last meeting. He wanted it on the record that he is not against the merger, just didn't feel like he had all of the information.
 - ii. *Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations:* Director Paskey reported that at the recent directors meeting there were no action items, just good conversation about how to better collaborate better in the future. The next meeting is October 2nd.
7. Discussion and Action Items:
 - a. *Board to review and discuss upcoming LAFCO Meetings*

Chief Gow reported that the Executive Officer resigned and the commission has indicated they won't be able to take any action without a new Executive Officer however they talked about hiring an interim director. They did move forward with hiring an interim director, who has worked on consolidations previously. Have been waiting for the CEO's office to provide a resolution on the tax share agreement. There was recently some confusion about the current information that we submitted, our attorney had to work it out with county counsel and the LAFCo attorney.
 - b. *Board to review and discuss the Draft Employee Physical Exam Position Paper*

Chief Gow reported that we recently did a rewrite on the report, which now includes an additional vendor. Anticipate that we will present the rewritten report after the committees and staff have a chance to review.
 - c. *Status on Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2026*

Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reminded everyone about the survey, still available until the 30th. Working on capability and assessment sheets, which identifies our resources.
 - d. *Adoption of the 2025 California Fire Code with amendments, introduce Ordinance Number 2025-01 and conduct a Public Hearing for a fire reading, by title only (action)*

Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported that there is no changes from what has been done in the past. Our code includes a little bit more restrictions for the rural area, specific to the driveway width and grade. He shared that tonight's action is for the board to discuss and open for the noticed public hearing, taking any public comments. Next month we will come back to approve the ordinance.

Public hearing opened at 6:29pm
Public hearing closed at 6:29pm
 - e. *Consider and approve the Appropriations (GANN) Limit (action)*

Chief Gow reported that this is a routine process, the report was created by the county and we are under the GANN limit.

Director Lofrano motions to approve the GANN limit. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.
 - f. *Consider and approve the Audit for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 prepared by Smith & Newell CPA's (action)*

Director Wright asked about the \$400,000 that was not budgeted. District Manager Armstrong explained this was created by the Placer County fire engine loan, we never budgeted for the funds to come in and out of our accounts and anticipated the county would

pay for it directly. Suggested that our corrective action response includes more of this detail. Director Wright also asked about the investment policy that is being requested. District Manager Armstrong shared that this can represent how our funds are invested through the county treasury, will plan to develop the policy this year.

Director Lofrano motions to approve the FY 2023/2024 audit with the amended correction action responses. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

g. Consider and adopt Resolution No. 2025-08 approving the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (action)

District Manager Armstrong shared that we changed the way we are representing the strike team reimbursement payments. The reimbursements will be applied to the associated expenses.

Director McCray motions to approve Resolution No. 2025-08 approving the final budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Director Wright seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

h. Consider and approve changing the board meeting dates for November and December 2025 (action)

After a discussion it was suggested that we move the November meeting to November 20th and the December meeting to December 16th.

Director Paskey motions to approve the changed board meeting dates. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

i. Approve the budget update and monthly expenses (action)

Director McCray motions to approve the budget update and monthly expenses. Director Paskey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

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. *Reminder of next Board meeting(s): Regular Meeting on October 22, 2025.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Armstrong, District Manager