

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: December 16, 2025

17020 Placer Hills Rd. Suite 2A, Meadow Vista

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

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

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

Directors absent: Lofrano

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

3. Approval of the minutes:

Director McCray moved to approve the minutes. 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. Nearby agencies; Learned that Foresthill is eligible for PERs, Hired a new Chief in South Placer, Chief Snedeker. South Placer is planning to go back to the public for funding and continues to be interested in expanding their ambulance services.
- ii. Anticipate that EMS will be a focus for us in the future

b. Battalion Chief Williamson

- i. Completed 1 plan review, 1 rough hydro, 2 finals and 2 propane inspections.

c. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi

- i. Provided an overview of the fire prevention program including pre-development, new construction, vegetation management/risk reduction, and inspection/investigation
- ii. Pre-development tends to be the most time consuming, includes an evaluation of impacts to services
- iii. Currently have 20 Firewise communities in our district; assist with their assessments and attend their meetings. Have found by having these communities it reduces the vegetation complaints.
- iv. Today the appeals on the Hope Way project were heard by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors provided a tentative approval at the meeting, anticipate everything being finalized at their next meeting.

d. Battalion Chief Slusher

- i. Operations report in the board packet, call volume down slightly from previous year.
- ii. Water tender has been out of service, anticipate back in service this week.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: N/A

- e. Local 3800: Engineer Burbank reported that they are looking forward to meeting with the negotiations committee tomorrow.
- f. Board Committee reports:
 - i. Finance Committee: Director McCray report that the committee met, most items are presented later on in the agenda. One item discussed was that radio issue, we recommend approval.
 - ii. Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations: Director Harvey shared there is nothing to report at this time.
- 7. Discussion and Action Items:
 - a. Consider and approve the Sub-Joint Operations Agreement by and between Placer Hills Fire Protection District and Auburn City Fire Department (action)

Director McCray reported that in the agreement it states Board of Supervisors on page 82, paragraph 7.

Chief Gow reported that the agreement has been approved by the City of Auburn and our attorney. Attorney also reviewed our administrative agreements and indicated there is no conflict.

President Harvey suggested that we redact Board of Supervisors and put in Directors.

Chief Gow reported that this option will improve our administrative capabilities and allow our Battalion Chiefs to focus on their responsibilities. Staff recommends your approval and at next months meeting we will be presenting a terms and conditions document for the positions.

President Harvey reviewed the chain of command, due to the unique structure. Chief Gow explained the chart; who is filling each position and the overall chain of command. Chief Gow also shared that this plan was put together with the support and involvement of the Local.

Director Paskey asked about the implementation. Chief Gow reported that next month the terms and conditions will be presented at the board meeting and anticipate implementing February 2026.

Public Comment:

Public Member – Asked operationally how it will work with the different dispatch services.

Battalion Chief Slusher reported that the Battalion 84 identifier will go away and will use the Battalion 12 identifier, activated by Grass Valley.

Director Wright motions to approve the Sub-Joint Operations Agreement by and between Placer Hills Fire Protection District and Auburn City Fire Department. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.
 - b. Board to review and discuss upcoming LAFCO Meetings

Chief Gow reported that the application will be heard at the February 11th LAFCo meeting, LAFCo will post a notice of that meeting. The committees are meeting this week to discuss outreach to the community. There will be a 30-day protest period that will also be noticed by LAFCo.
 - c. Status on Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2026

Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported there hasn't been much movement at this point, taking the data and creating a draft document for review early next year. CWPP is another plan that is also in progress, the group is working to identify fuel reduction projects throughout the county.
 - d. Consider and approve surplussing communication equipment by authorizing the Fire Chief, or his designee, to sell 26 Bendix King Radios (action)

Battalion Chief Slusher reported that we have been attempting to make all of our radios the same. We were able to start the process with the grant from the California Fire Foundation and have determined which radios we no longer need. We are asking for the radios to be surplus and to use the proceeds to purchase new radios. Director Wright motions to approve surplus the radios and apply the proceeds to purchasing new radios. Director Paskey seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

- e. Consider and adopt Resolution 2025-11 Approving a funds transfer into Committed Reserves (action)

District Manager Armstrong explained that this resolution is being used to clean up the county reporting system, removing the assigned funds and establishing the committed funds, as previously approved by the board. Director Paskey motions to approve and adopt Resolution 2025-11. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

- f. Consider and approve the first reading of an addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy (action)

Chief Gow reported that the district has been working to evaluate other physical exam providers, Placer Hills has selected 1582 as the new vendor. Anticipate working with a few other fire agencies when receiving this service. This item was reviewed with the locals, staff and committees. An addendum was written to the policy. First item addresses cancer screening, as the current higher-level screening is not currently considered reliable local has requested to meet on and address again in the future. The other items came from Penryn Fire and addressed how some employees may not want a physical exam. Anticipate some minor modifications to come.

Director Paskey asked a few clarifying questions; confirmed that this is different from fit for duty, about the cost for seeing their own provider, and the pack test. Chief Gow shared that the waiver addresses the pack test option.

Public Comment:

Public Member – Advocate to the board to differentiate between a health & wellness program and a fitness for duty policy

- g. Election of board officers and appointment of board committees (action)

Director Wright nominates Director Harvey for the position of President. Director Paskey seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

Director McCray nominates Director Paskey for the position of Vice-President. Director Wright seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

Director Harvey nominates Director Lofrano for the position of Secretary. Director Wright seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

Finance committee – Director Harvey nominated the current committee. Director Wright seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

Ad hoc reorganizations committee – Director Harvey nominated himself and Director Paskey, and Director Wright as an alternate. Director McCray seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

NCSDIA committee – Director Harvey indicated that he is willing to stay on. Director Paskey nominated Director Harvey. Director Wright seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

Personnel committee – Director Harvey nominated that it stays the same. Director Wright seconded the nomination, which passed 4-0.

h. Consider and approve meeting dates for 2026 (action)

Director Paskey motions to approve the meeting dates for 2026. 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 Wright seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

The meeting was closed at 7:18pm.

j. Closed session

k. Pursuant to California Govt. Code § 54957.6(a) **LABOR NEGOTIATIONS**; Discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3800, District negotiators: Harvey and Lofrano.

The open meeting was reconvened at 8:05pm.

The board provided direction to the labor committee on negotiations.

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 January 8, 2026.

9. *Adjournment:*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Armstrong, District Manager