

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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www.placerhillsfire.org



John Burns
James Heisterkamp
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Nicole Paskey

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: August 19, 2026

Amended

9350 Old State Hwy, Newcastle

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

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

Directors in attendance: Burns, Heisterkamp, Lofrano, McCray, and Paskey

Directors absent: N/A

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

2. Agenda approval:

Director Heisterkamp requested to remove item 7c. Ownership of the ball fields and discuss at a future meeting. Director Heisterkamp moved to approve the amended agenda. Director McCray seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

3. Minutes approval:

Director Heisterkamp requested a change to the July 15, 2026 minutes, changing from Director Harvey to Paskey. Director Lofrano moved to approve the minutes with the requested amendment. Director Heisterkamp seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

4. Public Comment:

Public Member – Recently attended the Board of Supervisors meeting and shared his positive feelings on the newly reorganized fire district.

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

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Report – Chief Gow

- i. Penryn working on a strategic plan, planning to hold a few public meetings in the coming weeks. Have hired an additional attorney to assist with discussions on the admin agreement.
- ii. South Placer is going to the public in November for funding.
- iii. Shared appreciation for the support that our surrounding agencies, South Placer and Cal Fire, provided when a CISM debriefing was recently needed after a difficult call.
- iv. Found some changes are needed on how longevity pay should be paid to employees, updates will be provided at a future meeting.
- v. Experiencing several employees being out on various types of leave, causing a strain on staff to keep everything covered. Working to get employees on out of class eligibility lists and looking for other solutions.

b. Operations Report – Chief Slusher

- i. Response statistics were shared with the board
- ii. Recent significant incident is an example of increase of stress on staff, that are already working extra shifts due to staff on leaves. A drafted plan will be presented to the Ad hoc Risk Management committee to review some potential solutions.
- iii. Out of Class Battalion Chief program is an opportunity for our 4 qualified candidates to work as Battalion Chiefs, next week completing an Engineer process for creating an acting list
- iv. Aid given and received document provided and reviewed

c. Prevention Report – Chief Williamson

- i. *Provided a report on inspections and activities*

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: N/A

- e. Local 3800: Captain Burbank reported that they have started correspondence to start MOU negotiations
- f. Board Committee reports:
 - i. Finance Committee: N/A
 - ii. NCSDIA: N/A
 - iii. Personnel: N/A
 - iv. Interagency: Director Paskey reported that the committee has met with staff and Penryn's Finance and Administrative Contract Oversight committee. Placer Hills shared proposed agreement changes with the Penryn committee. A letter was presented at the Penryn board meeting regarding their negotiations meeting. Chief Gow shared that the Penryn board requested that the committee set up a new meeting in an attempt to move forward with getting a draft agreement in place.
 - v. Ad hoc Future Cooperations: N/A
 - vi. Ad hoc Strategic Plan: N/A
 - vii. Ad hoc Building/Equipment: N/A
 - viii. Ad hoc Safety: N/A
7. Discussion and Action Items:
 - a. Status on Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2026 and CWPP Community Wildfire Prevention Plan
Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is still with Placer County OES, no updates. For CWPP, recently did an interview with the consultant to provide agency input on the plan. Projects for the plan have all been submitted, reviewed how the projects will be prioritized. The transportation and evacuation resiliency plan, information came out regarding the areas that are being reviewed.
Anticipate all of the plans will be closed out at the beginning of the year.
 - b. Presentation by Chief Rogers; 6 Month Sub-Joint Operations Agreement Review
Chief Rogers, with the City of Auburn, reviewed a report on the 6-month review of the sub-joint operations agreement. The presentation is being given to the City Council, Penryn Board of Directors and the Placer Hills Board of Directors.
 - c. Board to discuss the ownership of the ball fields in Newcastle-Item removed from agenda
 - d. Discuss the Measure A layover for the newly reorganized fire district, provide direction to the Fire Chief (action)
District Manager Armstrong reviewed the details of the staff report that was provided in the board packet. Director Heisterkamp provided a review of the issue, regarding not being able to collect Measure A in FY26/27 which was approved during the LAFCO process for the reorganization. The collection is being put off to other fiscal years. After a board discussion on the options direction was provided to the Fire Chief to move forward with a 1-year loan with Placer County Treasury.
 - e. Approve the budget update and monthly expenses (action)
Director McCray motions to approve the budget update and monthly expenses. Director Heisterkamp seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
 - f. Consider and approve an amendment to Policy 1019 Commendations and Meritorious Service (action)
Director Heisterkamp shared that this is a policy amendment that allows for commendations or letters of appreciation to not only the staff but the public as well. Director Heisterkamp requested one amendment; change to "to a citizen". Director Heisterkamp motions to approve amended Policy 1019, with the additional change. Director Lofrano seconded the

motion, which passed 5-0.

- g. Consider and approve a memorandum of understanding between Midway Heights County Water District and Placer Hills Fire Protection District (action)

Chief Gow reported that our legal and staff have reviewed the final draft and recommend board approval. Director Lofrano motions to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Midway Heights County Water District. Director Heisterkamp seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

- h. Consider and approve an application to borrow county funds to cover any budget shortfalls until property tax revenues are received (action)

District Manager Armstrong reported this is an annual application to have dry period financing available as needed for the district. Director Burns motions to approve the application to borrow county funds to cover budget shortfalls. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

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.*

Director Burns shared his appreciation for the recent tour that Chief Slusher provided on the Fire District.

Director Heisterkamp also shared his appreciation for the tour, learned about opportunities for improving the maintenance shop facility.

- b. *Request item(s) for inclusion on subsequent meetings, or request a Special Meeting.*

Director Paskey shared that at a future board meeting we will likely need another agreement extension for the Penryn Fire Protection District.

- c. *Reminder of next Board meeting(s):* Regular Meeting on September 16, 2026 at 6:00pm.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Armstrong, District Manager