



GEYSERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Board of Directors:
Michael Pigoni
Robert Stewart
Paul Bernier
Harry Bosworth
Tim Barnard

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M.

At the Geyserville Fire Station #1, 20975 Geyserville Avenue, Geyserville

1. OPENING GREETING

- A. Meeting called to order by President Michael Pigoni at 7:02 P.M.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Agenda Approval: **A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/Stewart) to approve the agenda. All ayes.**
- E. Roll Call: Michael Pigoni, Rob Stewart, Paul Bernier and Harry Bosworth present. Chief Paul Pigoni was also present.

2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Stewart) to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting for August 9, 2006. All ayes.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The current financial reports from the County and bookkeeper Jeanne Davis were reviewed. Expenses for the month ending August 31st were \$64,118.64. Year-to-date expenses for fiscal year 2006/2007 are \$147,840.00, all of which are operating fund expenses.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Warrants for the month of August were reviewed and approved. **A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/Stewart) to approve the August warrants. All ayes.**

GATEWAY TO THE GEYSERS

- B. President Michael Pigoni reviewed the figures of the Final 2006/2007 Budget. **A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Stewart) to approve the 2006/2007 Final Budget. All ayes.**

Michael Pigoni introduced the Prop 4 Appropriation Limit Resolution. A discussion followed on the meaning of the resolution, and the procedure for raising the District's limit. **A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/Bernier) to approve Resolution 06/07-091301 adopting the Proposition 4 Appropriation Limit for the Fiscal Year 2006/2007. All ayes.**

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Paul Pigoni reported the following:

- There have been 364 calls to-date; 37 in the past month.
- There are currently 31 firefighters, 8 probationary firefighters, and one firefighter on leave.
- Prevention continues to work on several new construction projects.
- There has been no word on pending grants.
- The Truck Report can be removed from Committee Reports and added to Chief's Report. 6171 remains out of service for body and pump repairs.
- CDF has been added to the Department's dispatch for all calls until the end of fire season.
- REDCOM has sent a letter asking the Department's intentions to renew. Five years have passed since the original agreement.
- Each Director was given a Standard Operating Guidelines binder. Updates will be distributed at Board meetings.
- The eyewash station was tested over the weekend and found to have insufficient water pressure for use.
- Cracks in the stucco of the new station are causing white to bleed through the red paint. Options include repainting the building with a more expensive paint, or just touching up the problem areas.
- Station 2 response is suffering; some options for addressing the issue are as follows:
 - a. Remain as is
 - b. Staff the station with two Geyserville firefighters at \$28,000/month
 - c. Contract with CDF for \$14,000/month
 - d. Have paid daytime coverage and use Station 1 dedicated responders for night coverage.
 - e. Persuade large employers in the Alexander Valley to allow volunteers to respond from work.

A discussion followed on some of the reasons for low turnout in the Alexander Valley, including low population density and high housing costs. Chief Pigoni asked that at the next meeting the Board decide on a standard of coverage they are comfortable with and how to meet it.

- The Chief received a request from a major donor for a walk-through of the fire house to see the donor's name recognized. He noted that the Board needs to decide on a plan to get donor's names recognized appropriately. President Pigoni suggested getting examples of plaques. Director Stewart offered to research examples with Dilworth and Saini. A discussion followed about possible plaque specifications, including a plaque listing dates and Directors'/Chief's names.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Truck Committee Report: See Chief's Report.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Sonoma County Fire Districts Association meeting will be held on September 28, 2006 in Monte Rio.

The Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association is holding sexual harassment and ethics training on October 14th and October 28th.

A CSDA newsletter is included in each Director's packet.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Michael Pigoni presented and reviewed an updated Multipurpose Room Rental Agreement. A discussion followed on some of the changes and examples of community and non-profit groups. The Board agreed that the Chief would reserve the right to waive use fees. **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Bosworth) to approve the Geyserville Fire Department Multipurpose Room Rental Agreement. All ayes.**
- B. President Pigoni introduced the discussion of Station 2 easement issues by turning the floor over to Charles Tomka, who reviewed his concerns from last month's meeting regarding water usage. He asked for a response to his request for the use of easement water. He also presented the Board with an enlarged photograph of three cut hoses, adding that he believed the fire department was responsible for the vandalism. Tomka went on to note he was in the process of purchasing the easement property from his ex-father-in-law. A lengthy discussion followed on watering trees, the fire department's pump, and easement agreements. Michael Pigoni explained that the fire department did not have the right to grant water use privileges to Tomka, since the easement agreement was between the Alexander Valley Association and the property owner.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Michael Pigoni reminded the Board that two and a half years ago a committee was formed to prepare and present possible Board policy changes, such as defining the roles of individual Board Members.

Director Paul Bernier reported that the committee felt Michael was shouldering too much responsibility for the Board, and hoped to assist him by getting other Board members more involved. He suggested the possibility of assigning vice president and secretary roles, each with its own duties to lighten Michael's load.

Harry Bosworth listed some additional areas the committee was researching, including the following:

- a. A more pronounced separation between the Association and the Board.
- b. Board composition, such as limiting the number of acting firefighters serving on the Board at any given time.
- c. The use of Robert's Rules of Order.
- d. Provisions for the availability of County Counsel, enabling all Board members to seek counsel without permission.
- e. Workshops on various subjects, such as parliamentary procedure and how to conduct business.
- f. Long-term planning (budget, etc.) to avoid big surprises.

There will be ongoing committee meetings to explore these topics of interest. Michael Pigoni recommended obtaining samples of similar policies from neighboring fire districts.

11. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Harry Bosworth announced that he was selling his water company, and wanted to know if the fire district was interested in purchasing it. A discussion followed about some of the difficulties of purchasing and running a water company.

Rick Groff apologized to the Board and Paul Bernier for his behavior at the last Board meeting. He asked if the Board was planning to discuss the results of the County Counsel meeting in a public forum. He also noted that he sees fractioning of the Board.

Director Paul Bernier accepted the apology, and explained that County Counsel found that both he and Michael were bending the law, and recommended they learn from their mistakes and move on.

Michael Pigoni noted that Board members received a copy of County Counsel's findings in the mail, but the findings would not be discussed in a public forum, explaining that the Board wished to exercise client-attorney privilege. He also noted that each Board member received a copy of Open & Public III, at the recommendation of County Counsel, which clarifies many of the issues.

Rick Groff wanted to be sure that the public would be given the opportunity for involvement in any policy changes made by the Board. Michael Pigoni noted that policy changes take two meetings, allowing for public comment.

Rick Groff reported that he finds it offensive when non-members display fire department placards on their vehicles. He asked the Board to adopt a resolution regarding this issue, and volunteered to write letters to the offenders. The Board agreed that this item would be on next month's agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/Bernier) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 P.M. All ayes.

Minutes approved as written- Motion/Second: _____

Clerk of the Board: _____

Date: _____