



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, JULY 12, 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 7:01 P.M.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call: Michael Pigoni, Rob Stewart, Tim Barnard, Paul Bernier and Harry Bosworth present. Chief Paul Pigoni was also present.
- D. Agenda Approval: Director Paul Bernier clarified that the public is welcome to record meetings and does not have to announce they are doing so. Paul Bernier opened a discussion regarding the items listed in closed session. **A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Barnard) to move all four closed session topics into the open meeting. 3 ayes (Bernier, Barnard, Bosworth) and 2 nays (Stewart, Pigoni). A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Barnard) to approve the agenda with that change. 2 ayes (Bernier, Barnard), 2 nays (Bosworth, Pigoni) and 1 abstain (Stewart).**

2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No public discussion.

3. MINUTES

Director Paul Bernier asked that the minutes include the admission of his June 2nd letter into public record, on page 3 under Old Business. Director Bosworth also noted an error under Agenda Approval, where the tabling of Item A under "new" business needs to be changed to "old" business. **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/ Bosworth) to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting for June 14, 2006 with the above changes. All ayes.**

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The current financial reports from the County and bookkeeper Jeanne Davis were reviewed. Year-to-date expenses for fiscal year 2005/2006 are \$1,705,588.24. Operating fund expenses over the past month were \$26,499.33 for the 05/06 fiscal year, and \$33,757.17 for the 06/07 fiscal year.

GATEWAY TO THE GEYSERS

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Paul Pigoni reported the following:

- There have been 264 calls to-date.
- There are currently 29 firefighters, 8 probationary firefighters, and one firefighter on leave.
- Prevention is busy with a new bed & breakfast going in south of town and new construction at the old print shop and between the Smokehouse and print shop. The high school project has been approved.
- The Department has put in for turnouts from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
- The Department has put in for station improvements from the SAFER grant.
- The large stucco cracks in the new firehouse are fixed, and the painter is dealing with the bleeding of the basecoat.
- There are currently four issues with the safety status of the casino, including the lack of an alarm on the chlorine system.
- The new summer crossing has been used between eight and ten times, but hasn't met expectations, due to gates and construction.
- Station 2 staffing has been transferred to Station 1.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Truck Committee Report: Ryan Petersen reported that 73 went in for its annual, and 71 will go in to have its door fixed within the next month.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There is a CSDA newsletter in Board members' packets, and a letter from LAFCO.

9. OLD BUSINESS

The multi-purpose room rental agreement was tabled until next month.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Director Michael Pigoni announced the upcoming elections, affecting Directors Pigoni, Barnard and Stewart. A discussion followed on if they should hold their own election or enter the countywide election. **A motion was made and seconded (Barnard/Bosworth) to join the general election on November 2, 2006. All ayes.**
- B. Director Paul Bernier explained that he would like to approach County Counsel for advice on pending lawsuits, personal legal protection, possible Board violations and conflict of interest issues. Paul Bernier also spoke about closed sessions and what qualifies for a closed session, in relation to the last Board meeting and its agenda.

Director Harry Bosworth expressed his belief that everyone means well, and noted that there are no legal representatives present tonight. A discussion followed on investigations and the powers given to Board members. Harry made a motion that Michael Pigoni and Paul Bernier go to County Counsel, and Tim Barnard added that the questions and concerns of the Board should be put into writing prior to the visit. Michael Pigoni asked that this motion be tabled until the four issues on the agenda are discussed.

At this point, Rick Groff commented that he was against spending taxpayers' money on attorneys. Scott Sibary noted that County Counsel is a government agency with limited funding and time, and advised against limiting the issues in advance because there is no comprehensive understanding of the issues.

Ryan Petersen reported that several people feel they have been wronged, and said the Board needs County Counsel.

A & B. Discussion was opened on the June 19th letter by Director Paul Bernier. Harry Bosworth stated it is an issue for County Counsel, and Rob Stewart added that since everyone has an opinion it is useless to discuss possible violations. The Chief noted that there was a violation of trust in the disclosure of closed session contents, and Ryan Petersen wondered if there was a violation of the labor law in the letter.

C & D. Michael Pigoni introduced the topic of Rob Dudgeon's letter, which expressed his dissatisfaction and his intent to seek means of retribution. The letter asked for a retraction of Paul Bernier's June 2nd letter. Paul Bernier replied that he probably will not retract the letter. Rob Stewart said he wanted the Board to issue a retraction. A discussion followed on whether Rob Dudgeon wants a letter from the Board or specifically Paul Bernier.

Rick Groff again emphasized that he does not want taxpayers' money spent on attorney fees for this issue.

A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Barnard) to issue a letter of retraction, including an apology for comments in the June 2nd letter. 4 ayes (Bosworth, Pigoni, Stewart, Barnard) and 1 nay (Bernier).

Harry Bosworth stated again that he would like to go to County Counsel, and a discussion followed on the issues that need to be brought to the County. The following points were outlined:

1. The liability for individual Board members.
2. Brown Act violations in the June 2nd and June 19th letters.
3. The retraction letter (unsupported personnel issues).
4. Implications of agreements made between Bell's Ambulance and one Board member outside a public meeting. (are they binding and/or criminal?).
5. Liabilities associated with public disclosure of closed session contents.
6. The legality of the June 14th Board of Directors' Meeting.
7. Accusations of the June 19th letter in regards to criticism from Ryan Petersen and Chris Colgan.
8. Possible violations during the May 10th closed session discussing wages and salaries.

Paul Bernier noted that he will be on vacation for two weeks after next Wednesday, and to schedule a County Counsel visit accordingly.

A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/ Barnard) to authorize Michael Pigoni and Paul Bernier to talk to County Counsel, with no time limit, about the points discussed tonight. All ayes.

11. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rob Stewart explained to Wayne Bell that the Chief's intentions were honorable, and apologized for any ramifications to his family or business.

Rick Groff stated he wants Paul Bernier to step down from Director.

Paul Bernier apologized for not responding to email, noting that information was going to an incorrect email address.

Michael Pigoni announced the June 22nd dinner dance.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

A motion was made and seconded (Bosworth/Barnard) to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. All ayes.

Minutes approved as written- Motion/Second: _____

Clerk of the Board: _____

Date: _____