



# 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, JUNE 14, 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 7:05 P.M.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call: Michael Pigoni, Rob Stewart, and Paul Bernier present. Chief Pigoni was also present.
- D. Agenda Approval: Michael Pigoni noted that there is no new multipurpose room rental agreement, so Item A of Old Business will be tabled until next month. Director Paul Bernier requested that the closed door item be tabled till July to allow Director Harry Bosworth an opportunity to participate. **With no support for that change, a motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Pigoni) to approve the agenda with Item A in Old Business to be tabled. 2 ayes, 1 nay with noted objection from Director Paul Bernier.**

### 2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Public discussion was postponed.

No public discussion.

Public discussion was closed.

### 3. MINUTES

**Director Rob Stewart asked that the minutes include Scott as Sibary's first name. A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Stewart) to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting for May 10, 2006 and May 24, 2006 with the above change. 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 \$1,679,088.91. Over the past month, Operating Fund expenses were \$59,001.83, and station fund expenses were \$28,636.00.

**GATEWAY TO THE GEYSERS**

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Warrants for the month of May were reviewed and approved. Rob Stewart noted that Wright Contracting is paid off, and Chief Pigoni asked that Clerk Turbeville make sure REDCOM is not paid twice.

**A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Stewart) to approve the May warrants. All ayes.**

## **6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Paul Pigoni reported the following:

- There have been 226 calls to-date; 41 in the last month.
- There are currently 29 firefighters, 8 probationary firefighters, one firefighter on leave, and one firefighter who recently resigned.
- The Department has a grant request in with the CDF for new-style fire shelters and SCBAs.
- The Department has put in for \$58,000 worth of turnouts from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
- The Department is currently exploring the SAFER grant.
- The County and property owner signed an agreement today and the summer crossing is scheduled to open by Sunday. The summer crossing is for emergency use until November 1<sup>st</sup>, high water or bridge completion.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Truck Committee Report: Ryan Petersen reported that all apparatus are in service. 71 is supposed to go in for body repair this month, 31 is in service, and engines have been switched over for wildland season.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

There is a CSDA newsletter in Board members' packets. The AVA is sponsoring an earthquake preparedness seminar on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. The multi-purpose room rental agreement was tabled until next month.
- B. Discussion of ALS ambulance service was opened by Board President Michael Pigoni, who reviewed the goals of the proposal brought to the Board in April and a brief summary of the last two meetings. Chief Pigoni noted that attention has been redirected away from the original issues; to reduce firefighter burnout, improve the level of service to the community, allow for completion of daily station tasks, and provide for immediate 2 in 2 out requirements. The Chief suggested putting the proposal on the backburner for six months, and reminded the Board of their responsibility to provide the best service to the community.

Director Rob Stewart reported his belief that the proposal has merit, yet noted his concern over lack of prior communication. He recommended letting the proposal mature for six months, during which time all parties could become involved.

Director Paul Bernier stood by his initial concerns, and also suggested letting the proposal stand for six months, to allow people to calm down and gather additional information.

A discussion followed on a letter written to Board members by Director Paul Bernier, including contents of the letter and concern over its distribution and possible associated Brown Act violations and release of personnel issues. At this time, Director Bernier admitted the June 2<sup>nd</sup> letter into public record. President Michael Pigoni stated that the Board has lost sight of what the proposal is really about, and said there are no apparent liabilities in the proposal, noting that from a legal standpoint, there must be loss of reputation, revenue or intent to inflict harm for a lawsuit. Michael Pigoni agreed to sit back and let the proposal cool, and noted he is still interested in Bell's Ambulance's proposals.

Director Paul Bernier said he feels it is a Board member's responsibility to investigate issues to make an educated decision. President Michael Pigoni asked for confirmation and clarification from Wayne Bell of some of the contents of the aforementioned letter. Steve Busher of Bell's Ambulance explained that the letters written by Bell's Ambulance are in response to circulating rumors. He expressed regret over the loss of communication between Bell's Ambulance and the fire department, and suggested the formation of a committee with outside people and stakeholders to explore the ambulance issue. Director Rob Stewart said he liked the idea of openly discussing ambulance service in a panel/committee.

Steve Busher presented Bell's Ambulance's response to the ambulance proposal, and noted that the attacks on the proposal are not personal. President Pigoni asked about the restructuring of Bell's Ambulance, and Steve Busher replied that Bell's Ambulance has signed mutual aid agreements and added equipment and personnel. Steve reported he was unaware of any real issues regarding service, and Chief Pigoni disagreed with this statement. President Pigoni noted that he was misquoted in the most recent letter from Bell's Ambulance.

Director Rob Stewart asked Bell's Ambulance if someone from their company would be willing to sit on an ambulance committee, and Steve replied he would be happy to. Community member Chris Colgan expressed concern over the letter written by Paul Bernier, and labeled it unethical and criminal and containing blackmail. A discussion followed on the distribution of the letter and who was responsible.

A discussion followed on Board members talking to Bell's Ambulance, the need for Board members communicating with the Chief, and the grant request for an ambulance. There was additional discussion on partnerships, including Tom Hendricks and numerous other interested providers. Chief Pigoni opened up talk on the distribution of the proposal, and Paul Bernier listed who he gave copies to.

Rob Dudgeon reported he has no stake in the project, but has a problem with Paul Bernier's letter because he is named in it and stated that the references to his past employment were inaccurate and could affect his reputation and ability to seek new employment. He asked that Bernier retract the letter. Paul Bernier replied he was not ready to do that at this time. Rick Groff encouraged Bernier to retract the letter.

**A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Bernier) to table discussions on ALS ambulance service for six months. All ayes.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**RECESS**

The Board broke for recess at 8:47 P.M., and met back at 8:55 P.M. for a closed session.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The regular meeting was adjourned and the Board met in closed session to discuss personnel vs. Board issues.

**RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting was reconvened at 10:25 P.M. The Board announced that no action was taken in the closed session.

**11. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

No good of the order.

**12. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Bernier) to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 P.M. All ayes.**

Minutes approved as written- Motion/Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_