



NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

This meeting was held via teleconference, pursuant to the Governor of California's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020.

This was the regular August meeting that was postponed due to the Walbridge Fire.

1. OPENING GREETING:

- a. Meeting Called to Order by President Rob Stewart at 7:05 PM
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: There was no group pledge at this meeting.
- c. Roll Call: Directors Rob Stewart, Fred Peterson, Paul Bernier (joined late), Tatsuo Okaya and Scott Newman were participating. Fire Chief Marshall Turbeville, Administrative Manager Anneke Turbeville and District Treasurer Michael Pigoni were also participating.
- d. Approval of the Agenda: **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Newman) to approve the agenda. All ayes.**

2. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** There was no public discussion.

3. **MINUTES:** **A motion was made and seconded (Okaya/Newman) to approve the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes. All ayes.**

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Tatsuo Okaya reviewed the Financial Summary. The deposit from the County is property tax revenue from the fiscal year 2019/2020. The Cloverdale Fire invoice for three contract employees includes employee benefits.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Okaya) to pay the bills. All ayes.**

6. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Marshall Turbeville reported the loss of ten to fifteen structures in our fire district from the Walbridge Fire. He is not anticipating much impact to our property taxes. Chief Turbeville will likely request funding to hire seasonal firefighters at the next meeting. 6172 was in LA county and is now assigned to the Walbridge Fire. 6156 was also assigned to the fire and the vehicle worked out well as a Type 6. Chief Turbeville is exploring a partnership with Audubon Canyon to provide fire-certified crew members to hire for a temporary District fire hand crew. We are in the process of hiring for the emergency crew, which began work today. This could turn into an on-call crew, but the hiring process needs to be improved. It is possible that the crew could also assist with prescribed burns during the off-season. The crew will not be part of the OES matrix at this time.

Chief Turbeville reported that one of the new trucks has been delivered; we are still waiting on the second vehicle.

Our station and firefighters have remained Covid-free.

The original solar panels are no longer functioning. Tovani is working on getting quotes to replace them. Michael Pigoni has four different proposals for the water tender. He is waiting for the opportunity to meet with Tovani and someone from Knights Valley to hammer out the decision. Scott Newman suggested using some of the \$100,000 Knights Valley Fire Company money toward the new water tender. Chief Augie also supports the use of the Knights Valley money to help fund the water tender.

Calls for service have increased. Fred Peterson brought up Joe Stewart's concern about keeping resources local instead of putting them into the system. Chief Turbeville believes most of the District's expenses related to the Walbridge fire will be reimbursed. Scott Newman wondered how the hourly rates for personnel and equipment are established. Turbeville explained that we set the personnel rates in the OES Salary Survey. Other rates are established by the California Fire Assistance Agreement and FEMA. The fire hand crew will be a direct bill to Cal Fire.

Scott Newman noted that lots of wine may be lost this year due to smoke, which proves the importance of fuel reduction to agriculture.

7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Rob Stewart thanked Carlos Mendez for switching Anneke Turbeville's office. He noted that Fred Peterson is on the ballot for FDAC, and recommends the District cast its vote in his support. Fred Peterson said he wants to push for relevancy of the organization.
8. **GEYSERVILLE FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION REPORT:** No report.
9. **GEYSERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION REPORT:** No report.
10. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Rob Stewart reported that he wrote a letter to the Jackson family advising them of the current situation with the Knights Valley fire station. He has not received a response.
11. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Consolidation and Annexation: Fred Peterson announced a LAFCO meeting on September 2nd.
 - b. Alexander Valley Fire Station: Chief Marshall Turbeville explained he is pursuing funding from MAC (Municipal Advisory Committee) and Tubbs Fire settlement funds.
 - c. (Proposed) Chalk Hill Fire Station: Rob Stewart reported that Isaac Ruiz is rebuilding on his property, so we need to search for an alternate location. Paul Bernier will contact Bob Sauers, who lives across from Ruiz, about using his property.
 - d. 457 Administration Fees and Life Insurance Policy: The employees wish to use insurance funds towards a life insurance policy.
 - e. Fuel Reduction Fee Schedule: In order to use the fuels crew for other fuel reduction projects, the District will need to update the fee schedule. Community Wildfire Protection Plans will help to guide the use of the fuels crew for community fuel reduction projects, which will always be a priority over private landowners. An updated fee schedule would allow communities to raise money independently if grants cannot be obtained for community projects.
 - f. Kincade Fire Losses: Scott Newman has spoken with Greg Skikos about recovering our losses during the Kincade Fire. It will not cost the District anything and ~~he intends~~ to cover 100% of our costs. The Board was in support of hiring Skikos to recover District expenses.

his objective is

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Grant Agreement 7FG20083: Chief Turbeville explained that this is a matching grant in which we spend approximately \$20,000 and receive \$10,000 reimbursement. **A motion was made**

and seconded (Bernier/Okaya) to approve the grant agreement. Roll call vote: Peterson-aye; Okaya-aye; Bernier-aye; Newman-aye; Stewart-aye. All ayes. Motion passed.

- b. Purchase Proposal: A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Okaya) to purchase the items in the above grant agreement. All ayes.
- c. Consolidation Election Materials: Michael Pigoni explained that the consolidated election materials allow this District to be on the consolidated election ballot. A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Bernier) to be part of the consolidated election. Roll Call Vote: Petersen-aye; Bernier-aye; Okayqa-aye; Newman-aye; Stewart-aye. All ayes. Motion passed.
- d. Voter Ballot Drop Box: This is a large metal box to be placed by the County in front of the fire station for voters to drop off ballots. The Board agreed to allow the voter ballot drop box installation.
- e. Local Agency Biennial Notice for Conflict of Interest Codes: Anneke Turbeville explained that if the District plans to change the conflict of interest code, the District needs to indicate on the memorandum and then submit a new code. She will ask the Registrar of Voters if the District needs to submit a new boundary map. The Board agreed there is no amendment required.
- f. Board Member Nominees: There will be no board elections this year.

13. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Fred Peterson thanked Dave Bernier, Paul Bernier, Rob Stewart and Richie for helping during the fire. He wants to get the Auxiliary force going. On Wednesday, September 2nd at 4:00 there will be a sifting box work party at Station #2.

14. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:** Discussion and schedule of the next regular meeting to be held on September 17, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Newman) to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM. All ayes.

Minutes approved as written- Motion/Second: Fred Peterson/Scott Newman

Clerk of the Board: Anneke Turbeville

Date: 9/17/2020

The District does not transcribe its proceedings. Anyone who desires a verbatim record of this meeting should arrange for attendance by a court reporter or for other acceptable means of recordation. The public is allowed to use any form of audio or video recording, absent a reasonable finding by the Board that this action will disrupt proceedings. Such arrangements will be at the sole expense of the individual requesting the recordation. Questions about this agenda – call the Fire District's Office at 707/857-4373.