

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

December 23, 2021 Minutes

Randy Rossi –Board Chair, Tony Marcaccio–Vice Chair, Judy Hobson–Secretary, Christina Holum – Director, Joe Ruder – Director

Mission Statement

To provide a professional and compassionate level of community fire protection, emergency medical and rescue services to the citizens and property owners within the Fire District, in order to prevent or minimize the loss of life, pain, suffering and property damage as a result of fire or other types of emergency.

The rescheduled December 23, 2021 5:00 PM meeting was conducted in person at 7060 Mt. Aukum Rd. Somerset, CA 95684

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM 18:00 hours 6:00p.m.

1.1 Roll Call-Present: Ruder, Hobson, Marcaccio, Rossi, Holum - Administration: Chief Matthews, Admin. Assistant Joy Vierra, Captain Ramsey, FF Montesanti

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance Led by Director Rossi

2. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT / PRESENTATIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

2.1 Several thank you letters were received from the community related to the Caldor Fire. Chief announced that FF Tony Pedro and his wife had a healthy baby girl. FF Pedro will be out on FMLA for 12 weeks. Stating the first week of January Adam Friesen will be filling in as a Limited Term FF to cover FF Pedro's position. We are currently doing a working interview with an individual for the office assistant position.

2.2 Amador County Fire Protection District Chief White Presentation (Contract Services). This item was postponed until the January 4, 2022 board meeting, Chief White will be attending the January 4, 2022 board meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Administration recommends the BOD approve the minutes from Nov 9, 2021 Board Meeting

3.2 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Payment of bills – green sheets

3.3 Administration recommends the BOD approve: 21-22 Budget updates/corrections (M/S) Ruder/Hobbs Passed 5/0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Open Forum)

Any person may address the District Board on any subject pertaining to District business, which is not listed on the agenda. This comment is provided by the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act (Government Code § 54950 et. seq) and may be limited to three (3) minutes for any person addressing the Board. "The public may address the Board on any subject listed on the Regular Agenda. Each speaker may address the Board **once** for a limit of three (3) minutes. The filing of speaker cards is not mandatory, but is helpful in creating an accurate record. Each speaker will be called upon to speak by the Chair when the item is heard"

No Public Comment

5. MONTHLY/STANDING ACTIVITY REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Administrative/Chief's Report – Working on Staffing for the Grizzly Station. Chief Reported that Squad 35 is still being repaired, having some electrical issues. Fire Fighter Tony Pedro and wife had their baby and he is currently out on FMLA leave. Chief thanked Lynette Dwyer for all the support she has been providing in the administration office answering phones and filling in when needed.

5.2 Local #4586 – Captain Ramsey reported that the Local 4586 had received a request letter from the Burn Institute to once again participate in the Boot Drive. The local is not sure if it is going to participate in the Boot Drive this year as there is a public perception that the Boot Drive is a fundraiser for the department and are not always aware that the funds are going to the Burn Institute. Dan Dwyer stated that last year's boot Drive the department raised over \$11,000.00 for the Burn Institute, and the PVFA received an award on behalf of the department for its efforts.

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Taking into consideration the Caldor Fire and what the community is going through are also concerns. The Local will let the board know if they will be participating this year.

- 5.3 PVFA – The Santa drive through at Pioneer Park on Saturday, December 11th was a great success and approximately 180 children were served. The PVFA won the Fire Equipment award at the Placerville Parade in one of the Pioneer Fire rigs.
- 5.4 Financial – Chief Matthews stated he is working on keeping the budget balanced as the numbers for deployments come in and insurance reimbursements are received. Chief noted that the \$168,500.00 in overtime currently showing was for the OES deployments. We are anticipating \$441,269.00 coming in for OES deployments. We will also have reimbursements funds coming in from the state. Anticipated repairs of \$129,000.00, some of which we will be able to recover from State and Federal Grants that we have applied for.
- 5.5 COVID 19 update – Nothing to report.
- 5.6 Caldor Committee – Director Holum reported that she and Grant Ingram and met with Supervisor Turnboo, and Congressman Tom McClintock's office and went over mapping and asked questions related to bringing FEMA in to help people who were uninsured rebuild. They also spoke with OES related to warnings and notices to evacuate, and will be providing a report with the information gathered. They should be able to provide more information at the January 4th Board meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- 6.1 Succession) – Director Marcaccio reported that they had a meeting with Chief White from Amador and several members of the Amador Board of Supervisors and they expressed interest in moving forward with the JOA. Director Marcaccio said that it seemed that Amador is looking to want to make the JOA a permanent thing. Board Char Rossi and Chief Matthews had a conversation with Chief White after to clarify that it is not the Board's intention to make the JOA a permanent thing at this time, but instead as a temporary bridge so we can hire our own Chief. It is not the Board's intention to make the JOA permanent.

6.1A Succession/Transition (Roadmap to establish solution, scope of inquiry) – Director Ruder stated that he and Director Rossi sought clarification from Legal counsel related to the succession process how to handle public meetings vs private meetings and what information is to be shared with the public since it is an issue of employment there will be times that the board will be having closed sessions. At the public board meeting level the Board wants to invite the public to participate in the discussion of what it is we are doing and how we are doing it. What do we want to see in a chief? What do we want to see in a solution? What questions do we want to ask Amador County folks related to JOA and what their solution is? What do we want on our list of considerations? The board would want to talk with the current Fire Chief related to filling the position, as well as past Chiefs' and Chiefs of other departments, current and past firefighters, and other department employees. Director Rossi suggested we have informal conversations with the public and current employees and ask for one thing they want us to start doing, keep doing and stop doing. Director Ruder reminded the board to speak to people in pairs and not discuss any information gathered until a formal board meeting. The Ad-Hoc committee had a secondary meeting with Chief Matthews and Captain Ramsey. Captain Ramsey reported that it is preferred that we have our own Chief, but the local would support shared services with Amador while we fill the position. Consolidation is a conversation for down the road. Chief Matthews stated we need to consider the legal qualifications we have to have in a Fire Chief. Chief Matthews stated the volunteers are concerned about the Amador solution as they are afraid the volunteer program

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will disappear. Director Holum suggested the Local 4586 reach out to all Firefighters and encourage them to attend the Jan 4th Board meeting.

- 6.2 District damages due to Caldor Fire (insurance settlements/updates) – Chief Matthews is still working with the insurance company and making replacement purchases. The department gets full replacement costs or lost value, so we want to replace all we can now.
- 6.3 Station 35 rebuild and Temporary Facility – We got the permit approved for a temporary structure in Grizzly Flat lease property location. The property owners should be signing the lease in the next week. All the funds for this will be reimbursed and paid by the state directly to the property owners. Permit fees will also be reimbursed.
- 6.4 Property Purchase 4847 Sciaroni Road Grizzly Flats – Chief Matthews stated we have the Check and we are in closing, however he has not signed the documents because he is waiting to see the cleanup permits that state the ground is safe, the State's approval that the soil is clean.
- 6.5 21-22 Budget updates – This was taken care of in the consent calendar

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 SCBA award/bid review regional grant – Chief gave an overview of the grant that is with Pioneer, Georgetown and Mosquito Fire Departments. Pioneer Fire took the lead and was awarded the grant. An RFP was put out for 45 days. An SCBA committee was put together consisting of FF personnel from all three agencies. The committee put recommendations together and submitted to the agency Chiefs. The committee had a unanimous recommendation for using the Scott All Star Fire SCBA bid. Captain Ramsey shared that the committee was all in agreement and felt this was the best bid to go with.

Motion made to accept the SCBA recommendation to go with the All Star Fire bid

(M/S) Ruder/Marcaccio

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Rossi, Marcaccio, Hobson, Holum, Ruder

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Passed 5/0

- 7.2 Posting of meeting agenda – Director Holum stated that the current Board Manual states that the Agenda will be posted at all 3 post offices in our district. With the Grizzly Flat post office gone, she suggested that it should be posted in Diamond Springs where they are getting their mail. Chief Matthews stated the current posing law is that the agenda will be posted on a public building and the District website. The board manual needs to be amended to address postings. The suggestion was made to make the board policy meet the mandatory state posting regulations.

Motion was made to adjust the Board Manual to reflect the fact that postings requirements will meet or exceed the statutory requirements. Currently the board's position is to encourage the district to post at the Somerset, Mt Aukum and Diamond Springs Post Offices.

(M/S) Ruder/Hobson

Passed 5/0

The amended verbiage will be brought back to the January 4 2022 board meeting for the board to vote on.

- 7.3 Board Member contact information on website – Director Holum raised the question if individual board members should have their emails listed on the District website. The district can create

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district emails for each board member. A recommendation was made to research board contact information.

- 7.4 Salary review and update for fire chief position – Director Rossi stated that in looking for a replacement for Chief Matthews, it has become clear as a result of the Caldor Fire that the department needs a comprehensive chief that can cover all the aspects that are currently being covered by Chief Matthews. The recommendation is that the salary range be increased to \$105,000.00
Motion made to increase the offer salary from a range of \$88,000.00 to \$105,000.00 for the new chief position
(M/S) Marcaccio/Ruder
Passed 5/0

8. **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS (GOOD OF THE ORDER)** – Dan Dwyer thanked Captain Ramsey for fixing electrical issues with the lighting in the Grange building.

9. **AGENDA ITEMS** None at this time.

10. **CLOSED SESSION started at 6:38pm (18:38) Return form closed Session at 7:14pm (19:14)**

10.1 Public Employment (§ 54957) Title: Fire Chief (Succession/Transition)
Nothing to report out, it was informational only.

10.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (§ 54956.9) Woods Litigation
Letter from Legal Counsel

Chief Matthews read a confidential email from legal counsel to the BOD. No action taken.

Motion was made to change the regularly scheduled board meeting in January from January 11, 2022 to January 4, 2022 at 6:00pm

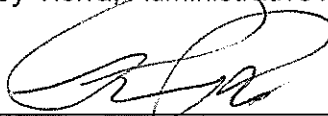
(M/S) Hobson/Marcaccio
Passed 5/0

ADJOURNMENT– Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday January 4, 2022 at 6pm

Prepared by:

Joy Vierra, Administrative Assistant



Randy Rossi, Chair BOD

1/4/2022
Date