

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

February 8, 2022 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 regularly scheduled February 8th, 2022 6:00 PM Board Meeting was conducted in person at 7060 Mt. Aukum Rd. Somerset, CA 95684

MINUTES

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

- 1.1 Roll Call - Present: Hobson, Marcaccio, Rossi, Holum Absent: Ruder
- 1.2 Administration: Administrative Assistant Joy Vierra, Captain Ramsey, FF Montesanti
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

2. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT / PRESENTATIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

A Moment of silence was held for Captain Max Fortuna

- 2.1 Letter of exceptional performance for Paul Schaffer was acknowledged

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Minutes from January 4th 2022 Board Meeting and February 2nd 2022 Special Board Meeting
- 3.2 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Payment of bills – green sheets
- 3.3 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Statement of Facts for the Year 2022
(M/S) Hobson/ Marcaccio Passed 4/0

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"

Audience Member Cathy Adams asked questions related to fire retardant, wanting to know why the public can't get fire retardant, and why there is a cost difference between what Cal Fire Pays and what the public pays. This question will be referred to the Fire Marshall. Audience Member Ivo asked if the board reviewed the Chief's performance after the Fire. Director Rossi shared that there will be a presentation given by Grant Ingram tonight that may answer many questions community members may have, and that the Board also invited George Turnboo El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor here to answer questions and share information. The board is not aware of any wrong doing by any fire personnel related to the fire. Director Rossi asked Volunteer FF Paul Schaffer to speak on the first few hours of when the fire started. Audience member Janice Twomey Long term Grizzly Flat residence asked questions about why there weren't any helicopters using water from the district early on in the fire and why there weren't any Tankers being used. She read a list of several rumors - Governor Newsom did not provide resources early on in the fire, US Forest Service declining Cal Fire offer of support for 2 days, there was a Tanker ready to provide service and was denied take off, Cal Fire was told to stand down, police officer overheard talking about it being arson, US Forestry protocol is let it burn, agencies did not engage until it was heading to Lake Tahoe. Long term housing recovery is only \$1200 for uninsured. She wanted to know why all agencies did not engage this fire. Audience member Candice shared her experience with what she saw with the fire and wants the truth to come out. She wants to know why no air support was provided. She feels the community deserves to know what went wrong, and why there weren't fire supports there in the first 2 days. Audience member

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John shared his experience regarding his fire loss and what he saw. He feels the US Forest Service let it burn.

5. MONTHLY/STANDING ACTIVITY REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 **Administrative/Chief's Report Jan/Feb 2022** – Admin Vierra Read Chief's report

Administration: Administrative facility and stations closed to the public except for emergencies Office is Open M-F 9AM to 1PM Heather is now working M-F 9AM to 1PM as the district Office Assistant and Joy is Working Tuesday and Friday 9AM to 1PM. Joy will give an update on Office functions at meeting. K. Earle prevention Mon/Tue.

Fire & Life Safety Division Public Ed, Inspections, plans, permit review & cost recovery:

K. Earle still updating and working on a more efficient plans review systems and is currently getting us caught up on back log permits. In addition, he is working with Joy to help fast track our permits programs and process. The team is doing a much more efficient job. Commercial project is the Dollar General, 65K fire hydrant will be going into service soon. Joy will be working with Heather on revitalizing our cost recovery.

Events:

Summary of EMS Cost Recovery is listed below:

Timed out until we hire someone

Fire Cost Recovery

Joy is still working to improve this system and has billed over \$10,007.00 received more than \$4,957.00 denied by insurance \$1,266.00

Classes Being Taught:

Looking at sponsoring driver operator 1 and 2 Captain Schwitalla and FF Walsh are coordinating;

Training Division

Total Training hours completed by shifts

A Shift 20 hours plus
B Shift 63 hours plus, new FF training programs
C Shift 60 hours plus, training with new LTFE
QRTs 66-80 hours QRTs team/shift training 2 and 4th Sunday of each month for minimal of 4 hours In addition, they train individually with crews or make up training when they miss a Sunday.

Calls: 63

A-Shift: Captain Schwitalla and FF Walsh

Working on AVL systems and communications, PPE, clothing and fire extinguisher yearly inspections. In addition, keeping our radios, pager and communication equipment operating. Working with old I pads and EMS report writing programs. Ladder testing for all PFPD ladder this month and next

B-Shift: Captain Ramsey and FF Montesanti

Working on new FF training, station and facility electrical related issues, EMS supplies, equipment and Covid PPE. Coordinated new heater in conference room just under 5k cost. Continuing to research new fire, ems and training programs through ESO vs Image Trend. Working on addressing EMS training issues and concerns

C-Shift: Captain Selig and LTFE Friesen

Working on new FF training, vehicle maintenance and repair; power equipment maintenance and repair. 25 hours on fleet repair and 6 hours on small equipment repairs.

Facilities, Apparatus, PVFA & More

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Administration:

Conference room, hall, old weight room heating system replaced at cost of just under 5,000.00

Station 35:

Removal and clean-up began on Jan 31, 2022 and completed by Feb 4th, 2022. Still working with insurance recovery. Land purchase next to 35, have payment and ready to sign waiting for clean dirt report. Once report comes in we can sign, pay and work on property consolidation

Temporary Station 35 Meadow Glen

Home has been approved, documents signed and officially ours to use on January 15th, 2022. The home is ours to use for one year (OES is financing property), minimal utility cost to district. Temporary engine bay process is being led by OES. Anticipated Feb 20th use date.

SCBA-Grant

Beginning ordering process and distribution process, SCBA 3-to-4-month delivery date. Captain Ramsey now heading this program and is working with Georgetown and Mosquito Fire. This should keep us compliant for 10 plus years and help enhance our safety.

Apparatus/Fleet

Squad motor has been replaced and still having issues with computer electronics. Folsom Ford still trying to fix it has been a challenge. We are working with them to resolve the issue. In addition, we have applied for FEMA to cover cost. Insurance loss U31 was included in the FEMA grant and should be refunded via the grant as cost only to replace

Equipment/Radios

Still working on updating of tones, hopefully we will make progress before fire season. AVL program should be functioning by March 1, 2022. This will help us be more efficient in receiving and responding to calls.

Applied for a large regional radio grant with Georgetown Fire, Garden valley and Mosquito Fire. Captain Schwitalla is and will be working on replacing lost radio, Ipads, pagers and communications equipment from 35 loss.

Deployment

Funds are slow to come in, finding issues with state and federal not invoicing in a timely matter; Joy to be working on it

Insurance

Ongoing replacement of items lost and building replacement this is a long haul project and extremely time consuming and frustrating

FEMA recovery grant

Working with the 3rd assigned team, filing required paperwork and documents I have well over a 200 hours of research and time on this project not to mention Lynette and Joys time. It has to be done but is time consuming.

Grants

Applied for SCBA fill station in January,

Documents completed to file for the SAFER personnel prevention grant to hire full-time public Ed/inspector and PT.

Radio and Communication grant filed with GT and MQ fire

PVFA

Will give update report at meeting, crews have been assisting with west slop foundation projects and the team has been working together throughout the month

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Unusual Occurrences/Injuries: No injuries to report several issues with covid related in house, sick leave usage is way up due to covid.

Storage property future station 32. Reader Board was destroyed; appeared to be struck by a vehicle and not reported. It has been removed. Captain Schwitalla investigating.

Mark Matthews, Fire Chief

5.2 Local #4586 – Nothing to report

5.3 PVFA – Nothing to Report

5.4 Financial – Financials as provided in the board packet were accepted

5.5 Caldor Committee – Director Holum gave an overview of Caldor Committee Presentation and introduced Grant Ingram. Grant Ingram gave power point presentation providing district history, and outlined events leading up to and during the Caldor Fire. Grant suggested the board think about inviting the local Fire Safe Councils to board meetings, and addressed the importance and need for a Public Information Officer for the district. After Grant Ingram's presentation Director Rossi invited George Turnboo El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor to speak on concerns he is addressing on behalf of the district.

5.6 Succession – None

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 District Dip Permit Team (Holum)
Board will be establishing a team to identify the dip sites and make sure there are agreements so they will be used.

7.2 Staffing at Station 31
Board Looking into this. A conditional job offer has been made pending the background investigation. Board wants to try and make sure that Willow Station 31 and the Grizzly flats station are staffed.

7.3 Caldor Temporary and Permanent Building Site Guidelines (Holum/Earle)
Director Rossi invited George Turnboo El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor to speak on concerns he is addressing on behalf of the district. Supervisor Turnboo shared that the Feds are investigating the US Forest Service, and talked about US Forest Service let it burn policy. There will be some policy changes with the US Forest Service with relation to forest management. There are some mills opening up to use the timber. His office has made a public records request to the US Forest Service for all the call logs, and the information is not being provided due to the fact that the Forest Service is under investigation. There is an emergency order Ordinance 5150 in place that you can go to the county to get a Temp Home Permit. BOS Agenda item passed on 2/8/22 to work with stakeholders on getting FEMA support. Supervisor Turnboo shared the need to bring logging back into the county. Ray Nutting shared his experience in the timber business. Supervisor Turnboo requested that the PFPD Board change the Caldor Temporary Home document Chief Matthews published and provided to the County.
Director Rossi asked for a motion to form a committee to revise the Caldor Temporary Building guidelines.

Motion was made to create Ad Hoc committee consisting to revise the Caldor Temporary Building Site Guidelines and fees to include Board Member, Fire Marshall, Tod White or other BOS representative, a community member.

(M/S) Holum/ Marcaccio Passed 4/0

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Ad Hoc Committee will consist of Director Holum, Fire Marshall Earle, Tod White BOS, and Felicia Moffat community member.

7.4 Helms Fee Waiver

Item 7.4 was heard out of order after closed session

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS (GOOD OF THE ORDER)

None

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Due to time, the Helms Fee Waiver will appear on a future agenda

10. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Open Session at 8:55 p.m. - Opened Closed Session at 9:00 p.m.

Returned from Closed Session at 10:50 p.m.

10.1 Public Employment (§ 54957) Title: Fire Chief. Nothing to Report out

10.2 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to (§ 54956.9(b)): Number of cases one. Nothing to report out

7.4 Helms Fee Waiver

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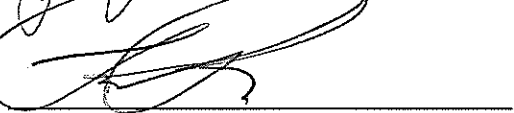
ADJOURNMENT– Meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday March 8, 2022 at 6pm

Prepared by:



Joy Viera, Administrative Assistant



Randy Rossi, Chair BOD

3-8-2022

Date