

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2015

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 7:06 p.m. by President, Mike DeLaurentis.

Present:

Mike DeLaurentis, President
Dave Harris, Vice-President
Sean Mullin, Clerk
Terri Ryland, Director (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Gary Grenfell, Director

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Lawrence Bettencourt
Deputy Chief, Eric Walder
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros
Battalion Chief, Karl Fowler
Captain, Brian Midtlyng
Engineer, Darren Zimmerman

Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Closed Session: A closed session meeting to discuss Captain Richard Kleefeld's Cal PERS Service retirement pending industrial disability retirement took place at 6:30 pm. President DeLaurentis continued that Chief Bettencourt has been given direction by the Board to proceed.

Consent Agenda: Director Mullin made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Director Harris. Carried

Ayes: Grenfell, Harris, Ryland, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Ryland

OLD BUSINESS

Functional Consolidation or Merger with Loomis Fire Protection District (LFPD): General discussion on the size and make-up of the committee. Currently, two Board members from each agency have been assigned to the committee. SPFD-Directors Mike DeLaurentis and Sean Mullin. LFPD- Directors Chris Gibson and Russ Kelly. Chief Bettencourt began the discussion by introducing LFPD Board member Russ Kelly to the Board. He continued that two months ago board members of LFPD approached him to discuss a possible consolidation with SPFD. Kris Berry of LAFCO has given a presentation to both Board's with the information necessary to move forward. President DeLaurentis noted that there has been no formal meeting with LFPD yet. Russ Kelly discussed concerns for LFPD in regards to salaries and benefits. Mr. Kelly continued that at this time, both Fire Districts should wait for recommendations from the Placer County OES consolidation study.

NEW BUSINESS

2015/16 Goal Setting Workshop: Staff recommends setting a date to conduct the 2015/16 goals workshop. Chief Bettencourt reminded the Board that the previous workshops had been done in August before the regular Board meeting. Chief Bettencourt suggested the Goals workshop be held on August 19, 2015 prior to the regular Board meeting with dinner provided by the District. All board members in attendance agreed to establish the 2015/16 Goals workshop for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

Chief Bettencourt displayed a power point presentation to update the Board with the status of several of the 2014/15 District's goals established in August of 2014.

- ✦ Develop a Board Charter, evaluate grant opportunities, complete the Long Term Facility Maintenance Plan, and research a wellness program for District employees.
 - ✦ Board Charter is completed
 - ✦ Applied for Safer Grant, received volunteer Grant
 - ✦ St. 15 Facility plans temporarily put on hold
 - ✦ John Hoffman created a wellness program- that was rejected by bargaining units
- ✦ Research impact of the Affordable Care Act and seek additional District funding opportunities
 - ✦ GEMT reimbursement received for 2013/14 of \$27,000
 - ✦ Ambulance Revenue down \$60,000 with higher write downs than in years past
 - ✦ ACA will bring many changes like single role paramedics
 - ✦ Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss Prop. 172 funds
- ✦ Increase operations between LFPD, remodel/expansion plans for St. 20
 - ✦ Operations between LFPD and SPFD is complete
 - ✦ St. 20 Facility expansion/remodel completion scheduled for this week
- ✦ Certify Inspection personnel and reduce use of Roseville Fire for plan checking/inspections
 - ✦ 90% completed with Katrina Hoop certification at Level 1 and Captain Ritter in progress to complete Level 3 certification
 - ✦ LFPD currently utilizing 3rd party reviewer, George Blind, with Capt. Ritter taking over these reviews soon
 - ✦ Roseville Fire soon to have a reduced role.
- ✦ EMS implement new E-PCR, purchase new Lifepak heart monitors, and research EMS delivery methods
 - ✦ New E-PCR done, Lifepak 15 monitors now in service
 - ✦ EMS delivery methods such as utilizing PCSO helicopter Falcon 30 completed
- ✦ Install voter/Repeater equipment for emergency incident communications
 - ✦ Completed
- ✦ Deliver truck task book training, update policy manual Section 6000 (Training)
 - ✦ Truck training offered to all interested employees
 - ✦ Policy manual update in progress
- ✦ Explore Using Volunteers in the Administrative Office
 - ✦ Three Volunteers Working Now
- ✦ Shop to install SCBA air system on Rescue 17, update weekly/monthly apparatus forms

- ✦ Air System design changes to be sent out next month
- ✦ Additional repair work coming to shop, form update in progress
- ✦ IT Training for in-house personnel, complete install/programming of mobile data computers
 - ✦ Engineer Gray taken over IT issues
 - ✦ All first response units have MDC's installed except Engine 19.

CalPERS Contract Amendment: Staff recommends approval of the Resolution of Intention to amend Section 21623.5 (\$2,000 Retired Death Benefit) for local miscellaneous and safety members. Chief Bettencourt discussed the increase in death benefits to retired employees from \$500 to \$2,000 as agreed to in negotiations. The current program will have no direct charge to the pool.

Chief Bettencourt noted that he is requesting Board approval of the Resolution of Intention at this time. The issue will return next month with a final Resolution for approval.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees Retirement System and the Board of Director South Placer Fire District. Seconded by Director Harris. Carried

Roll Call:

Ayes: Grenfell, Ryland, Harris, DeLaurentis, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Special Tax Collection Authorization: Staff recommends approval of the Resolution requesting the collection of charges on the Placer County tax roll. This is standard procedure each year authorizing Placer County to collect the District's special tax. Originally passed in 1980 and 1984, the tax collection is allowed every four years with no cost of living allowance at \$70 per residence, \$.05 per square foot of commercial property, and \$2 per acre of vacant land. This year's tax roll has been estimated at \$681,000 from 3rd party contractor SCI Consulting. This charge is then collected through the county for the District per a resolution at 1% of what is collected.

Chief Bettencourt asked the Board of Directors to pass Resolution No. 1-2015/2016. A motion was made by Director DeLaurentis and seconded by Director Harris. Carried

Roll Call:

Ayes: Grenfell, Ryland, Harris, DeLaurentis, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Placer County Office of Emergency Services Fire Service Consolidation Implementation Plan (FSCIP): Staff recommends discussion of the RFP and participation in the FSCIP. Placer County OES has requested all Fire Districts send letters of support and participation to Placer County for the FSCIP. The cost of the study is estimated to be \$100,000 and funded by general revenues from Placer County. Chief Bettencourt noted that the timing of the study is good with the local retirements. The current Municipal Services Review of Fire and Emergency Services in Western Placer County funded by LAFCO is in progress. The LAFCO study could be completed in two to four months. Chief Bettencourt recommended to the Board the District support and participate in the FSCIP. President DeLaurentis authorized Chief Bettencourt to send a letter agreeing to participate in the FSCIP on behalf of the District.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Request from Newcastle and Penryn Fire Protections Districts to contract, consolidate, or merge with South Placer Fire Protection District: Staff recommends discussion and direction from the Board. Chief Bettencourt introduced Chief Higgins of both Penryn and Newcastle Fire Districts to the Board. He continued that SPFD has received a direct request from both agencies requesting consideration for service contract, consolidation or a merger. Penryn Fire currently serves 10 square miles while Newcastle has 25 square miles. Both Fire Districts are dissected by Interstate 80 and the Union Pacific Railroad. Each Fire District has five full time employees and one part time employee. The funding for both agencies is minimal; employees receive salaries slightly above minimum wage with no retirement plan or health benefits after retirement. The assessed valuation of Penryn is \$469,075,763; Newcastle is \$571,812,336.

Currently, our ambulance responds to emergencies by mutual aid to areas in these districts within eight minutes travel time. Chief Higgins continued that his District wants letters of interest immediately and will look at all different models of support.

Chief Bettencourt added that SPFD cannot add any stations without additional battalion chief coverage and administration staff to adequately support the increased service area. President DeLaurentis asked Chief Higgins if there was any opportunity in his Districts for additional funding. Chief Higgins responded that the last tax measure proposal did not pass.

Chief Bettencourt noted that the two Districts combined have a \$1.5 million budget, funds insufficient to run even one station. Director Ryland stated that the funds need to come from somewhere so that SPFD does not incur additional costs to merge, contract or consolidate. Chief Higgins responded that tax rates could be adjusted if they are negotiated with Placer County. The Board agreed to entertain further discussions with Newcastle and Penryn Fire Protection Districts and authorized Chief Bettencourt and committee members to meet further on the issue.

Correspondence: An engagement letter from the office of Robert W. Johnson for the upcoming auditing services for the fiscal year 2014/15. A copy of the Placer County Grand Jury Final Report on the examination of fire hydrant inspection and maintenance. A copy of the consultant services agreement with SCI for parcel verification and calculation of special taxes.

Chief's Report:

- National Night Out is scheduled for August 4th. Several engines will travel to locations throughout the District.
- Captain Ellingford is back on shift and Captain Feeley has taken over the intern program. Six new interns have been brought into the 1 year program.
- Battalion Chief Karl Fowler is scheduled for promotion to Deputy Chief in October or November, based on Fire Chief Bettencourt's retirement date.
- Testing for the Community Risk Reduction position will be held on August 12th.
- Written testing for Apprentice Firefighter is complete with interviews scheduled for July 31st.
- Paramedic Firefighter testing and interviews has been completed. Three hires will begin in the next month.
- The August Board meeting will have a goals workshop and a final review of the 2015/16 budget.
- A badge pinning ceremony is tentatively scheduled for December 10th at the high school to recognize the new hires and promotions.

Functions: None

Board/Staff Comments: Battalion Chief Karl Fowler thanked the Board for the opportunity to promote to Deputy Chief and noted that he looked forward to the challenge.

Future Agenda Items: 2015/16 Goal Setting and Workshop

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Medeiros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros