

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:03 p.m. by President, Mike DeLaurentis.

Present:

Mike DeLaurentis, President
Dave Harris, Vice-President
Sean Mullin, Clerk
Gary Grenfell, Director

Absent:

Terri Ryland, Director

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Lawrence Bettencourt
Deputy Chief, Karl Fowler
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros
Paramedic Firefighter, Jon Crull

Special Presentation: Sierra College Fire Academy Instructor, Tim Palmer, presented Chief Bettencourt with a letter from the President of the college thanking him for his assistance of the fire technology program at Sierra College. He then presented him with a certificate of recognition for his years of support to the fire academy.

Public Comment: Member of the public, Sandy Harris, requested more information regarding the ambulance revenues received for the patient transports from Eskaton. Chief Bettencourt replied that he would have staff research the issue and report the findings.

Closed Session: None

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

New Fire Chief Contract: Staff recommends approval of the compensation package for the new fire chief. Chief Bettencourt noted that Deputy Chief Walder was currently in the National Fire Academy in Maryland. He continued that the District has had legal review the contract and made a few minimal changes. New language was added regarding the volatility of Cal PERS rates. Chief Bettencourt asked the Board for approval of the revised contract.

Director Mullin made a motion to approve the new Fire Chief Contract with Eric Walder. The motion was seconded by Director Grenfell. Carried

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

Breathing Support Unit (BSU) 16 Surplus Authorization: Staff requests authorization to surplus BSU 16. The unit is a mobile Type II breathing air support unit that carries spare self-contained breathing apparatus bottles and a cascade system capable of filling 20-25 bottles. Chief Bettencourt continued that the apparatus committee recommended surplus the unit in 2013 and installing the cascade system and the spare bottles on Rescue 17. Rescue 17 has been retrofitted to accept the new equipment. Director Grenfell noted that Rescue 17 does require a Class B driver's license or a Class C with a Firefighter endorsement. Chief Bettencourt noted that the unit could sell via BVD Consulting for up to \$5000.00.

Director Mullin made a motion to authorize Chief Bettencourt to surplus BSU 16. The motion was seconded by Director Harris. Carried

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

Cal PERS Contract Amendment: Staff recommends approval of the Resolution of Intention to add Section 20903 (Two Years Additional Service Credit) for local miscellaneous and safety members. Fire Chief Bettencourt gave a brief history of the fiscal crisis the District experienced in 2008/09. Salaries were funded with \$500,000 in reserves from facilities and Station 16 personnel were reassigned to vacancies in other stations. Station 16 remains currently staffed with reserve and volunteer firefighters. The Cal PERS two years additional service credit would allow the Fire District to down size faster in poor economic times by offering an early retirement. The early retirement would only be offered in place of a reduction in the work force and avoiding mandatory transfers, demotions, and layoffs. Once both the Intention and Final Resolution have been passed by the board, the two years additional service credit could only be offered with an additional Certification of Compliance Resolution by the Board stating the fiduciary needs of the Fire District require the early retirement offer and henceforth a designated time period or window for employees to apply for the early retirement would then be designated.

Chief Bettencourt continued that the District would be making the amendment now as a tool to utilize during any downturns in the future. The cost for offering the two year service credit to a current 28 year Captain would be approximately \$70,000 in extra contributions to Cal PERS, in present value rates, reimbursed over a five year time span.

Director Grenfell expressed concern over the requirement to not fill any vacancies created by the 2 year service credit. Chief Bettencourt responded that he would get clarification regarding that requirement from Cal PERS.

Director Mullin made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intention Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Directors for the South Placer Fire District. Seconded by Director Grenfell.

Roll call:

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

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Fire Chief's Presentation on current and future opportunities and challenges for South Placer Fire District: Staff recommends a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis (SWOT) for the future of South Placer Fire District. Chief Bettencourt gave a brief presentation of the finances, apparatus, equipment and facility conditions, succession plan, and possible impacts of two Placer County Fire Service studies currently in progress. He began with the strengths of the District: highly experienced Captains and Chief Officers, timely ambulance response times in compliance with SSV-EMS, a fully staffed apparatus shop, CSFM certified fire investigators and inspectors, a funded long term facility, apparatus, and equipment plans in place along with a balanced board approved budget for 2015/16. Weaknesses for the District were as follows: Other Post Employment Benefit funding currently at a ratio of 14%, average Captains age is 46 indicating a loss 1/3 of workforce in 5 years, Station 16 not staffed 24/7, and the first in unit performance goal of 7 minutes is met 50% of the time, not the required 80% in the Standards of Coverage. Opportunities for the District were: several new commercial projects in progress, three large memory care facilities in building or planning stages, multiple residential projects under construction, the possible merge with Loomis Fire District, and possible contract for services with Penryn and Newcastle Fire Districts. Current threats to the District: the current tax revenue implications from the Fire Service Consolidation Implementation Plans funded by Placer County, the Cal-EMSA Ambulance Exclusive Operating Areas (EOA's) for fire districts in jeopardy, the estimated 90% build out by 2020, and the volatility of Cal PERS employee and employer contribution rates along with the recently proposed Cal PERS reduction of discount rates from 7.5% to 6.5%.

Correspondence: A letter and report from the auditors, Robert W. Johnson, noting the completed compliance for the Financial Transactions Report for June 30, 2015 filed with the California State Controller.

Chief's Report:

- The Annual Food & Toy drive is at all stations. All collected toys are distributed by the Salvation Army to needy families.
- Ten fire station tours have been scheduled for Fire Prevention month.
- The Auburn Elks has nominated and will recognize Captain Donavon Gray on 11/19th.

- Loomis Fire has approved a new ALS program adding \$20,000 per year to the current contract for services. South Placer will implement and supervise the program.
- A presentation to provide a contract for services was made to Newcastle and Penryn Fire District.
- Rocklin and Lincoln Fire are sharing resources and may close a Lincoln fire station and share a Battalion Chief.
- Change of Command Ceremony is December 10th.
- Chief Bettencourt's last day is December 11th.

Functions: December 6th is the Food and Toy Drive at Paul Martin's from 1-4 p.m.

Board/Staff Comments: Chief Bettencourt noted that Placer County LAFCO agency is looking to replace the passing of a board member. Nominations must be in by November 30 to serve an alternate position in May of 2016.

Future Agenda Items: Setting the 2016 meeting calendar and committee assignments, Fiscal Year 2014/15 Audit Report

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 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