

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 7:01 p.m. by President, Gary Grenfell.

Present:

Gary Grenfell, President
Dan Bajtos, Vice President
Sean Mullin, Clerk
Mike Johnson, Director
Terri Ryland, Director (arrived at 7:38 p.m.)

Absent:

Ken Musso, Director
Chris Gibson, Director

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Mark Duerr
Deputy Chief, Matt Feeley
Division Chief, Jeff Ingolia
Battalion Chief, Kelly Moretti
Captain, Justin Buathier
Firefighter Paramedic, Taylor Bromley
Captain Paramedic, Devin Fuller

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: Director Mullin made a motion to approve the items for the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Johnson.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

Special Presentation: A presentation was made by the Station 18 on-duty crews demonstrating the grant-funded Lucas device received from SSV. The equipment normally costs between \$15-20,000 but one was delivered at no cost to the district. The devices are an automatic CPR machine that will provide continuous, high-performance CPR. The District is looking to outfit all of the engine companies with Lucas devices in the future with mitigation revenues. At this time the new device has been in service for 1.5 weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Station 18 New Truck Room Update: Staff recommends discussion on the proposed project and progress made to date. Chief Duerr noted that the project has been on hold for several years due to the project running over budget. He continued that there is no action at this time on the project due to the recent change in deployment models.

Employee Retention: Staff recommends discussion on current issues facing the District involving employee retention. Chief Duerr began that for years the District has experienced vacancies at every

rank. With the new deployment model, effective September 24th the District will be able to maximize effective responses within the District and have no vacancies at all positions.

Discussion on District-Wide Photovoltaic Solar Electric Proposal: Staff recommends discussion and action on the proposed Solar Project, including a proposal by a third-party consultant. Chief Duerr began that the Board had asked to reach out to energy companies to initiate any interest in the project. Chief Duerr explained that many energy companies responded that the District solar project was not large enough to meet their returns on investment requirements. He continued that the District cannot do a holistic approach and make changes for all energy uses at all stations as this is not funded in the Capital Facilities plan budgets. The District did reach out to IBANK who normally lends money to municipalities for large infrastructure projects. They noted that \$500,000 is at the very bottom of their lending limits. Director Mullin asked Chief Duerr what the return on investment would be for the current solar project. Chief Duerr explained that the return on investment is seven years estimating a 9% increase each year in energy costs. The project would be a total of \$375,000 for solar at Stations 16, 17, 18, and Station 20, including the consultant costs. Current electricity costs are \$60,000 per year, which would be eliminated to zero dollars in year one. Chief Duerr noted that the costs for the project are already in the general budget for 2022/23 and the District could be investing in its infrastructure with the long-term ability to stabilize the budget and secure the rates prior to any new solar legislation. Director Mullin made a motion to proceed with the RFQ with Municipal Energy Advisors Inc. and bring back and present additional information on the return on investment. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

Advanced Life Support First Responder Fee and Ambulance Treat-No Transport Fee for Division 1 (former Loomis Fire Protection District): Staff recommends discussion and approval to adjust the fee schedule for an advanced life support engine company first responder fee and ambulance treat-no transport fee for Division 1. Chief Duerr explained that this fee was established for Division 2 in 2015, but never assessed within Division 1. The adoption would amend the fee schedule for the established fees for first responder and treat-non transport fees in Division 1 along with the Board approved annual automatic rate adjustment by the percentage of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Series Title Medical Care in the U.S. City Average. Estimated increase of \$64,000 to ambulance revenues with collections beginning in October. Director Johnson made a motion to adopt the Advanced Life Support First Responder Fee and Ambulance Treat-No Transport fee for Division 1. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

Fiscal Year 2022/23 Final Budget Adoption: Staff recommends discussion and adoption of the fiscal year 2022/23 final budget. This budget brings salaries and wages to 82.96%, down from 89% the prior year but still above the 80.25% board-adopted goal. Service and operations are at 12.4%, fixed assets at .59%, Apparatus at 0%, Facilities are at 3.18%, and Major Equipment/Capital Expenditures are at .85%. Total budget is \$14,419,924 resulting in a fully balanced budget. Chief Duerr noted that this budget moved the District closer to the established board budgeting goals with the newly reflected staffing deployment model. The budget estimates the property tax revenues increasing by 6% per county estimates received along with a small overtime reduction. Major equipment will spend \$175,000 on EKG monitors with a grant received for reimbursement for \$326,000. Mitigation expenditures will be the hand tevy EMS system, tablet commands for Battalion Chiefs and Lucas

Devices. Director Bajtos made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Final Budget. Director Mullin made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

Fiscal Year 2022/23 District Goals: Staff recommends discussion on the 2022/23 District Goals and possible action if the Board warrants it. Chief Duerr reported that the Board had met in August for a workshop to discuss and build the board and staff goals and objectives. Chief Duerr continued that at the workshop, discussion led to revising the prior 2019 goals. The newly compiled board goal was determined to maintain fiscal stability, explore and increase revenues, and work with staff to achieve a balanced budget. Those board goals were also implemented into staff and administration goals to create a benchmark for staff to obtain.

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2021/22 Draft 4th Quarterly Budget Report: Staff recommends a short presentation on the status of the draft 4th Quarter fiscal year 2021/22 unaudited final budget. Chief Duerr began that this is the unaudited report for the 2021/22 budget. Changes to the final numbers will be due to the final auditor's findings regarding bad debt expenses and any other relative findings will be shown in the annual audit of the District's budget. Total revenues of \$14.458 million were received in the fiscal year at 102% of budget. The overall deficit for the 4th quarter report is -\$123,186 at this time. Director Bajtos made a motion to approve the 2021/22 4th quarter budget report. Director Mullin made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

Dry Financing Request: Staff seeks approval to dry finance, if needed, from the Placer County Treasurer's office. Each year the District utilizes its reserve accounts to fund expenditures from July through December when the first property tax installment is collected. Staff recommends approval of the resolution authorizing the dry financing request for up to \$3.5 million. Chief Duerr noted that the goal is to build reserves in the future to a point that the District does not need to rely on dry financing through the county. Director Mullin made a motion to authorize and approve the resolution for the District to submit the application for dry financing from the Placer County Treasurer. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson, Ryland
Carried

7: 38 p.m. Director Ryland arrived.

Cal PERS 2023-24 Contribution Rate Increases and Employer Payment of Unfunded Liability Increases: Staff recommends reviewing and discussing CalPERS most recent annual valuation reports for the District's four retirement plans. Chief Duerr explained that the District total lump sum prepayment of the District's unfunded accrual liability payment (UAL) was \$1,037,554 across all retirement plans for the 2022/23 year. The lump sum payment for the 2023/24 UAL covering all plans has decreased to \$961,913, a reduction of \$75,641 for the payment in the next budget year. Chief Duerr explained that CalPERS has announced investment losses in the fiscal year 2021/22 of -6.1%. The impact of those investment losses will be reflected in the contribution requirements for 2024/25.

South Placer Fire District Policy 1029 – Uniform Regulations: Staff recommends review and possible action on the proposed uniform regulations policy revisions. Chief Duerr began that the uniform policy has not been updated in some time. He continued that the Uniform Committee has worked diligently to update all uniform-related items under one policy. Changes to class A uniforms and a timeline for purchase were incorporated into the policy. He added that there is a \$1000 uniform reimbursement under the current MOU for the purchase of the uniforms. Station tees were designed by each station, with Station 16 now reopening which gives that station an opportunity to develop its own design. He noted that management intends to sit down annually with the uniform committee. Director Johnson made a motion to approve Policy 1029- Uniform Regulations. Director Ryland made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Johnson, Mullin, Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Musso, Gibson
Carried

2022 Fire Code Adoption 1st Reading: Staff recommends discussion and 1st reading of the South Placer Fire District 2022 Fire Code Adoption and local amendments. This will be the first reading that will be in effect on 1/1/2023. The new ordinance adopts the local amendments to the fire code that were updated to ensure that all code sections referenced in the amendments remained accurate and relevant. Fire Marshal Ingolia reviewed the new code and provided updates in the Ordinance relevant to the District. Once adopted by the District the Ordinance will go to the County for final approval. He noted that county building officials and legal have reviewed and approved these changes brought forth to the board.

District Funding Future: Staff recommends discussion on the development of a plan to address District revenues. Chief Duerr explained that with the failed benefit assessment and new deployment model he recommends the board move forward and discuss the next steps for the District. He noted that a recommendation was made to form an ad hoc committee to lobby for additional funding for the District. Director Johnson stated that the committee could be formed of a representative from the Board, Admin., and labor to be tenacious in every aspect possible. A discussion was made regarding SB450, a fund for special districts that utilize Prop. 19 funds from changes in property values. Chief Duerr noted that he is reaching out to OES to pursue more information on this fund. Director Ryland noted that special district funding is much different from other public agencies. Chief Duerr continued that in the future, he will make sure to reach out to lobbying groups such as FDAC and CSDA for additional support with any future measures. Director Mullin made suggestions regarding station signage and public announcements regarding the upcoming station closures.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Correspondence: One PARS financial statement for July, a thank you card, an announcement from the Firefighters Burn Institute on the 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Farrell's plane crash, a letter from the Lincoln Veterans Memorial Coalition regarding their upcoming celebration.

Chief's Report:

- Two firefighters off probation – Mascarinas and Doepel
- Div. Chief Magnuson deployed in Yosemite
- Multiple deployments – Mosquito Fire and Dutch Flat
- Received Lucas Device and provided training
- Fire on Grosvenor Downs
- Engineer Lance McKinley now Peer Fitness Coordinator
- Engine 15 attended Granite Bay High School Community Service event

- Generator installed at Station 15 (grant funded)
- 393 calls in August vs. 368 last year. 11% more
- Medic 17 – 175 calls and the busiest, then Truck 17
- Overtime: 38% due to open positions, 16% sick leave, 13% holiday, 19% vacation, 2% disabilities
- Mandatory overtime August 26% vs. 40% in July
- SSV Performance – arrived with 98% of the SSV response times
- 2022 Fire Prevention department – 31 permits pulled this month, total square feet down, prevention fees down, 64 sets of plans received in August
- Functions: Cal Chiefs in Downtown Sacramento, Del Oro Homecoming Parade Friday, Eggplant Festival Oct. 1st with St.18 pancake breakfast

Functions: November 18 Firefighters Recognition Dinner

Board/Staff Comments: none

Future Agenda Items: Lobbying Ad Hoc Committee

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12th, 2022.

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