

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:01 p.m. by President, Tracy Randall.

Board Present:

Tracy Randall, President
Chris Gibson, Vice President
Pete Gallegos, Director
Ken Musso, Clerk
Dan Bajtos, Director
Mike Johnson, Director

Absent:

Gary Grenfell, Director

Staff Present:

Mark Duerr, Fire Chief	Engineer Paramedic, Pat Patterson
Kathy Medeiros, Board Secretary	Deputy Chief, Matt Feeley
Battalion Chief, Brian Midtlyng	Captain, Justin Buathier
Fire Marshal, Jeff Ingolia	Firefighter Paramedic, Skylar Roper
Division Chief, James Magnuson	

6:01 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes:

- (A) Public employee appointment, employment, performance evaluation, discipline, dismissal, or release (Gov. Code § 54957 (b))
- (B) Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(a)] – Jennings v. South Placer Fire Protection District, et al., S-CV-0050292

6:35 p.m. Return from Closed Session

Closed Session Report: President Randall reported that the Board had met in closed session and had given direction to counsel and Chief Duerr in regard to the Jennings case with nothing more to report at this time.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Bajtos.

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

OLD BUSINESS

South Placer Fire District Policy Updates: Staff recommends a second reading and adoption of the proposed policy updates. Six policies to be reviewed and approved following their first reading. Chief Duerr noted the grammatical errors to the policies were corrected. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the policy updates as presented. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

District Strategic Planning: The strategic planning committee recommends discussion and acceptance of the strategic plan content. Following the master plan adoption, the Board approved moving forward with the process with AP Triton inviting input from the District and community members. Nineteen members of the District participated over two and a half days. The Strategic Plan that was created would be the work plan for the organization over the next five years. Labor representative Engineer Pat Patterson added that labor was not in support of the current strategic plan document because internal and external survey comments were excluded. Chief Duerr added that after discussion with the President of the labor unit and the PR Consultant, it was recommended as best practice to have the survey comments represented outside of the strategic plan document. The Board agreed to table the issue at this time to provide an opportunity to discuss the document further with labor.

Community Facilities District Formation and Public Hearing: Staff recommends taking all steps to form a Community Facilities District for the South Placer Fire District. President Randall opened the public hearing at 7:23 p.m. There were no public comments. President Randall closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-2024/25 to approve formation of the CFD. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Johnson, Musso Noes: Gallegos Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 8-2024/25 Calling for a Special Election. Director Randall made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Johnson, Musso Noes: Gallegos Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Chief Duerr presented an unopened ballot mailed in from an affected landowner. Once opened, he reported the landowner had voted Yes to authorize the annual levy on lands within the CFD District No. 1. President Randall declared the election results complete with the affirmed Yes vote. Director Musso made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9-2024/25 declaring the results for the South Placer Fire District Community Facilities District No. 1. Director Gibson made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Johnson, Musso Noes: Gallegos Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

President Randall noted that Ordinance No.1-2024/25 has been presented for the first reading and will be presented at the next board meeting for adoption authorizing the special tax levy for the CFD.

LAFCO Plan for Services: Staff will provide an update on the plan for services to extend latent powers, specifically ambulance services. Chief Duerr noted that there was no formal action required at this time. The Board had previously approved a resolution calling on LAFCO to review the District's service plan and extend the rights to the expanded area of the consolidated District. Chief Duerr explained that LAFCO will review the service plan on December 11th with Chief Duerr in attendance for the meeting. Once the LAFCO meeting is complete, Chief Duerr will arrive to attend South Placer's December board meeting.

The Board agreed to change the start time to 6:30 p.m. for the December meeting to accommodate the Chief's arrival.

NEW BUSINESS

South Placer Fire District Policy Updates: Staff recommends a first reading of the proposed policy updates. Ten policies to be reviewed for their first reading. There were no questions on the policies as presented before returning to next month's meeting for approval.

Fiscal Year 2024/25 First Quarter Budget Report: Chief recommends a short presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget status. Chief Duerr began that the 1st quarter of the new fiscal year has passed with high salaries and wages due to the many deployments. Total expenditures were at 26.3% for the year, slightly high for the 1st quarter. He continued that the 1st tax draw of 55% for the District will occur on December 11th. Of the \$1.247 million in mitigation expenditures, there was spending on new equipment, new generators, and an ISRAM ambulance.

Gann Limit Report: Staff recommends discussing and adopting the Resolution setting the Fiscal Year 2024/25 appropriations limit, per Article XIII B of the State Constitution (1979) and verifying compliance for 2023/24. Chief Duerr explained that this is standard procedure reviewing adopted appropriations limits in the prior fiscal year by cost of living and population factors. The District is well under the Gann Limit by \$4.753 million for 2023/24 and \$4.789 million for 2024/25. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2024/25 adopting the annual appropriations limit for fiscal year 24/25 and verifying compliance in 23/24. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Resolutions for Dedicated Service to South Placer Fire District: Staff recommends adoption of the Resolutions recognizing Gary Grenfell and Mike Johnson for their outstanding service to the Fire District and the community. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-2024/25 commendation of service for Director Gary Grenfell. Director Gallegos made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 12-2024/25 commendation for service for Director Mike Johnson.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Musso Noes: None Abstain: Johnson Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Apprentice Firefighter Contract: Staff recommends discussing an amendment to the apprentice contract to provide funding for paramedic school. Chief Duerr explained that along with other organizations, fire services have struggled to find qualified personnel. He continued that he recommends expanding the apprentice program by providing a one-time stipend of up to \$5000 in paramedic training. Funding for paramedic school would be provided in a step fashion – with \$2500 up front with the balance paid at the completion of school. Director Gallegos inquired whether the contract could ask for a three-year commitment upon completion. Chief Duerr agreed to do further research along with legal review and return the item for approval in the December meeting.

Ambulance Remount: Staff recommends discussing a proposal to perform remount services on one of the two District ambulances. Chief Duerr began that the District currently has two ambulances both with the boxes in good shape. A remount would provide a new cab and chassis at a cost of \$185,000 to remount, versus \$380,000 to purchase a new ambulance. Due to the long lead times to secure vehicle chassis, staff is requesting a remount service on one of the existing ambulances to plan ahead for apparatus replacement. A remount approval today would take 10-12 months for delivery with the funds due in the next budget year. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the ambulance remount. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Solar Panel Acquisition for Station 19: Staff recommends discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of photovoltaic solar panels for Station 19. Two years ago, the District approved solar panels for the majority of stations. Utility bills are down 45% in the past fiscal year with a return on the initial investment of \$410,000 expected in 8 years. As part of the process, the District secured NEM 2.0 privileges at Stations 15 and 19 following the installation of panels at Stations 17 and Station 16. Chief Duerr explained that he is looking for approval to contract with the same vendor at a cost of \$135,000 with a return on investment of 6.5 years. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Chief Duerr to move forward with acquiring solar panels for Station 19. Director Gallegos made a second to the motion.

Ayes: Gibson, Randall, Bajtos, Gallegos, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Grenfell
Carried

Municipal Service Review (MSR) – Service Review Study and Sphere of Influence Update – Western Placer County Fire/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch Service Agency Providers: Staff recommends a discussion about the MSR and future actions. Chief Duerr explained that LAFCO has completed a draft review of a municipal service review with AP Triton for fire service in Western Placer County. The draft review was found to have many contradictions and incomplete recommendations once shared with stakeholders. Public comment was offered on the report in November with public review occurring at the December LAFCO meeting.

Correspondence: One PARS financial statement received for the month of September and a letter from the State Fire Marshal regarding the adoption of the State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone map.

Chief's Report:

- M16, E17 most calls by apparatus
- Station 18 most calls by station area
- 6 fires
- Response time increasing, travel times down.
- Ambulance responses met SSV compliance at 98%.
- Fire Prevention department (Chief Ingolia): 12 new starts, 3 commercial projects. 18,000 square feet in remodels this month, 75 sets of plans received, 2 reinspection's.
- Facilities (Chief Ingolia): no report
- Fire Investigations (Chief Ingolia): no report.
- Weed Abatements (Chief Ingolia): 24 cases pending.
- Overtime: rising due to Openings and Sick Leave
- Leave usage consistent. 75% Volunteer vs. 25% mandatory Overtime

- Overtime total hours 2000-2500, \$60-70,000 per pay period
- ISRAM ambulance arrived.
- 1582 physicals being conducted.
- All hands meeting held on November 8th.
- Apprentice Firefighter hiring – 13 applicants, 11 moving forward.
- Firefighter Paramedic hiring – 6 applicants with testing/interviews scheduled in December.
- Apprentice Mechanic hired with late November/December start date.
- Met with Labor – productive meeting.
- Donation to EUSD for ride in a fire engine
- Retention – 24 lost in this administration/36 prior administration. Released 2 this administration/7 prior admin., Retired 17 prior admin.

Labor Report: No report

Functions: Santa in the Hood, IAFF Local 522 Open House 12/4 + 12/5 from 3-7 p.m., Pancake breakfast Station 17 on 12/8, Jim Holmes Retirement dinner 12/10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Blue Goose

Board/Staff Comments: Director Johnson thanked the board for the experience serving the District the last four years.

Committee Reports: none

Future Agenda Items: Strategic Plan Document, CFD Ordinance No. 1-2024/25

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros