

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2015

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Friday, September 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. by President, Mike DeLaurentis.

Present:

Mike DeLaurentis, President
Dave Harris, Vice-President
Terri Ryland, Director
Gary Grenfell, Director

Absent:

Sean Mullin, Clerk

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Lawrence Bettencourt
Deputy Chief, Eric Walder
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros
Battalion Chief, Darren McMillin
Captain, Matt Feeley
Captain, Darren Zimmerman

Special Presentation: None

Public Comment: None

Closed Session: None.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2015/16 Final Budget Adoption: Staff recommends adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 final budget. The preliminary budget was adopted in June and the final budget is required to be adopted before October 1st of each year. Chief Bettencourt presented the Final 2015/16 budget and explained that this proposed final budget includes the final tax revenue projections received from the Placer County Auditor's Office. Chief Bettencourt noted that there have been significant changes from the preliminary budget that were discussed at the August Board Meeting. He explained that following discussions with Board Secretary Kathy Medeiros and Director Terri Ryland, it was recommended for the need to properly set up and fund the Contingent Reserve

Account. Due to savings in apparatus expenditures, the apparatus reserve is over expectations allowing the additional funding to the Contingent Reserve. The 2015/16 budget also has \$400,000 in funding to facility reserves in anticipation of the Station 15 remodel project. Director Ryland added that it is prudent to properly setup the reserves in order to maintain them. Property tax revenues are expected to increase by 9% from last year at a collection rate of 95% that is guaranteed. Expected CFAA Revenues are up for the upcoming year at \$472,000 and could exceed that amount. Member of the public, Merrill Furlow inquired about the \$15,000 budgeted purchase of treadmills. Deputy Chief Walder responded that the current exercise equipment at the stations have aged and their replacement has been on hold since 2009.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Final Budget as presented to the Board; seconded by Director Grenfell. Carried

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

Fiscal Year 2015/16 Board Goals: Staff recommends discussion and action to establish the 2015/16 goals. Chief Bettencourt presented the 2015/16 Board and staff goals as were presented at the August workshop. He noted that there had been very little changes to the goals with the exception of a few slight revisions to IT in regards to mobile data computers (MDC). He continued that Administration goal #4 has been completed as Placer County Board of Supervisors has chosen the consultant for the consolidation study.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve the 2015/16 Board and Staff Goals. The motion was seconded by Director Harris. Carried

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

NEW BUSINESS

Dry Financing Request: Staff seeks approval of the resolution for dry financing from the Placer County Treasurer's Office. Chief Bettencourt explained that the District receives property tax funds in December and April each year. When there is a lot of strike team activity the District may not be reimbursed for that cost for several months. The District has already paid over 10,000 hours of overtime or around \$400,000 for strike team responses this year. He continued that the District has already gone into a dry finance situation. The County will finance the district at an interest rate of 1.25-1.75% until the next tax draw is received in December.

A motion was made by Director Ryland to approve Resolution No. 5 2015-2016 Dry Financing Request and seconded by Director Grenfell. Carried

Roll Call:

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

Station 17 (6900 Eureka Road) Dedication of Property to Placer County: Staff recommends discussion and approval of the resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to execute the dedication of highway easement to Placer County. The Micherra Place Subdivision will require an east bound right-turn lane and a west bound left turn lane on Eureka Road next to Station 17. The extra lanes require the dedication of land from SPFD. Micherra Place would like to finalize the parcel map in order to sell the property. Chief Bettencourt explained that the District has negotiated with the developer and asked for a controlled signal light on Eureka while Station 17 will lose 30 feet of truck ramp. He continued that at this time he is looking for resolution approval and authorization to execute the dedication of highway easement to Placer County. He noted that our legal counsel and Placer County will be reviewing the property dedication prior to execution.

President DeLaurentis asked if Placer County Traffic control has approved the easement. Chief Bettencourt noted that it has been approved. He explained that the parcel is zoned 5 houses per acre and that despite the District concerns regarding noise and traffic implications for the site, the project has proceeded forward.

Director Harris made a motion to approve Resolution No. 6-2015-2016 and authorize Chief Bettencourt to execute the dedication of highway easement to Placer County. The motion was seconded by Director Ryland. Carried

Roll Call:

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

2015 Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant Acceptance and Resolution: Staff recommends approval of resolution and agreement. Staff has applied for and has been approved by Cal Fire to receive matching funds to purchase six new Bendix King Commander P25 portable radios with accessories. Deputy Chief Walder explained that Cal Fire is administering a federal grant aimed to assist agencies that utilize volunteer firefighters. The total cost to purchase these radios will be \$12,163 with the grant covering half of this amount equaling \$6081.50. The District is working to upgrade the entire radio cache and this grant will help us assign digital command bank capable radios to more personnel.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-2015/2016 and authorize Deputy Chief Walder to execute the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Agreement. The motion was seconded by Director Grenfell. Carried

Roll Call:

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

Newcastle and Penryn Fire Protection Districts request for Administrative Services or Consolidation: Staff recommends review and approval to submit a proposal for services to Newcastle and Penryn Fire Districts. Newcastle and Penryn Fire Districts' sent formal letters in July of 2015 requesting South Placer Fire District consider merging, consolidation, or contracting with Newcastle and Penryn. In the July Board meeting, Chief Bettencourt was instructed to prepare a draft proposal for submission. The draft proposal provides administrative services to Newcastle and Penryn Fire Districts with the following recommendations:

- 1) Close Newcastle Station 41
- 2) Staff Penryn Fire Station 38 with four personnel
- 3) Current Penryn Chief will fill position as Administrative Captain funded by Penryn and Newcastle Fire Districts
- 4) Current personnel assigned to Newcastle and Penryn will staff Station 38 and have to meet job descriptions in proposal to receive raises
- 5) Station 41 to be sold, funds used to build new station planned at Interstate 80 and Old Newcastle Highway.
- 6) Station 38 personnel will be moved to new Station 41 when completed
- 7) Station 38 will be staffed with reserve and volunteer personnel capable of responding the water tender and other auxiliary apparatus as needed similar to SPFD Station 16,
- 8) Closing Station 41 will add between 3.5 to 4 minutes to the response times of some incidents in Newcastle
- 9) Total operating revenues from combining both budgets will not cover the costs of this proposal. Current reserve accounts will be needed.
- 10) Contract is for one year, with option to extend if mutually agreeable.

Chief Bettencourt noted that two members of the Penryn Fire District board and Newcastle labor union were in the audience. He continued that at this time, Chief Higgins is using reserves in order to balance both fire districts' budgets. The contract for services with SPFD would cost \$150,000 per year, or \$75,000 from each district. The current administration staff of SPFD cannot take additional work, therefore a day captain will be kept in employment to help run the two departments and build the new station in Newcastle that has been funded by overrides. The proposal includes giving personnel a raise when they meet the job description requirements of SPFD. He continued that the employees do not have PERS retirements, but do pay into social security. Salaries for the Penryn Fire are 88% while Newcastle salaries are 75-80% of budgeted revenues. Property taxes have increased between 5-6 %, but it has not been enough. There is need for the County to negotiate a smaller share of property tax revenues to give more to these fire districts. At this time, it is necessary to submit the proposal until the Placer County Consolidation study comes in to redistribute the tax increments. Chief Higgins noted that the District has also requested proposals from Cal Fire and Placer County Fire. Director Ryland noted that her concern with the proposal is the additional workload demanded of staff, but contended that it was a good idea to get Fire Districts' together to work something out.

Chief Bettencourt concluded that even with the consolidation of the two stations, the Penryn and Newcastle Fire Districts will still operate in the red. President DeLaurentis instructed Chief Bettencourt to prepare and submit a final proposal to Newcastle and Penryn Fire Districts.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

None

Correspondence: None

Chief's Report:

- Redesigned SPFD pink shirts are available for sale. The new shirt has an all-black background with the pink ribbon.
- October is fire prevention month and there are several planned school visits
- October 22 and 23 is the Granite Bay High School Homecoming bonfire and fireworks. As always, the district will review and make the final call. The high school pays a fee for the inspections and personnel on standby.
- Chief Summers recently retired from Rocklin Fire and was not replaced.
- The City of Roseville has hired a Fire Chief replacement.
- The Deccan Conference is upcoming in San Diego to discuss connectivity between CAD's.
- October 1st there is a multi-casualty incident training.
- Potential date of December 10th for changing of command and badge pinning ceremony.
- December 17th will be a retirement luncheon for Chief Bettencourt at 1300 hours.
- October 24th is the Pink Party at Pete's Pizza in Granite Bay.

Functions: None

Board/Staff Comments: President DeLaurentis inquired about the status of PILT and Prop. 172 funding. Chief Bettencourt responded that he has not heard from Supervisor Uhler or the BOR. Currently, Foresthill is considering not responding to U.S. Forestry Service land. There is a meeting at the Penryn Fire Station to discuss the situation on October 8th at 7 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: Gann Limit adoption, Quarterly Budget Report, FY 2014/15 Audit Review

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros