

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. by President, Mike DeLaurentis.

Present:

Mike DeLaurentis, President
Dave Harris, Vice President
Sean Mullin, Clerk

Absent:

Gary Grenfell, Director
Terri Ryland, Director

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Lawrence Bettencourt
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros
Deputy Chief, Eric Walder

Public Comment: None

Closed Session: A closed session meeting regarding employment contract renewals with the South Placer Firefighter Local 3809 took place at 6:30 p.m. President DeLaurentis reported that there was nothing to report at this time.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2014/15 Goals Update: The District adopts goals annually and the Board requests an update on the progress of the goals in February. Deputy Chief Walder began by reviewing the status of the Board goals. He discussed the status of the many grant opportunities available to the District. He noted that the District intends to use the same grant writer used in prior grant applications. The Long Term Facility Plan is nearly completed by the Facilities Committee. The Wellness plan is still under consideration with the District actively researching a cost benefit analysis

Administration goals have included analyzing the impacts from the Affordable Health Care Act on the District ambulance operations, funding and staffing. Deputy Chief Walder continued that the act has continued to affect revenues and wait times. He continued that Chief Bettencourt is exploring additional funding opportunities through the Proposition 172 and "PILT" (Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes) funding. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Operations have effectively increased efficiencies between South Placer Fire and Loomis Fire District by updating their policies, training, and mirroring the District's policies. Station 20 bathroom improvements and a new exhaust system for the truck room are underway. Station 15 improvements are on hold temporarily due to finance constraints.

Fire Prevention personnel have completed the CSFM Level II Certification and are now working on the task book requirements. Eventually the District hopes to reduce and/or eliminate the use of Roseville Fire District for prevention services.

For the EMS Division, Engineer Gray has completed a new E-PCR program that is compliant with new State and Federal regulations. Fifteen new Lifepak heart monitors have been purchased at a discount by Captain Kleefeld and are in service.

In the Safety and Training division, a new Voter/Repeater system is under consideration by Chief Bettencourt for emergency incident communications. The truck task book and additional training has been available to all interested fire district personnel. Final review of Policy Manual Section 6000 (Training) is in progress.

The office has successfully brought in one new volunteer. The shop will install the SCBA Air System once the truck is back from warranty work. The update of the weekly apparatus and monthly truck forms has not yet begun.

In IT, Engineer Gray has taken over and is now working with an outside IT contractor on utilizing the cloud for the exchange server and installing mobile data computers on all medic and truck/engine companies. President DeLaurentis expressed the Board's appreciation to Engineer Gray and Captain Kleefeld for their role in cutting budget expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Rate Review and Revision: Staff recommends review of the ambulance rate schedule. Deputy Chief Walder explained that in 2006 the Board requested the costs and fees associated with the ambulance transporting service be reviewed and presented each year. The fees have increased each year from 2006 through 2010. The fees were reduced in 2011 due to reductions in staffing and other minor program cost reductions. Fees were unchanged in 2012. Rates were raised slightly in 2013 and 2014. The current transport rate for medical services provided by the District are \$1,690. Other nearby providers such as Sac Metro, and Folsom Fire both charge \$1,840 per transport including the additional fees for first responder and scene assessment. The current charges for disposable medications are well below industry standards.

The District current 4 year average cost per transport is \$1,658. Deputy Chief Walder continued that with the Affordable Care Act and labor unions, he would recommend keeping rates the same for 2015/16. He noted that the District had 1,100 transports in 2013/14, billings for \$971,379. Private insurance pays 100%, while Medi-Cal only pays \$300 per transport. He surmised that the District needs to reevaluate the non-transport fee. Member of the audience, Sandy Harris, added that there are several new memory care facilities under review that could be a potential drain on local ambulance services.

Director Mullin inquired about charging an additional assessment fee at the scene. Deputy Chief Walder expressed interest in researching these fees as well. President DeLaurentis asked that the Board be presented with more information regarding non-transport and assessment fees at the next meeting.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Protection District and South Placer Fire Protection District Automatic Agreement: Staff recommends review and approval of the Automatic Aid Agreement. The District has been providing and receiving automatic aid to and from Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Protection District for several years. This agreement will make formal the services that each District is already providing to each other. Deputy Chief Walder explained that the contract was recently finalized and legal counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement.

Director Mullin made a motion to authorize Chief Bettencourt to sign the Automatic Aid Agreement between Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Protection District and the South Placer Fire Protection District. Seconded by Director Harris. Carried

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

Day staff salary and benefit increases: Staff recommends approval of the agreed upon increases. The District has come to a contract agreement with all day staff employees. The agreement is for an increase of 3% in salary effective pay period #17, January 24, 2015. In addition, an increase of salary of 2% to be effective pay period #17, January 23, 2016. PERS survivor benefits will be upgraded to level 4 from level one and an upgrade of the retiree death benefit from \$500 to \$2,000. These cost of living increases will impact salaries and wages by \$12,000 for 2015, and an \$8,000 increase in 2016.

Director Harris made a motion to approve the agreed upon salary and benefit increases as proposed for the day staff. Seconded by Director Mullin. Carried

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

SPFAOA salary and benefit increases: Staff recommends approval of the agreed upon increases. The District has come to a contract agreement with SPFAOA. The agreement is for an increase of 3% increase in salary effective pay period #17, January 24, 2015. PERS survivor benefits will be upgrade to level 4 from level 1 and an upgrade of the retiree death benefit from \$500 to \$2,000. These cost of living increases will impact salaries and wages by \$6,000 for 2015. A 6th acting step incentive is available if qualified for Deputy Chief by meeting requirements outlined in Policy 1410. The possible cost of an anticipated additional \$8,000 in salaries for 6th step cost to the District.

Director Harris made a motion to approve the agreed upon salary and benefit increases as proposed for the SPFAOA. Seconded by Director Mullin. Carried

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

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Correspondence: A letter from cell tower carrier, Metro PCS, terminating their lease due to their merger with T Mobile. A letter of resignation from Paramedic/Firefighter Sean Gillespie who accepted a position with the City of Roseville.

Chief's Report:

- Chief Bettencourt met with the neighboring trailer park residents to discuss the noise complaints. The discussion was well received and they appreciated the immediate response.
- The District has been undergoing staffing challenges with 5 positions currently open. One new Paramedic/Firefighter, Cameron Banks, has been hired and will begin his first shift March 5th.
- Recruitment has begun for a new Paramedic/Firefighter. Testing will be held immediately for the new candidates with the position to be filled by summer of 2015.
- Truck 17 is out for warranty work.
- Truck training is in full swing along with IPCR training.
- Research is being done on placing the reserve medic in service. More information will be given at the next meeting.
- In January, crews responded to 5 fires, 123 medical aids, 2 vehicle accidents with injuries, 6 vehicle accidents without injuries, several gas leak calls, and 6 medical assists. A total of 172 calls for the month.

Functions: The firefighter appreciation dinner has been canceled due to lack of interest. The FDAC (Fire Districts Association of California) Annual Conference at the Napa Embassy Suites is in April for interested Board members.

Board/Staff Comments: None

Future Agenda Items: Non-Transport fees and First Responder Fees

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros