

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2020

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:10 p.m. by President, Chris Gibson.

Present:

Chris Gibson, President  
Gary Grenfell, Vice-President  
Dave Harris, Director  
Russ Kelley, Director  
Terri Ryland, Director  
Tom Millward, Director

Absent:

Sean Mullin, Clerk

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Eric Walder  
Deputy Chief, Karl Fowler  
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros  
Battalion Chief, Darren McMillin  
Fire Marshal, Jeff Ingolia  
Captain Paramedic, Cody Forrest  
Firefighter Paramedic, Brett Palmer  
Engineer Paramedic, Jon Crull  
Firefighter Paramedic, Robert Sinetos  
Captain Paramedic, Cameron Wardlaw

Battalion Chief, Jason Brooks  
Captain, Tracey Kincheloe  
Captain Paramedic, Kelly Moretti  
Captain, Brian Midtlyng  
Captain, Joe Stephens  
Captain Paramedic, Donavon Gray  
Engineer Paramedic, Shawn Cline  
Firefighter Paramedic, Thomas Kenning  
Engineer Paramedic, Ray Spear

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Badge Pinning and Oath of Office Ceremony: The Chief held a special presentation at 6:30 p.m. in the Truck Room of Station 17 for all new hires and promotional pinning's within the District. The oath of office was administered to all by President Gibson. Chief Walder congratulated them for their accomplishment and dedication to the fire service.

Public Comment: Captain Paramedic Cameron Wardlaw asked the Board if they had received the memo from SAFF Local 522 regarding the issues within the District and noted that he would like to open communications. The Board responded that the memo had been received.

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

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley    Noes: None    Abstain: None    Absent: Mullin

OLD BUSINESS

Station 18 New Truck Room: Chief Walder recommends discussion on the progress made on the new truck room project. Chief Walder reported that Lionakis is reviewing the plans and mechanics of the building and the project is moving forward.

## NEW BUSINESS

Parcel Tax (Former Loomis Fire District) Administration Contract from SCI: Staff recommends discussion and approval for the Chief to enter into a three-year agreement with SCI to administer the Districts Parcel Tax in the former Loomis Fire District. Chief Walder explained that SCI Consulting Group is the consultant that administers many of the District's taxes and benefit assessments. They have submitted a proposal for a three-year agreement renewal of \$5300 for each year, with an increase of \$150 to the next three years. Director Ryland made a motion to accept the proposal and authorize the Chief to execute a new agreement with SCI Consulting Group. The motion received a second by Director Kelley. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

Fiscal Year 2019/20 Quarterly Budget Report: The Chief recommends a short presentation on the status of the Fiscal Year 2019/20 budget. Chief Walder presented the second quarter budget reports. Revenue is at 54% of budget. Mitigation revenue is doing well and is where it is expected. CFAA revenue is down due to the drop in OES incidents in the year. Ambulance revenue are running above estimates. Salaries and benefits are over budget at 53.6% due to overtime needs due to vacancies in the District and the prepayment for the UAL annual payment made in the beginning of the fiscal year. Service and operations expenses are high and will continue to be watched to contain spending in any one category. Fixed asset expenditures will begin to be expended soon now that the first tax draw has been received. The District still has the next 50% draw to be received in the spring. Director Ryland made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Quarterly Budget Report. The motion received a second from Director Grenfell. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

2019 Annual Inspection Resolution: Staff recommends acceptance of the Resolution documenting the number of reportable annual occupancy inspections done in 2019 as per Senate Bill 1205. Chief Walder continued that this is the first time bringing this item to the Board due to the new regulations. The total number of business inspections must be reported to the governing body along with the percentage of compliance. The California Fire Chiefs Association created the resolution to standardize the reporting of these inspections and communicate the safety in schools and multi family dwelling units are in regard to fire safety. In the District, there were 717 inspections split between the three shifts.

Director Kelley made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Fire Inspection Resolution 10-2019/20. Director Ryland made a second to the motion. Carried

Rollcall:

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

2019 Fire Code Adoption 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Staff recommends discussion and first reading of the South Placer Fire District 2019 Fire Code Adoption and local amendments. The State of California adopted the International Fire Code and created the 2019 California Fire code which went into effect on January 1, 2019. Our local amendments to the fire code were updated to ensure that all code sections referenced in the amendments remained accurate and relevant. There are no significant changes or additions to the local ordinance for the 2019 Fire Code Adoption. Retired Division Chief Ritter, Chief Higgins of Penry Fire and current Division Chief Ingolia collaborated to create identical proposed local amendments to increase efficiency and reduce confusion. The amendments will be sent to Placer County and the Town of Loomis for comments. This information is presented for discussion and review at this time.

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) MOU: Staff recommends discussion and action authorizing the Fire Chief to enter into the MOU with BOR and regional fire agencies to implement and manage wildland fire fuel reduction programs. Reclamation has a history of partnering with Districts to implement activities aimed at reducing wildland fuels on Reclamation managed lands. The purpose of these activities has been to reduce wildland fuels in strategic locations to enhance fire suppression activities, provide increased firefighter safety on Reclamation lands, and create adequate defensible space to adjacent private residences. By working together with landowners to reduce hazardous fire fuels on reclamation lands has allowed for the reduction of hazardous fire fuels within their recommended defensible space area. Legal counsel has reviewed the MOU and approved of the content. This MOU will help the District coordinate the proposed BOR Granite Bay Shaded Fuel Break Project. Director Grenfell made a motion to approve the MOU with Bureau of Reclamation and authorize Chief Walder to enter into the agreement. The motion received a second from Director Millward. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

Proposal for Funding Measure Feasibility and Public Opinion Research: Staff recommends discussion and approval to move forward with the SCI proposal to explore a funding measure in Division Two of the South Placer Fire District. At the last Board meeting the Board gave direction to the Chief to move forward with a plan for seeking a voter approved initiative in Division Two of the District. The Fiscal Responsibility Goal Steward Team had previously held a workshop with SCI Consulting Group where options were presented and the process that would be utilized to gauge the public support for increased funding to support fire suppression operations within Division Two of the District. Chief Walder continued that it was important to look at current funding now and in the future. It was noted that the special tax of Division Two is set at a static \$70 per parcel without a CPI increase. He remarked that it was important to have well trained staff and without the funding from the SAFER grant - staffing will have to be reduced. If the District is to be viable, it will need to look for a new funding measure. Currently the District is doing more with less and a campaign is needed to keep staffing levels. He continued that we need to secure the future of the District and also help reduce the attrition the District is currently experiencing. Board members were asked to approve the contract with SCI and move forward with a public opinion survey. He continued that things have changed since the last tax poll in 2011. Director Kelley made a motion to move forward with the SCI proposal to measure feasibility and public opinion research. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

Chief Walder concluded that moving forward he would like two additional Board Members to join an ad hoc committee for the new measure. Director Ryland and Director Grenfell volunteered to join the new committee. Director Millward added that he would like to consider a committee for retention of current employees. Chief Walder noted that he would bring this additional issue to the attention of one of the Goal Steward teams.

Bargaining Unit – SPFAOA 2020 Contract Negotiations: Board to take action to ratify and approve the negotiated agreement between the District negotiators and SPFAOA. The District negotiators have come to a contract agreement with all SPFAOA employees for a 3.5% wage increase effective January 4, 2020. In addition, a \$200 per month flex plan credit to be used by employees covered in the IRC 125 plan. Effective January 1, 2021 an increase of 3.5% wages and an increase to \$400 per month into the IRC 125 flex plan. This two-year agreement will extend through December 31, 2021 and represents approximately \$23,700 increase to salary and benefits in the first year, and \$47,400 increase in the second year. Director Kelley made a motion to approve the SPFAOA 2020 negotiated agreement. Director Harris made a second to the motion. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

Unrepresented Employees- District Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Mechanic, Business Manager, Division Chief, Deputy Chief, and Fire Chief salary and benefit increases: Staff recommends approval of the agreed upon increases. The District negotiators have come to a contract agreement with all day staff employees for a 3.5% wage increase effective January 4, 2020. In addition, a \$200 per month flex plan credit to be used by employees covered in the IRC 125 plan. Effective January 1, 2021 an increase of 3.5% wages and an increase to \$400 per month into the IRC 125 flex plan. This two-year agreement will extend through December 31, 2021 and represents approximately \$49,800 increase to salary and benefits in the first year, and \$99,700 increase in the second year. Director Kelley made a motion to approve the day staff 2020 negotiated agreements. Director Harris made a second to the motion. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Ryland, Kelley Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

Apprentice Firefighter Wage Increase: Chief Walder recommends discussion and approval for an Apprentice Firefighter Wage increase. The Apprentice Firefighter position is an at-will unrepresented employee of the District. Apprentices are not covered by a MOU. The Apprentice position is designed to provide career development opportunities in the fire service and assist with staffing the District. The current Apprentice hourly wage is \$13 an hour. To stay ahead of the California Minimum Wage Standard, it is recommended to increase the Apprentice Firefighter wage. Chief Walder noted that he is considering raising the hourly rate to \$14 per hour and returning with the issue next year. Director Millward made a motion to increase the Apprentice Firefighter wage to \$15 per hour effective immediately. Director Harris made a second to the motion. Carried.

Ayes: Harris, Gibson, Millward, Grenfell, Kelley Noes: Ryland Abstain: None Absent: Mullin

## INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Placer County Fire Service Issues: Chief Walder recommends discussion on the latest developments in Placer County Fire Service delivery system and consolidation efforts countywide.

He explained that currently the Placer County Chiefs are still discussing the CRA and the OAC position. The current consensus is to collaborate with dispatch and give clear direction on move up and cover. Placer Hills and Newcastle are looking at a consolidation to improve effectiveness within their organization. Foresthill has dropped their administrative contract and has three Administrative Chiefs carrying the workload.

Correspondence: A monthly statement for the month of December from PARS Trust reflecting the recent earnings to the OPEB account. A letter of thanks for the donation to the Walk of Honor on behalf of Division Chief Ritter. A letter from the Walden Woods Homeowners Association requesting assistance with the fuel break on Boulder Road. A card of thanks from a medical aid.

Chief's Report:

- Firefighter Paramedic Robert Brown resigned and was hired by Pleasanton Fire Department. Paramedic Firefighter Justin Rainwater gave his two weeks' notice to work for the City of Napa.
- Chain of Survivors Event was held at Sutter Roseville on January 24<sup>th</sup> where crews were recognized for assisting with the life-saving efforts of a two-year-old boy drowning. Engine 15: Capt. Lisa Giblin, Capt. Cody Forrest, FF/PM Justin Rainwater. M17: FF/PM Ryan Leslie, FF/PM Matt Hodges. Batt19: BC Darren McMillin. The young child was at the event and has zero deficits following the incident.
- Chief Fowler, Chief Ingolia, Chief Walder attended the Sacramento Regional Chief Officers Summit today in Sacramento.
- Gave a presentation to the Leadership Loomis Class on Fire District Structure and Responsibilities
- Attended Assemblyman Kiley's Public Safety Advisory Committee on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Placer County Supervisor Candidate, Susan Jones, requesting endorsement.
- As Region IV Coordinator attended and represented on the FIRESCOPE Operations Team meeting for the interest of all agencies in Region IV.
- Met with Loomis Town Manager and Representative from PCSO regarding evacuations within the Town of Loomis. Will be present at the Town Council Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> to present with PCSO.
- Responded to the Loomis Costco EIR. To date Costco representative have been non-responsive to District requests to discuss impact of Costco on the District.
- Business Manager submitted the Semi-Annual financial report to FEMA in regard to our SAFER Grant financial compliance. Along with completing request for reimbursement on a regular basis.
- Submitted the Quarterly Staffing Report, although below our SAFER staffing number the District is still staffing at the SAFER level and all post SAFER vacancies are in compliance with the 6 months hiring deadline.
- Participated in the RFP review for Sac Metro back up ambulance contract.
- Battalion Chief testing moving into the Assessment Center
- Engineer testing scheduling manipulative – will be re-lyng the Engineer announcement and going outside for both ALS and BLS Engineer candidates.
- Paramedic Firefighter application period extended to the 24<sup>th</sup> with assessment scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> if needed. We have posted a continuous posting and will have another closing period announced after this testing.
- One outside Captain Candidate will be cleared for hiring in the next two weeks and one paramedic is in final steps this week.
- New Hire Quarterly Training in progress.
- Truck Cadre under training has been formed with Capt. Stephens taking the lead and started an aggressive and extensive truck training program.

- Six members attended an advanced fire training in Twain Harte as part of Engine Cadre Operations last week.
- Building Construction training going on.
- Nation Fire Safe Council in partnership with the District and local businesses raised \$4020 for District pub-ed supplies
- There will be another fire drill in Los Lagos this spring in preparation for Fire season. Los Lagos also interested in installing their own siren system to warn residents of emergencies. District suggests that all residents subscribe to Placer Alert and Fed Alert Systems – not an audible siren warning.
- The Prevention Fee Schedule was last updated in 2012, Chief Ingolia will be bringing forward a fee update proposal at a Board meeting in the near future.
- Under ground water leak in front of the shop was found and repaired.
- PG&E power shut off to Station 17 has been scheduled and delayed twice, plans in place to support the station when power shut down.
- Still working on securing quotes for the generator at Station 20 and will be revising the budget to account for this expenditure this budget year. Goal is to complete before fire season.
- ATV 19 in the shop for a water pump replacement. OES 380 still in the shop.

Functions: Firefighter Appreciation Dinner new date April 24, FDAC Conference for Board Members

Board/Staff Comments: None

Future Agenda Items: None

8:11 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes: To discuss upcoming contract negotiations and give direction to the Board Negotiations Team. (Agency designated representatives: Chris Gibson, Gary Grenfell and Dave Harris (Pursuant to Govt. Code § 54957.6.))

9:30 p.m. reconvene from Closed Session: President Gibson reported that the Board has given Chief Walder and the negotiating team direction for the upcoming negotiations and no action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros