

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by President, Chris Gibson via teleconference connection <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/838163269>

Present:

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

Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Eric Walder  
Deputy Chief, Karl Fowler  
Board Secretary, Kathy Medeiros  
Battalion Chief, Matt Feeley  
Captain Paramedic, Matt VanVoltinburg  
Firefighter Paramedic, Matt Hodges

Public Comment: Dane Wadle of the California Special Districts Association asked the Board to carefully consider and review the many upcoming bills in the State Legislature that will directly affect public agencies. Member of the public, Michael Johnson discussed the IAFF study on cell phone towers and their effects directly related to cancer rates in Firefighters. He asked the Board to consider the information for their current cell tower contracts.

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

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2020/21 Preliminary Budget Adoption: Staff recommends review of the Preliminary fiscal year 2020/21 budget. The Chief noted that there were few changes from last month's presented budget. Estimated expenditures in this budget include a spending plan of \$15.3 million and estimated revenues of \$13.7 million with \$1.859 directly spending from the facility reserves. General revenues are estimated at \$12.9 million with salaries and benefits accounting for \$10.384

million or 83.5% of the budget. Other spending categories have been significantly reduced in order to balance the budget. Service and operations expenditures are at \$1.5 million. Adopting the preliminary budget will give the District time to adjust for the final approval in September.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Preliminary Budget as presented in the board packet. The motion received a second from Director Harris. Carried

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

Penryn Fire District Request for Service Proposal: The Chief recommends discussion and action to authorize submittal of an Administrative and Battalion Chief service proposal to the Penryn Fire District. Chief Walder began that a special meeting was held to further discuss the proposal request on August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board approved Chief Walder to move forward with preparing a proposal request at that time. With the departure of Chief Higgins, Penryn Fire is asking South Placer for a minimal proposal at this time. Chief Walder explained that the scope of the agency's needs are not yet known. A proposal estimated at \$165,000 that would cover fire prevention services, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, and Battalion Chief coverage was prepared. At this time the District is not prepared to take over operations immediately. More fact finding will be necessary in order to come to a more detailed final negotiation with the Penryn Fire Board of Directors. He continued that the Penryn District is covered by the Closest Resources Agreement at this time. Captain Matt VanVoldinburg noted that the SAFF 522 bargaining unit was looking forward to working with the board and administration further on the proposal and have emailed their concerns to the Fire Chief and the Board. Director Mullin made a motion to approve and authorize Chief Walder to submit the initial draft proposal for Administrative Services to Penryn Fire. The motion received a second from Director Ryland. Carried.

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

Verizon Station 18 Cell Tower Lease: Chief recommends discussion and Board action to authorize the Chief to finish negotiating the extension of the Station 18 Verizon Cell Tower Lease Agreement. Chief Walder began that with the Board's direction, negotiation for the Verizon Cell tower countered to \$1250 per month with six five year terms. The District's towers provide \$100,000 in revenue and also provides a generator at Station 18. Chief Walder asked the board about the concerns discussed in public comment, as he would table the issue at this time to provide more research at the next board meeting regarding any relevant correlation to cancer rates. Director Millward made a motion to defer the item until next month. Director Kelley made a second to the motion.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2020/21 District Goals: Staff recommends discussion on the 2020/21 District goals and possible action if Board warrants. The board has met annually to prepare and discuss goals in August every year. For this year the goal steward teams were making good progress on all District goals. Station 18 project is on hold at this time while the Board continues to look at the impact of Covid on construction costs. The Safer Grant has been kept in compliance and a grant proposal has been sent for 2020/21 fiscal year as well. The Fiscal Responsibility team proposed moving

forward with a ballot measure until the idea was deferred due to Covid. Chief Walder explained that at this time the District does not need to have a planning session for 2020/21. Moving forward the goal steward teams need to begin to reconvene and continue their work in progress. Chief Walder noted that this is for discussion at this time while the teams continue to make progress on the shared goals for the District.

## INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Covid-19 Update: Chief recommends updating the Board on the status of the current pandemic and the District's response and preparations. Chief Walder began restrictions are still in place in Placer County with limitations on training and higher risks on calls. Chief Walder noted that he is monitoring the pandemic daily.

Placer County Fire Service Issues: Chief Walder recommends discussion on the latest developments in Placer County Fire Service delivery system and consolidation efforts countywide. It was noted a new Fire Chief has been hired in Rocklin. Chief Higgins has taken a position at OES as Deputy Chief of Fleet Operations. Formerly retired Chief Gow has taken over at Placer Hills for a period of 18 months. Placer County Chiefs are still meeting online due to the current pandemic.

Correspondence: A monthly statement for the month of June and the annual fiscal year from PARS Trust reflecting the recent activity to the OPEB account, a card of thanks to first responders.

### Chief's Report:

- Fire at Sierra College Blvd. was a good stop
- Arson fire investigation from a boat fire
- St. 17 front truck ramp under construction nearing completion
- ESM today and met with SAFF 522 representatives and 522 President
- Four Budget presentations to interested personnel
- Auditors came out to do a pre-audit a few weeks ago. 9/21 & 9/22 full audit
- Testing has slowed down -20 candidates for Engineers written with 10 moving forward to practical test at end of month
- Training occurring with 10 employees or less
- Auto extrication training tomorrow

8:00 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes: To discuss contract negotiations with Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Division Chief, SPFAOA, Business Manager, Admin. Asst./Fire Inspector I, District Secretary (Pursuant to Govt. Code § 54957.6.))

8:21 p.m. reconvene from Closed Session: President Gibson reported that the Board has discussed the contract negotiations and no decision has been made and no action was taken.

Functions: None

Board/Staff Comments: None

Future Agenda Items: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 09, 2020.

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