

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
September 09, 2020

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 09, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by President, Chris Gibson via both teleconference connection and in person meeting. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/302348965>

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, Jason Brooks  
Captain, Brian Midtlyng  
Captain, Devin Fuller  
Captain Paramedic, Matt VanVoltinburg  
Firefighter Paramedic, Matt Hodges

Public Comment: Captain Paramedic VanVoltinburg requested the minutes be amended regarding the discussion on Penryn Fire District request for service proposal. He explained that the current version of the minutes insinuates that the Board and SAFF 522 have met to discuss the proposal and they have not. Chief Walder agreed to make a correction to the language of the minutes noting the two parties have yet to meet.

Consent Agenda: Director Ryland made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Director Millward with the corrections to the minutes as requested. Carried

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2020/21 Final Budget Adoption: Staff recommends review and adoption of the final fiscal year 2020/21 budget. The Chief noted that there were few changes from last month's presented budget. County projections for property taxes have now been estimated at 4.1% versus 3.5% used in prior budgets. A few revenue and expenditures line items have been changed.

Salaries and wages is at 83.6% and capital expenditures are utilizing \$145,000 of general budget. He noted that the Station 18 project and Type 1 Engine purchase are in this budget but will need board approval to continue to move those two items forward. The final budget includes a spending plan of \$15.3 million and estimated revenues of \$13.7 million.

Director Ryland made a motion to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Final Budget as presented in the board packet. The motion received a second from Director Millward. 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 authorization to move forward toward a negotiation process with the Penryn Fire District. Chief Walder began that he has met with the Penryn Fire board members and has requested more time to prepare a thorough investigation to determine their needs and what services our District can provide. At this time, he is requesting the Board to approve the investigation and fact finding process. More information is needed to determine whether it will be a good thing and to explore the benefits for South Placer Fire District. He noted that the two agencies will be working together in the future either way. Director Grenfell made a motion to approve and authorize Chief Walder to begin the negotiation process with Penryn Fire. The motion received a second from Director Millward. Carried.

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

Verizon Station 18 Cell Tower Lease: Staff recommends discussion and Board action to authorize the District to finish negotiating the extension of the Station 18 Verizon Cell Tower Lease Agreement. Chief Walder began that he has done research on the effects from cell tower radiation since the last board meeting. He continued that the American Cancer Society takes no stance on the use of cell towers in the community. It was noted that the report states that the level of exposure from the tower via RF waves is hundreds to thousands of times less than the limits for safe exposure set by the US Federal Communication Commission. Chief Walder continued that union leaders have agreed to move the issue forward. Currently, a counter offer has been given to Verizon for \$1350 per month. Director Kelley made a motion to authorize Chief Walder to complete the extension of the Station 18 cell tower agreement with Verizon. Director Harris made a second to the motion. Carried

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

Station 18 New Truck Room Update: Chief recommends discussion on the proposed project and progress made to date. Chief Walder explained that he met last week with the Facilities Committee and the construction documents are now 95% complete. The next step in the project is to get the plans ready for bid. The Committee is still working on a few issues such as wall between the station and the adjoining neighbor, and looking for alternative uses for training house. The item will return to the Board for action once the documents are ready for bid.

## NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2019/20 Draft Quarterly Budget Report: Staff recommends a short presentation on the status of the Draft 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 2019/20 unaudited final budget. Chief Walder begin that the spending plan for this year saw multiple vacancies, a pandemic, new labor contract and a drop

in ambulance revenue. Spending in service and operations, fixed assets, and capital expenditures were below budget while salaries and wages exceeded budget estimates. Chief Walder continued that overtime was over budget due to the current four vacancies and workers compensation vacancies. The District is testing currently for replacements for the vacancies. Director Ryland made a motion to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Report and the June 30, 2020 unaudited profit and loss statement. The motion received a second from Director Grenfell.

Carried

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

Conflict of Interest Code Review and Update: Staff recommends review, discussion, and action to approval of the District's updated Conflict of Interest Code Resolution. The Political Reform Act requires every local government agency to review its conflict of interest code every two years to determine if it complies with current law. This year counsel suggested that the list of designated employees and disclosure levels be updated. The following positions were added: Battalion Chief, Business Manager and Journeyperson Mechanic. Both District Counsel and County Counsel have reviewed and approved the changes in the revised resolution before the Board for approval.

Director Grenfell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-2020/21 to amend portions of the District Conflict of Interest Code. The motion received a second from Director Millward.

Carried

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

Dry Financing Request: Staff seeks approval for dry financing from the Placer County Treasurer's Office. Chief Walder 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. Chief Walder is requesting to finance up to \$2 million. The County will finance the District at an interest rate of 1.25-1.75% until the next tax draw is received in December. Director Ryland made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 3-2020/21 for Dry Financing request with Placer County Treasury. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Carried

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

#### CalPERS 2021/22 Contribution Rate Increases and Employer Payment of Unfunded Liability

Increases: Staff recommends review and discussion of the most recent Annual Valuation Reports received from CalPERS for the District's four retirement plans. Chief Walder explained that each year the actuary from CalPERS prepares the District's pension costs for the upcoming budget year by identifying the UAL and employer normal costs. This year the full actuary for the four plans can be found on the website. The lump sum payment across the plans has increased to \$852,918. Reductions in the discount rate and poor performance of CalPERS investments has increased the lump sum payment \$209,092 for the next budget year.

#### 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 that the District is continuing to follow the County and State guidance and will continue with the current restrictions still in place in

the District. He noted that it was very important to avoid exposing our first responders. He continued that tonight's meeting was a first step to normalcy as the District board meets with small in person meetings. Chief Walder noted that he is proud of the Districts handling of the situation.

Correspondence: A monthly statement for the month of July.

Chief's Report:

- Met with 522 leadership for the first scheduled standing Labor/Management meeting and discussed issues that were not meet and confer
- Structure fire Sunday 9/7 was dispatched as a wildland response. Arrived with structure well involved, crews did an amazing job on extinguishment and salvage operations.
- Multiple drowning victims over the last month, crews have done an excellent job giving patients their best chance of survival
- OES 380 deployed to the Creek Incident in Fresno County as part of TF XST 4811. Previously OES 380 was deployed to the NONES Fire in Nevada County and reassigned to the LNU Complex on ST OES 4809A
- Chief McMillin is deployed as the PIO on the Slater Fire in the Klamath Nat'l Forest from his original assignment on the Sheep Incident in the Plumas Nat'l Forest
- EMAC request 9/6 for 125 engines to 11 states. 9/8 added an additional 225 for a total of 350 engines nationwide. Only one state has committed (UT)
- Today's numbers as of 0800: 515 engines committed statewide, 2010 local government firefighters, 69 out of state EMAC firefighters for a total of 2078
- 23 ST UTF'd in last 24, 100 pending ST orders at OESH.
- Engineers manipulative test is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September
- Battalion Chief manipulative is to follow
- Firefighter Paramedic and Captains testing will be needed soon
- Auto Ex training/orientation completed for new employees
- Video Laryngoscope training in progress
- Upgrade to the laundry at St. 20 by adding a new stainless steel sink and new washing machine
- Landscape is coming along at Station 17 – waiting for a few last finishes to the project
- Placer County Red Flag Program will be put in place this week.

Functions: None

Board/Staff Comments: Director Millward thanked the District's firefighters for their hard work and dedication.

Future Agenda Items: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros