

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by President, Gary Grenfell via both teleconference connection and in person meeting. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/769217997>

Present:

Gary Grenfell, President
Chris Gibson, Vice President
Sean Mullin, Clerk
Terri Ryland, Director
Ken Musso, Director
Mike Johnson, Director
Dan Bajtos, Director

Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Karl Fowler
Battalion Chief, Jason Brooks
Battalion Chief, Matt Feeley
Battalion Chief, Darren McMillin
Business Manager, Kathy Medeiros
Captain Paramedic, Devin Fuller
Captain Paramedic, Matt VanVoldinburg

Public Comment: Fire Chief Todd Harms of the Sac Metro Fire District commented that a letter was sent to the Board from the Sac Metro District to look at opportunities to work together in the future and would like both to propose that both Boards consider forming a committee to further look into the concept.

Consent Agenda: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the items for the consent agenda with the motion seconded by Director Ryland.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Grenfell, Gibson, Bajtos, and Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None
Absent: None Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Station 18 New Truck Room Update: Staff recommends discussion on the proposed project and progress made to date. Chief Fowler began that the plans for the project have been approved with the civil plans being tentatively approved. The architect is accepting bids for the project Weds. May 19 until 2 p.m. when the sealed bids will be opened. He noted that the project has been in development since prior to the covid pandemic as a planned remodel funded by the former Loomis Fire District. He continued that he will bring back the bids to the Board for final direction.

Fire Chief Recruitment: Staff recommends discussion and update for the Board of Directors on the progress of recruitment for the Fire Chief position. Chief Fowler explained that the District is still moving forward within the timeline that was provided by Bob Murray & Associates. May 28th is the final filing date for the recruitment. He noted that the process is still on schedule and the board should prepare their schedules for the process.

Employee Retention: Staff recommends discussion on current issues facing the District involving employee retention. Chief Fowler began that this is a standing item for each board meeting to discuss the current staffing issues for the District. Captain testing just completed with three promotions for the three vacancies. Congratulations were sent to Captains Hernandez, Cline and Robertson. He continued that a successful recruitment for Paramedic Firefighter just concluded with a list for future candidates he hopes to fill vacancies with very soon. It was noted that along with Chief Walder's March 8th retirement, Chief Brooks will retire in September and Fire Chief Fowler will retire in December leaving the District short staffed in the highest ranks. SAFF 522 President Chris Andrew commented that the District has a severe retention problem that is not being addressed. Chief Fowler responded that this is not simply a monetary issue but South Placer had 11 retirees in the last 3 years with 3 more this year and employees leave for a multitude of different reasons. He continued that the Board had considered proposing a tax measure only to delay that action due to the pandemic. Chief Fowler recommended the retention and attrition issue be brought forward to the Goal Steward Team Committee, Team of Professionals with Director Bajtos taking the lead role to continue to research and work on the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Fire Chief Position Recruitment: Staff recommends discussion and possible action on recruitment for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Chief Fowler began that as the newly appointed Fire Chief his goals were to fill the vacant positions, recruit the new fire chief, and continue the day to day operations. Currently there are vacancies at the Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief, Engineer, Firefighter level within his authority to fill. He noted how critical the positions at Chief Officer are to the District and their role in the future transition of the organization. With the vacancy of Deputy Chief currently temporarily filled utilizing a Battalion Chief which opens a vacancy as well. Director Johnson noted that the board had spoken on the issue in prior meetings and ultimately decided to leave the position of Deputy Chief vacant for a new Fire Chief to select. President Grenfell noted the importance of filling the position for a new chief to utilize their experience while assimilating. Chief Fowler explained that he would run an external and internal recruitment process for the position. Director Musso added that he was hesitant to fill the position without the new Fire Chief's input on the selection. Director Gibson made a motion to move forward immediately with recruitment for the Deputy Chief position. President Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Gibson, Ryland Noes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Bajtos Abstain: None Absent: None
Failed

Surplus Vehicle (504) 2002 Freightliner Medic Unit: Staff recommends discussion and authorization to surplus the Freightliner Reserve Medic 504. This ambulance is no longer suitable for use within the District. It has been in storage for several years and it not being utilized due to the age of the unit. The shop and staff recommend that this unit be donated to the Bombero Program. Director Bajtos made a motion to surplus unit 504 the 2002 Freightliner Medic. Director Gibson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Grenfell, Gibson, Bajtos, and Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None
Absent: None Carried

Surplus Vehicle (605) 1999 Ford F-550 Reserve Grass Unit: Staff recommends discussion and authorization to surplus Grass Unit 605 from the fleet. This unit is no longer suitable for use within the District and is currently in storage at Station 29. Staff and fleet maintenance feel it's appropriate to remove this unit from the fleet due to its age, condition, and other factors such as it seats only two people. The unit currently has 22,687 miles on it. Director Gibson made a motion to surplus the 1999 Ford F-550 Reserve Grass unit. Director Mullin made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Grenfell, Gibson, Bajtos, and Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None
Absent: None Carried

Wesleyan Church Property at 4700 East Roseville Parkway: Staff recommends discussion and possible action to either pursue purchase of property or recommend not to purchase. Chief Fowler explained that the property next to Station 15 has contacted the District and offered the sale of the three acre property to the District before placing the property on the general market. A representative of the Church has offered to privately show the board members the property. Chief Fowler continued that administration is currently in 20 year temporary buildings under a five year conditional permit that has far exceeded this time frame. Administration is in need of more space and it's currently in the long term facility plan. Member of the public, Sandy Harris added that the District should consider it as the administration has been looking to expand for years. Chief Fowler recommended to set up personal tours with board members to further consider the opportunity. The Board members agreed to set up appointments to view the property and facility in the next few weeks.

Fiscal Year 2020/21 Quarterly Budget Report: Staff recommends a short presentation on the status of the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget. Chief Fowler presented the 3rd quarter budget report and the March 31 profit and loss financial reports. He noted that currently general revenue has been received at 57%, mitigation revenue has been down due to Covid, but is expected to increase rapidly due to the construction projects in place in the District, salaries and wages are at 77% with 75% being optimal for this time of year which is directly related to the overtime costs in the District. CFAA reimbursements came in higher for the year. Service and operations are in line with budget expectations. Fixed assets expenditures are beginning to spend soon as the recent 55% property tax draw was received in April. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget reports as presented. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Grenfell, Gibson, Bajtos, and Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None
Absent: None Carried

Preliminary Approval for Continued Benefit Assessment: Staff recommends discussion and adoption of Resolution No. 11-2020/21 preliminarily approving Engineer's report and providing for the Notice of Hearing for the South Placer Fire Protection District, Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment. SCI has prepared the Engineer's report and the assessment is recommended to adjust by the Cost Price Index (CPI) of 2% this year. This equated to an increase of \$4.74 per single family equivalent benefit unit. These assessments are spent exclusively in Division 1 of the South Placer Fire District to cover staffing costs. This resolution will preliminarily approve the Engineer's report and the CPI adjustment and sets a public hearing date for final approval at the June board

meeting. Director Gibson made a motion to preliminarily approve the Engineer's report and Resolution No. 11-2020/21. President Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Musso, Johnson, Mullin, Grenfell, Gibson, Bajtos, and Ryland Noes: None Abstain: None
Absent: None Carried

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 Fowler noted that the County is still in the red tier and the District is still following the Cal OSHA requirements and recommendations. Crews are still doing a great job as cases are still in the District area. The current Covid plan continues as before as the District continues to move forward.

Correspondence: A monthly PARS statement for the month of March. Two cards of appreciation and gratitude from the community to the crews.

Chief's Report:

- Thanks to all staff and Board members of the District for the prayers and condolences on behalf of his family for the passing of his brother.
- CAL OES meeting – this fire season will be bad
- Station 18 plans approved-awaiting civil plan approval. Pre-bid construction walkthrough completed. Accepting sealed bids Wed. 5/19.
- Fire investigation Team training ongoing with FI-210 Wildland FI
- Eagle Scout project at Station 18 in progress-awaiting plaque installation then will have a public presentation once complete
- Training: Driver Operator 1A completed for 6 personnel. Training improving under less restrictive Covid requirements
- Tours of the Well Quest facility have been completed
- Paramedic Firefighter testing completed May 4th with 7 successful candidates
- Apprentice Mechanic position process ongoing with interviews conducted
- BC testing announced with job flyers out with a deadline of May 21st
- Structure fire on Red Bud Road with good stop by the crews
- Horse barn fire on Auburn Folsom originally came out as a wildland -wildland assignment handled the structure fire with excellent results
- Wildland season is here with lots of dry grass and brush. Recent winds really accelerated the curing process and a recent small grassfire occurred off Auburn Folsom near Station 20- thanks to Capt. Doug Phillips for his assistance
- Placer Hills contract for Administrative Services with Penryn Fire is moving forward
- Conflict of Interest Training scheduled for 5/18 at 4 pm in the training room for board members
- Metro Fire contract for dozer and helicopter received at a price increase from \$10000 to \$12000 a year
- Granite Bay High School bonfire and fireworks cancelled due to fire conditions
- Surplus equipment sold: Ford Taurus and KME Rescue Squad

Functions: Board Conflict of Interest Training 5/18/2021 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Board/Staff Comments: Director Gibson thanked the crews for their incredible knowledge on calls and noted he was proud to be a part of the District and their staff.

Future Agenda Items: For future agenda items Director Mullin asked for an update on the BOR project and Director Bajtos asked to further discuss the Sac Metro letter sent to the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 09, 2021.

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