

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. by President, Gary Grenfell.

Present:

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

Absent:

Terri Ryland, Director

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Mark Duerr
Deputy Chief, Matt Feeley
Battalion Chief, Brian Midtlyng
Division Chief, Jeff Ingolia
Captain Paramedic, Donavon Gray

Public Comment: None

Special Presentation: Chief Duerr noted that the presentation by the California Special District Association is cancelled and will be rescheduled for next month's meeting.

Consent Agenda: Director Mullin made a motion to approve the items for the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gibson.

Rollcall:

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

OLD BUSINESS

Station 18 New Truck Room Update: Staff recommends discussion on the proposed project and progress made to date. Chief Duerr began that the gas meter was removed two days ago, and they are now waiting on the electric meter removal with no eta. The house demo is delayed. He explained that the project should be re-evaluated due to the costs exceeding budget estimates. He continued that he would like to meet with the facilities committee and look at options to bring back to the board. The item will return on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Employee Retention: Staff recommends discussion on current issues facing the district involving employee retention. Chief Duerr began that the district has promoted Jacob Ramirez to a Firefighter Paramedic position. There are still two openings for Firefighter with one in backgrounds. The testing process for firefighter will begin again soon. One engineer is on the hiring list and Captain and Battalion Chief testing in process. A written Captain exam will be on February 21st and the written Battalion Chief is scheduled for January 25th with the assessment center on February 21st.

Adoption of the Resolution Initiating Proceedings for the Formation of a Fire Suppression Assessment District for the South Placer Fire Protection District, Division 2: Staff recommends adoption of Resolution initiating Proposition 218 formation proceedings for a fire suppression assessment district for Division 2 and designating SCI Consulting Group as the Engineer of Work for the proceedings. Chief Duerr gave a presentation explaining the global overview of the assessment need and discussed the amount and timing of the proposed assessment. He continued that the district is currently 19% below in wages across all ranks comparatively to other agencies, and 26% below in the Firefighter rank. Reasons for the assessment included personnel costs, overtime, six additional firefighter's wages and benefits that were previously funded by a grant, the increased wildfire risk, and the changing demographic with the community growing older the need for service is increasing. He continued that there is a need to create a stable revenue source for the district to provide solvency and sustainability. A special tax would take a one-day general election at a cost of \$90,000 while a special assessment would have a 45-day mail in ballot at a cost of \$75,000. Chief Duerr explained that at this time he recommends pursuing the additional funding for a fire suppression assessment. The assessment would bring in \$2.4 million per year with a CPI that would have a maximum cap. The \$70 special tax in Division 2 would remain at \$70. He noted that with no change to current operations the district will be operating in the negative of \$-1.8 million by 2026/27. Impacts to the homeowner in Division 2 will be a \$240 increase in property taxes, amounting to a total \$310-315 average assessment to be paid to the Fire District. To continue with the assessment, SCI Consulting have prepared a Resolution to initiate proceedings to pursue a fire suppression assessment. The first step to begin the process is procuring the assessment engineering for the Engineer's report prepared by a civil engineer and assessment engineer. The draft report will then be presented to the Board for first reading and initial approval with a final copy to be approved by the Board thereafter at the second reading. With levies due in August, the timeline could be March/April approval of Engineer's report, ballots out in May/June with July /August for counting of the results and possibly levy submittal. This timeline would ensure a December 2022 payment of assessment to the district. Director Musso made a motion to approve the Resolution to initiate proceedings for the formation of a fire suppression assessment for Division 2. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Mullin, Gibson, Johnson, Musso
Ryland

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent:
Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Adopt 2021/22 Long Term Facilities Maintenance, Apparatus Replacement, and Major Equipment Replacement Plan Updates: Staff recommends reviewing and adopting the 2021/22 revised plans. Chief Duerr begin that the facility Committee recently met and reviewed the replacement plans. It is a conservative and workable plan to retain current fund balances to bring forward to the board for approval. This plan road maps the future by creating a record of the planning process to give to the Placer County Board of Supervisors. Some replacements were pushed back while grant funds will cover the Station generators. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the 2021/22 Long Term Facilities Maintenance, Apparatus Replacement, and Major Equipment Replacement plans. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Mullin, Gibson, Johnson, Musso
Ryland

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent:
Carried

2021 Annual Inspection Resolution: Staff recommends accepting the Resolution documenting the number of reportable annual occupancy inspections completed in 2021 as per Senate Bill 1205. Chief

Duerr reported that the district had completed 26 Group E occupancies, 7 Group R occupancies, for a total of 728 annual occupancy inspections. Director Gibson made a motion to approve 7-2021/22 Annual Fire Inspection Resolution. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

Ayes: Grenfell, Bajtos, Mullin, Gibson, Johnson, Musso Noes: None Abstain: None Absent:
Ryland 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 noted that the situation is dynamic over the last few weeks with numbers trending up again with a 13.9 % increase in the 7-day positivity rate. Cases are at 51.9 per 100,000 with cases appearing to be not as severe in symptoms but increased in infections. The district is still doing well.

Correspondence: A recent PARS statement for the month of November and a few holiday cards from the community was distributed.

Chief's Report:

- Santa by the Lake and Santa in the Hood– partnered with donation opportunity for a phenomenal success
- Multiple construction projects in District – 14 new starts in one day, Prevention Dept. is very busy
- Station 15 generator in grant process
- Old ambulance was sold
- 2nd alarm fire in Rocklin
- Call volume increase in last 2 months – above average over last year
- 326 calls in in December
- 72% increase in rescue/medical calls, 38% to care facilities calls and other good intent calls

Functions: FDAC Conference on April 5- 8; Chief Duerr to note interest in Board attendance

Board/Staff Comments: None

Future Agenda Items: SCI Report for the March meeting

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros