

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. by President, Gary Grenfell.

Present:

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

Absent:

Terri Ryland, Director
Sean Mullin, Clerk

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Mark Duerr
Deputy Chief, Matt Feeley
Division Chief, Jeff Ingolia
Battalion Chief, Matt Van Voltinburg
Division Chief, James Magnuson
Engineer, Mike Long
Captain Paramedic, Nick Paskey
Firefighter Paramedic, Bryan Doepel
Firefighter Paramedic, Tyler Thomas
Apprentice Firefighter, Greg Warren
Captain Paramedic, Shawn Cline

Closed Session: President Grenfell reported that the closed session was held at 6:30 p.m. and no action was taken with no report at this time.

Public Comment: None

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

Rollcall:

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

OLD BUSINESS

Station 18 New Truck Room Update: Staff recommends discussion on the proposed project and progress made to date. Chief Duerr noted that the plans for the truck room continue to be on hold dependent on the results of the benefit assessment that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Employee Retention: Staff recommends discussion on current issues facing the District involving employee retention. Chief Duerr began that there are no vacancies for the Apprentice Firefighter position, three vacant positions for Firefighter Paramedic, two vacant positions for Engineer, and no vacancies at Captain and Battalion Chief. He continued the District is waiting to fill the current vacancies awaiting the results from the ballot assessment.

Continuation of June 8, 2022, Public Hearing and Consideration of the Levy of the Assessments for the Proposed South Placer PFD, Fire and Suppression Services Assessment: Staff recommends the continuation of the public Proposition 218 benefit assessment proceedings to announce the tabulation results and adopt the resolution approving the Engineer’s Report, confirming diagram and assessment, and order levying of the Fire and Suppression Services Assessment for the Fiscal Year 2022/23, if applicable. President Grenfell opened the public hearing at 7:06 pm. Sonia Ortega of SCI Consultants stepped forward to present the results of the Proposition 218 benefit assessment. She continued that 3010 ballots were returned for a 30% return rate in the assessed community, with 46.9% voting for the measure and a weighted variance toward declining the assessment of \$52,000. The measure did not pass. With no further questions, President Grenfell closed the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

Final Approval for Continued Benefit Assessment within the Loomis Emergency Response Services Assessment District: Public hearing and action on Resolution No. 2-2022/23. President Grenfell opened the public hearing for the Loomis assessment at 7:08. Chief Duerr explained that the Loomis assessment was approved in Division 1 by voters in 2008. A cost-of-living adjustment is in place not to exceed 4% per year. Chief noted that the Loomis Benefit Assessment Oversight Committee recommended taking the full 4% increasing the assessment to \$252 per single family equivalent. The new proposed assessment will generate an estimated \$1,093,350 in revenue for the fire district. With no further questions, President Grenfell closed the hearing at 7:09. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-2022/23 increasing the Loomis Emergency Response Services Assessment. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

Adoption of Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Parcel Fees within the former Loomis Fire Protection District: Public hearing and action on Resolution No. 3-2022/23. The former Loomis Fire District approved a parcel fee back in 1997. Each year the fee is adjusted by a CPI for the San Francisco region. This year the CPI is 5% for an increase of \$4.35 per single family equivalent. The proposed assessment rate is \$124.37 per single family unit generating approximately \$520,000 in revenue to operate Station 18 in Loomis. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3-2022/23 approving the increase to the parcel fees in the former Loomis Fire Protection District. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

Adoption of Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Special Zones of Benefit: Public hearing and action on Resolution No. 4-2022/23. Special benefit zones have been established for certain commercial properties within the former Loomis Fire Protection District. These benefit zones have been approved by the owners of the properties. Each year the assessment levied on the benefit zones are adjusted by the change in the CPI for all Urban Consumers -U. S. City Average. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4-2022/23 approving the cost-of-living adjustment for the Zones of Benefit fees. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

Adoption of Resolution Requesting Collection of Charges on Tax Roll: Staff recommends approval of Resolution No 5-2022/23 requesting collection services by Placer County. Special assessments levied by the South Placer Fire District within the boundaries of the former Loomis Fire Protection District are included on Placer County property tax bills and collected by the county on behalf of the South Placer Fire District. The county requires that the District warrant the legality of the charges and indemnify the County from any challenge to the legality of the charges. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5-2022/23 requesting collection of charges on the tax roll for the tax year 2022/23. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

Discussion on District-Wide Photovoltaic Solar Electric Proposal: Staff recommends update and discussion on options to mitigate rising utility costs by acquiring photovoltaic solar panels District-wide. Energy costs are projected to have a 22% rate hike from 2023 to 2026. Staff has approached several vendors to provide rough proposals for solar projects at all six stations and the maintenance shop. The board has previously asked staff to find a third-party entity to assist with the project. Staff researched options and is presenting information from a Sacramento-based consultancy, Municipal Energy Advisors (MEA) which has worked with larger fire protection districts to lower their overall utility expenses. The proposal is for two different services, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and a Request for Proposal (RFP). An RFQ is sent when you know exactly what product/services you want, while an RFP is sent when the project is complicated, and you want to evaluate many factors besides price before making a decision. The RFP with MEA will be a total cost of \$15,000 upon award to vendor, while an RFQ with MEA will be \$7500 upon award to vendor. Director Musso inquired whether the proposal would include battery backups. Chief Duerr responded that he would acquire additional information and bring further information for action.

Reallocation of Committed Funds from the former Loomis Fire Protection District: Staff recommends discussion and Board action to address the status of committed funds from the “old” Loomis Fire Protection District. Chief Duerr explained that in prior research, committed funds for the LFPD were never formally committed by board action prior to the consolidation with South Placer Fire District into a facilities Reserve. These funds, \$1,561,261 should be formally uncommitted by the Board and returned to the unassigned fund balance of the South Placer Fire District. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the reallocation of the former Loomis Fire District’s \$1,561,261 Facilities Reserve funds to the unassigned fund balance of the South Placer Fire District. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Advanced Life Support First Responder Fee and Ambulance Treat-No Transport Fee for Division 1 (former Loomis Fire Protection District): Staff recommends discussion and direction for adjusting the fee schedule for an advanced life support engine company first responder fee and ambulance treat-no transport fee for Division 1. South Placer first adopted the First Responder fee and Treat No Transport Fee for Division 2 in 2015. It has come to staff attention that this fee is not currently assessed within Division 1. Action is needed to add the Division 2 established fees for first responders and treat-no transport to Division 1. This adoption shall include the Division 2 Board approved-annual automatic rate adjustment as published by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Series Title Medical Care. Estimated

to increase ambulance revenue by \$64,000. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the additional fees ALS Engine Company First Responder Fee and Treat-No Transport Fee to be assessed within Division 1. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

2022 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Fee Adjustment: Staff recommends discussion on revising fees and charges for certain EMS services. Fees and costs related to ambulance transporting service are reviewed and presented to the Board each year and increased by a CPI tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Series Title Medical Care in the U.S. City Average. Since the last review, many overlooked items have come to staff attention concerning ambulance/EMS billing. Night charges for Medicare when responding between 1900 and 0700 hours. New technology will make this charge automated through our third-party billing agency. Many neighboring agencies include this fee in their structure. Addition and deletion of EMS supplies need to be updated for the most current drugs and treatment modalities. There is a need to update fees to reflect the current costs of several drugs that have gone up or down in price. Many drugs have increased in cost outside of the CPI while other costs have decreased dramatically. Adopting the revised matrix will align cost recovery fees with costs and industry standards. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the EMS fees adjustments as presented. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

Fee for Non-Emergency Lift Assistance at Licensed Care Facilities: Staff recommends discussion and direction on a proposal to implement a fee for non-emergency lift assistance at licensed care facilities. The District has seen a large increase in the construction and operation of licensed care facilities. While the District regularly responds to medical emergencies at these facilities, requests to lifting non-injured residents have increased. In 2022, the District responded 318 times to licensed care facilities with 6% of these calls for lift assists, reducing the resources available for emergency response. Staff proposes a fee of \$303.67 be implemented via District ordinance whenever a lift assist is performed in a licensed care facility for a non-injured resident. The burden for these services should be shifted to the facility. The fee will only apply to non-injury lift assists in licensed care facilities, registered family homes, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities, as identified by the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 8. Rocklin Fire also instituted this charge six months ago. Estimated revenue increase \$15,000 - \$18,000. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the Fees for non-emergency Lift Assistance at Licensed Care Facilities. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

Rollcall:

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

2022/23 Board Goal Setting Workshop: Staff recommends setting a date to conduct the 2022/23 Board goals workshop. Board and staff have engaged in an annual goal-setting process to discuss the 2022/23 board gals. Chief recommends meeting before the August Board meeting on August 8th at 6 p.m. Board members concurred and confirmed their availability for the workshop. Chief noted that dinner would be served at the workshop.

FASIS Board Election: Staff recommends discussion and possible action on two open positions on the FASIS Board. Staff recommends that the Board vote for the two open positions to the current vacancies. It was noted that there are two candidates and two current openings on the FASIS Board. Director Gibson made a motion to nominate both candidates to the vacancies on the FASIS Board of Directors on the behalf of the South Placer Fire District. Director Grenfell seconded the motion.

Rollcall:

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

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Correspondence: None

Chief's Report:

- Thanks to Captain Kincheloe for assistance with Kids Camp ran in partnership with Roseville Fire
- Multiple grass fires – knowing when to mow is very important
- Structure fire in Loomis – garage fire
- 4th of July parades-Shelborne, Walden Woods, Los Lagos
- Open house at Station 15
- Employee physicals in final phase next week
- Renewed 5-year GEMT agreement
- June: 321 calls, up 10% from June of last year. Medic 17 and Engine 18- busy units
- Overtime: 3714 hours of overtime, 984 due to open positions, 904 due to sick leave
- 1400 mandatory overtime hours, 2269 voluntary overtime hours
- EMS response times- arrived within 99% of the SSV response times
- 2022 Fire Prevention department – down this month, total square feet down, prevention fees and new starts down

Functions: California Firefighter Memorial Ceremony July 30

Board/Staff Comments: Director Johnson thanked Chief Duerr and staff for their hard work on the Proposition 218 assessment, noting the effort did not go unnoticed.

Future Agenda Items: 2022/23 Board Adopted Goals, Solar Electric Proposal

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros