

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 08, 2023

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, March 08, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. by President Terri Ryland.

Present:

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

Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief Mark Duerr
Deputy Chief Matt Feeley
Division Chief Jeff Ingolia
Division Chief James Magnuson
Battalion Chief Paramedic, Matt Van Voltinburg
Captain Paramedic, Keith Hernandez
Firefighter Paramedic, Kevin Cooney

Public Comment: None

Closed Session Report: None

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

District-Wide Photovoltaic Solar Electric Project: Staff recommends an update on the District-wide solar project. Chief Duerr began that agreements are in place with the contractor and PG&E. 10% of the project has been completed, and the project has qualified for NEM 2.0. Construction will begin soon so that the District's energy costs can decrease.

Reconsideration and Approval of Change to Executive Compensation: Staff recommends review and approval of the 2023-25 Salary Schedule for the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief. Chief Duerr explained that at the last meeting, new contracts were approved for represented and unrepresented employee groups to include the Executive staff; however, the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief contracts must be discussed and approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting. Senate Bill 1436 mandates that local agencies report certain information before changing the compensation and benefits of their "executives." He continued that the negotiated salary and benefits were consistent with all the other

employee groups. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the changes to executive compensation and the new salary schedules. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Investment Guideline Document Discussion: Staff recommends a presentation and discussion of the South Placer Fire District Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Investment Guideline Document. The District maintains a Section 115 irrevocable OPEB trust with PARS. Highmark Capital manages the asset allocations for the account within the Plan. Highmark has provided an investment guideline document to structure and guide the fund's strategy. Portfolio manager, Andrew Brown, discussed and presented the Board with the current activity in today's market. He noted that the account was funded ten years ago and is currently in a moderate strategy. PARS representative Mitch Barker also suggested to the Board to move the OPEB Trust into a combo Pension trust to begin saving for pension alongside OPEB costs. Mr. Barker continued that there were no setup costs, no minimums, and the combo trust would help the District with the current \$6.7 million unfunded pension liability. With the recent losses reported by CalPERS investments, a dramatic increase in unfunded liability is imminent. He noted that by saving funds into a PARS combo trust, the District could get greater returns on their investment than the current CalPERS strategies and smooth out the current pension volatility while hedging funds against inflation. It was reported that 90% of agencies have moved to a combo trust. President Ryland suggested the Finance Committee meet and further discuss the Investment Guideline Document and review the long-term plans for facilities and obligations with a report at the next meeting.

2023 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fee Adjustment: Staff recommends reviewing and discussing the current ambulance rate schedule and area rates. This fee adjustment is part of the automated annual review passed through Ordinance to increase the EMS fees tied to the CPI Series Title Medical Care in the US City Average. This year's adjustment will be 4.1% beginning July 1, 2023. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the 2023 EMS fees adjustment. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

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

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant: Staff recommends discussion and approval to apply for a SAFFER Grant. Chief Duerr explained that the District recently reduced operations by six full-time positions. A SAFER grant would provide 100% funding for new positions in the District for three years with no match so that the District could fund additional staffing and response. If awarded, the District would see increased staffing to the minimum NFPA 1710 level for a low-risk structure fire, cost savings over the three years of the grant, and the possibility of a limited station reopening which would increase service and reduce EMS response times. He continued that it is up to the Board to pursue and apply for the grant, but he highly recommended that the District apply immediately. He followed that there are currently three vacant positions that could be filled with safer funding and an additional three positions to put the District at 3-0 staffing and save the District \$440,000-\$450,000 per year. At the end of three years, the District could review operations and decide whether to keep the positions. Director Randall inquired whether the Standards of Cover report could assist with this decision, but Chief Duerr noted that the report would not be ready for the District to apply for the grant. It was noted that the District has a 50/50 chance at the grant. Director Johnson remarked that he prefers to be cautious about utilizing grant funds for staffing and would like to see the ladder truck returned. Chief Duerr remarked that it was a great discussion for the future. Chief

Duerr reminded the Board that the District operates at an extreme safety risk with a two-person engine company. The grant is necessary for stability with a 3-0 minimum level. Director Musso approved the Chief to apply for the SAFER grant, as discussed. Director Gibson made a second to the motion.

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

Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget Amendment to Address New Employment Contracts and Expenditure Updates: Staff recommends discussion and Board action to adopt budget amendments. With the Board ratifying new labor contracts for represented and unrepresented groups, the budget must be amended to accurately reflect and account for the expenditures. Revenues are increased by 8% overall, salaries and benefits adjusted by 6.6%, service and operations adjusted by 4%, and capital expenditures amended due to the EKG grant. The new budget is balanced, with 82.04% allocated for wages and benefits. Chief Duerr noted that the salaries and benefits impact is over six months of the fiscal year. Director Gibson made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23 budget amendments as shown. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

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

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

District Operational Update: Staff recommends a discussion about District operations after recent changes. Chief Duerr began that call volume is down for February over last year, but call volume is trending up for the year. Call volume is up overall for the District, with 71% for rescues/medical, service calls, and good intent 20%. Medic 16 and Engine 17 are the busiest units. Two fires in the District. Call responses at 2:31 turn out response time with travel times of one minute due to street layouts in the community. Chief Duerr reported that 60 seconds is the national recommendation for turnout time.

Apprentice Program Overview: Board requested a presentation to review the Apprentice Program. Chief Duerr presented a short slide show discussing the current Apprentice Firefighter program. He continued that the position is offered as an introduction to the fire service as a great way to gain real-world experience. Currently, there are three apprentice positions on the ambulance as an EMT working under a Captain that responds to all emergencies under a limited two-year term contract. The position is encouraged them to attend paramedic school. Requirements for the position: minimum 18 years old, Firefighter academy graduate, HAZMAT and ICS certificate, and a current driver's license. The position can also be sent out on strike teams.

Correspondence: One PARS financial statement for January.

Chief's Report:

- Structure fire in Rocklin
- Station and uniform inspections completed
- Upgrade to station 16 uniform storage
- Cancer prevention monitoring: limiting turnouts to fire-related incidents
- Hosting general classes at SPFD
- IV Tylenol request by EMS Committee
- Apprentice Firefighter testing 12 applicants on 3/10
- Fire Prevention department: Total permits up in February to 47, square footage up, fee revenue up, new starts up – 56 plans received in February

- Overtime: 59% generated by sick leave, 29% by vacations,
- Overtime down, mandatory, and volunteer overtime hours down. Total Overtime leveling out, with costs running between \$30,000-40,000. Sick leave up 300 hours from the prior year

Labor Report: None

Functions: March 18 Open House at Station 16 from 11 am – 1 pm, Granite Bay Little League Parade this weekend

Board/Staff Comments: None

Committee Reports:

Director Johnson remarked that the PAC Committee was looking to meet the first week of April but had no report.

Future Agenda Items: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023.

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