

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President, Chris Gibson

Board Present:

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

Absent:

Teresa Ryland, President

Staff in Attendance:

Fire Chief, Mark Duerr
Deputy Chief, Matt Feeley
Division Chief, Jeff Ingolia
Battalion Chief, Kelly Moretti
Battalion Chief, Matt Van Voltinburg
Division Chief, James Magnuson
Engineer Paramedic, Pat Patterson

Captain Paramedic, Nick Paskey
Captain, Tracey Kincheloe
Apprentice Firefighter, Greg Warren
Captain Paramedic, Devin Fuller
Firefighter, Mitchell Klimek
Firefighter Paramedic, Dustin Ogden
Engineer, Kenneth Kolster

6:02 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes: (A) Real Property Transactions Govt. Code § 54956.8- 6900 Eureka Road Granite Bay; Horseshoe Bar Rd. at Tudsbury Rd. Loomis (B) Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation (Pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9(a)) – Jennings v. South Placer Fire Protection District, et al., S-CV-0050292

6:49 p.m. Return from Closed Session

Closed Session Report: Vice President Gibson reported that the Board had met in closed session for informational purposes with no action taken.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: Director Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Randall.

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

Special Presentation: Chief Duerr introduced newly promoted Firefighter Mitchell Klimek who was then pinned with his official badge by his girlfriend Rachel.

OLD BUSINESS

South Placer Fire District Policy Updates: Staff recommends review and approval of the proposed policy updates. Chief Duerr reported the policies from Chapters 6, 8, 11 are presented for their second

reading for board approval. Director Musso made a motion to approve the proposed policy updates. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

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

Placer County Grand Jury Report- South Placer Fire District: Fiscal Challenges and Station Closures: Staff recommends final discussion and approval of response to the 2022/23 Grand Jury Report. The Grand Jury released its annual report on June 27, 2023, with South Placer Fire District as one of the review items. The District is bound to respond to the report by October 1, 2023. A final draft of the Board's response has been distributed for approval. Chief Duerr noted that the final formatting corrections were made and is now ready for President Ryland's signature. Director Grenfell made a motion to approve the final draft of the response to the 2022/23 Grand Jury Report. Director Randall made a second to the motion.

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

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget Adoption: Staff recommends discussion and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Final Budget. Chief Duerr explained that the preliminary budget was adopted in June with the final budget being required to be adopted by October 1st of each year. He continued that property tax revenues have been increased by 5.1% from the Fiscal Year 2022/23 actual amount. Wages and benefits are at 79.06%, below the guideline of 80.25%. Service and operations are at 13.1%, running over budget guidelines by 1%. Fixed assets, apparatus, facilities and major equipment are running below the budget guidelines. This budget includes the increases in salaries for ½ of the year. Director Grenfell made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Final budget. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

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

Fiscal Year 2023/24 District Goals: Staff recommends discussion on the 2023/24 District Goals and possible action if the Board warrants it. In August the Board held a workshop to discuss and build the board and staff goals and objectives. Chief Duerr compiled the requests from the workshop into a new revised board goal to maintain fiscal responsibility, explore all options for responsibly increasing revenue, and work with staff to achieve a balanced budget. Administration and District goals were revised to include developing and implementing the long-term District plans, ensuring future fiscal solvency, increasing positive interactions with the community and brand recognition, and improving internal service delivery and business operations. Director Randall made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/24 District Goals. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2022/23 Draft Quarterly Budget Report: Staff recommends a short presentation on the status of the draft 4th Quarter fiscal year 2022/23 unaudited final budget. Chief Duerr began that this is the unaudited report for the 2022/23 budget. Changes to the final numbers will be due to the financial auditor's finding regarding bad debt expenses and any other relative findings. Total revenues of \$15.796 million were received in the fiscal year at 100.4% of budget. The overall surplus for the 4th quarter report is \$873,604 at this time. Chief Duerr continued that of that net positive surplus, an estimated \$200,000 will return to the general fund after the bad debt write offs. Chief Duerr noted that he would like additional discussion for reserves on any excess to be discussed in January or February

for board approval. Director Musso made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Draft Quarterly Budget report. Director Johnson made a second to the motion.

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

Dry Financing Request: Staff seeks approve to dry finance, if needed, from the Placer County Treasurer's office. Each year the District utilizes its reserve accounts to fund expenditures from July through December when the first property tax installment is collected. Staff recommends approval of the resolution authorizing the dry financing request for up to \$3.5 million. Director Bajtos made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-2023/24 Dry Period Financing Requests. Director Randall made a second to the motion.

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

CalPERS 2024-25 Contribution Rate Increases and Employer Payment of Unfunded Liability Increases: Staff recommends reviewing and discussing CalPERS most recent Annual Valuation Reports for the District's four retirement plans. For the four pension plans, the District lump sum prepayment of the Unfunded Accrued Liability payment was \$961,913 for 2023/24. Due to the reduction in the discount rate, poor performance of investments, and cost sharing of Pepra plans have set the 2024/25 UAL payment at \$1,270,975 across the four plans. This is an increase of \$309,062 in the UAL for next budget year. Chief Duerr explained that this item was for information purposes only.

Board Support for Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 13: Staff recommends discussion and approval of supporting ACA 13. ACA 13 is a constitutional amendment related to ballot measures. The successful passage of ACA 13 is expected to protect public agencies from the effects of Initiative 21-0042A1, the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, which is proposed for the November 2024 ballot. Initiative 21-0042A1 imposes thresholds requiring the approval of 2/3 of voters throughout the text of the measure. The successful passage of ACA 13 would mean that Initiative 21-0042A1 would also require a 2/3 of votes to be considered approved. Failure to garner the approval of 2/3 of voters means that the entire measure and all its provision would fail to become law. Chief Duerr continued that he has drafted a letter of support for ACA 13 on the District's behalf for approval to be mailed to the California State Assembly. He noted that the District can legally support the measure. Director Johnson made a motion to approve proposed letter of support for ACA 13. Director Bajtos made a second to the motion.

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

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

District Operational Update: Staff recommends a discussion about District operations after recent changes. Chief Duerr began that call volume for August was 344 calls, down 50 calls from last year. Call volume is up for the District year over year by 1-2% with 76% for rescues/medical. Medic 16, Engine 17, Engine 18 are the busiest units. Station 18 had the most call volume by station. There were 7 fire responses: 3 bark, 2 vehicle fires, 1 oven, 1 cooking in August. Improved turn out times with 1.28 average. Total response times trending down around 12 minutes. Travel times and response times were down and meeting the SSV goal response times 98%.

Correspondence: Two PARS financial statements for the month of July due to the transition between the combo trust and original PARS account.

Chief's Report:

- One new Firefighter Paramedic – in training for 3 weeks
- Recruiting for Firefighter Paramedic openings
- Field Save by Capt. Cline and Engineer Mayo
- All hands meeting for all shifts
- Firefighter hood exchange
- Attended Loomis Town Meeting- library survey results noted that 51% felt SPFD doing excellent job, 36% good, 9% don't know
- Fire Prevention department: Total permits up, square footage up, fee revenue up, new starts up.
- Overtime: 2200 hours for August due to open positions, sick leave.
- Volunteer vs. mandatory overtime hours down from last year. Volunteer Overtime 85% mandatory is 15%
- Overtime totals averaging \$50,000 per pay period.

Labor Report: Battalion Chief Moretti reported that SAFF 522 Battalion Chief Unit had presented a memo for the board packet and discussed the need for a committee formation to discuss the grand jury report made up of 5-7 members of the board, admin, and labor. He noted the need for the discussion on the direction of the District on a quarterly basis. Engineer Pat Patterson reported that the SAFF 522 Firefighter's unit would like to get all parties on the same page noting labor and admin are at very different places. He continued that both labor groups support the committee idea. He reported that the hiring of EMT Firefighter's while within admin rights, is considered a reduction in services. He reiterated that the District continues to lose employees and not enough is being done to counteract that loss. It was suggested by Director Randall to further research an internship program with a commitment to pay towards paramedic school. Chief Duerr noted that he would look into that opportunity within one of the District's committees.

Functions: Cancellation of September 22nd Annual Firefighters Awards Dinner, September 30th Open House at Station 20, October 7th Loomis Eggplant Festival

Board/Staff Comments: Vice President Gibson applauded Captain Devin Fuller's professionalism for a recent emergency at his neighbor's home. Director Bajtos thanked Chief Duerr for his part in removing the stoplight at Station 19.

Committee Reports: Battalion Chief VanVollinburg reported that the Goal Steward Team: Fiscal Responsibility has continued to meet and review the budgeting guidelines every year while reviewing expenditures, seeking grant opportunities, and to forecast upcoming needs such as the radio replacements in upwards of \$500,000.

Future Agenda Items: Paramedic School as recruiting incentives

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros