

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024

REGULAR BUSINESS

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. by President, Tracy Randall.

Board Present:

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

Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

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

Firefighter Paramedic, Bryan Doepel
Engineer Paramedic, Kenneth Kaiser
Captain Paramedic, Mark Robertson
Engineer Paramedic, Tyler Duncan
Captain Paramedic, Nick Paskey

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Musso made a second to the motion.

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

Special Presentation: None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

South Placer Fire District Policy Updates: Staff recommends review and approval of the proposed policy updates. Chief Duerr began by presenting two policies for review and approval: the Wellness and Fitness Program and the Apparatus Vehicle Backing policy. President Randall offered grammatical suggestions and corrections to the draft policies. He noted that the “Immunizations” section should also note documentation or declination of vaccinations. Chief Duerr agreed to add that language to the policy. He continued that this is the first reading of these policies, and they will be back for approval at the next board meeting.

2023 Annual Fire Inspection Resolution: Staff recommends accepting the Resolution documenting the number of reportable annual occupancy inspections completed in 2023 as per Senate Bill 1205. Chief Duerr began by saying that this is a routine requirement of the annual documentation of the 2023

reportable inspections by Resolution. He continued that the District had 100% compliance, with Group E completing 26 inspections and Group R completing 7. A total of 483 Company inspections were completed in 2023. Director Gibson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 6-2023/24. Director Grenfell made a second to the motion.

Roll Call:

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

Legal Counsel Review: Staff recommends a discussion about the District's legal counsel. Chief Duerr explained that with the recent transfer of long-standing attorney Paul Gant of Kingsley Bogard (KB) to a different facet of law, the District needs to reassess its current relationship with KB in the future. He recommended that the Board seek a Request for Qualification (RFQ) or Request for Proposal (RFP) from firms that provide similar services. He noted that the District has been assigned to attorney Lindsay Moore in the interim. Director Ryland motioned to approve Chief Duerr moving forward with an RFP for legal counsel. Director Gibson made a second to the motion.

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

Proposal for Public Opinion Research: Staff recommends discussion and possible action on conducting public opinion research to determine the feasibility of a ballot measure in 2024. Chief Duerr stated that since the Benefit Assessment for Division 2 failed in July 2022, the District has worked diligently to rectify many issues. Improving engine response times, reversing deficit spending, improving employee compensation, and reducing long-term unfunded liabilities. He continued that at this time, he recommends seeking a contract with a public opinion surveyor to record the community support for a possible special tax/benefit assessment for the 2024 election year. He continued that an election is too costly to perform for the District to act blindly. He recommended utilizing FM3, which will conduct 400 responses with 15-20-minute interviews from the public at a cost of \$28-30,000. Director Ryland noted that there had been no prior discussion on a future tax measure and that the deadline to provide information to the Placer County Elections division would be June. Director Johnson noted the need for transparency at an open board meeting. Chief Duerr explained that the District could proceed again with a benefit assessment, but he recommends a special tax measure that is both cleaner and easier to understand. Director Randall suggested that any measure should affect both divisions and that additional discussion could occur at the next PAC Committee meeting. Chief Duerr agreed to collect additional information on FM3 and bring it back for further discussion with the Board.

Firefighter Trainee Job Description: The Chief recommends a discussion and adoption of the Firefighter Trainee job description. Chief Duerr began by saying that the District has been exploring many hiring options for firefighters and paramedics. The Firefighter Trainee position would be a limited-term, non-represented position with an 18-month performance window to obtain a Firefighter One (FF1) certification. The newly hired paramedics would take a brief District onboarding academy before being assigned to an ambulance while completing their FF1 certificate with costs paid by the District. Once the FF1 is complete, the employee will be reclassified to permanent status and begin their probationary period as a Firefighter Paramedic. President Randall noted a few suggestions for the language of the job description. Director Johnson expressed concern about the position being unrepresented by the bargaining unit. Member of the public, Sandy Harris, stated that the Board should be actively representing the community and not the bargaining unit, and the position needs to be filled immediately. Director Randall declared that he would table the issue and return it to the committee before bringing it back for further board discussion.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

District Operational Update: Staff recommends a discussion about District operations after recent changes. Chief Duerr began by saying that the call volume was 324, down from December last year. Call volume is down 3% for the District overall, with 68% in rescue calls. Station 18 had the most call volume by station, followed by Station 17 and Station 16. Call response times improved by 2% despite having two closed stations from 2:13 to 1:34. Ambulance revenues grew to \$1.5 million in 2023 with Chief Magnuson's improvements in billing. District revenues overall in the final year-end audit were up.

Correspondence: One PARS financial statement for November and multiple cards of gratitude from the community.

Chief's Report:

- Santa by the Lake/ Santa in the Hood was a great success.
- Station 17 Open House/Pancake Breakfast was a good event – thanks to all crews involved.
- Tablet Command in process
- The Master Plan is coming soon.
- Donation of stuffed animals by Placer County for Older Adults commission
- Health and Wellness physicals were held in December.
- Fire Prevention department: Total permits up over last year, square footage down, fee revenue down, new starts down
- Overtime in November: 43% due to open positions, 13% miscellaneous, Vacation 16%
- Volunteer vs. mandatory overtime hours: 23% mandatory, 77% volunteer.
- Overtime totals averaging \$60-70,000 per pay period.
- Leave usage year over year: overtime is up due to Disabilities.

Labor Report: Engineer Patterson began by saying he had heard from community members who were surprised about the closed stations and noted that more public education is needed. He continued that a firefighter paramedic had recently separated from a private ambulance company. Retention is still an issue to keep current employees, and he projected another possible 5 to 6 losses in the future. He continued that he awaits the master plan and that action is needed for morale to retain employees.

Functions: 1/11/24 Board Workshop with CPFPG on CFD at 18:00, Station 16 Open house, Upcoming Brown Act Training Workshop to be scheduled

Board/Staff Comments: Director Gibson discussed the recent memorial for Scott Roberts, a retired Engineer, and noted the excellent turnout from past and present employees. Director Ryland noted that a review of future property tax revenue projections was needed as interest rates continue to drop.

Future Agenda Items: None

7:10 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes:

- (A) Public employee appointment, employment, performance evaluation, discipline, dismissal, or release. (Gov. Code § 54957 (b))
- (B) Labor Negotiations (Gov. Code § 54957.6) Conference regarding contract negotiations

8:26 p.m. Return from Closed Session

Closed Session Report: President Randall reported that the Board had met in closed session and had taken no action. He continued that the Board will meet for a special meeting on January 31, 2024, to discuss the issues further in a closed session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Medeiros". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros