

SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Special Board Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2024

The South Placer Fire District Board of Directors Special Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 31, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. by President, Tracy Randall.

Present:

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

Public Comment: J.P. Giblin thanked the Board for the recent use of the antique engine's participation in the funeral service for Retired Roseville Fire Marshall Buddy Laporte on the behalf of Roseville Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Opinion Survey: Staff recommends a discussion and possible action on conducting a public opinion survey to gauge community support of a future ballot measure. Chief Duerr introduced Curt Below of FM3 Survey who discussed the methodologies and capabilities of performing a public opinion survey on the community. He began that he is proposing a dual mode voter survey utilizing two call modes: online and/or telephone responses. Currently there are between 26-27,000 voters in the District and FM3 would conduct 400 interviews to obtain a profile of the electorate. Survey results would be within a 5-7% margin of error. He noted that FM3 could also research which approach would be more feasible: Prop. 218 Assessment or Special Tax. The hypothetical questions with pros and cons could provide stress testing to many different data points as to what a viable goal for the District is. He noted that their agency does not push a particular agenda only helps the District to make decisions. Cherri Spriggs of Meraki Public Affairs introduced herself and noted that she had extensive knowledge working with Placer County agencies alongside FM3 to craft community outreach and ballot measure campaigns. Curt discussed that there was no pre-education, but a cold base line survey is delivered to get the full nature of the results. It was noted that the timeline for the upcoming presidential election was not realistic to provide the education that was necessary to the community members. Cherri suggested the District look to the gubernatorial election in 2026 as there would need to be around two years of education on any measure. Curt Below noted that presidential elections tend to be more amenable to tax measures with the exceptions for public safety measures.

Cherri noted that the survey would wait until after the primaries in March. Curt added that focus groups would only be necessary should there be an oddity in the results. Member of the public, Sandy Harris, noted the divide between the two divisions and their distribution of property tax funds to the District. She proposed that the Town of Loomis should fund those property tax dollars to fire services to address the inequality between the two divisions. Chief Duerr noted that the survey could have those conversations and further the discussion with the community. Director Ryland made a motion to approve the contract with FM3 for a 15-minute survey of the community. Director Gibson made a second to the motion.

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

6:51 p.m. Adjourn to Closed Session: The Board of Directors adjourned to a closed session meeting for the following purposes:

- (A) Public employee performance evaluation – Fire Chief. (Gov. Code § 54957 (b))
- (B) Labor Negotiations (Gov. Code § 54957.6) Conference regarding contract negotiations

9:18 p.m. Return from Closed Session

Closed Session Report: President Randall reported that the Board had met in closed session with good dialogue and will continue to work on the Chief's goals for 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The next regular meeting held on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary, Kathy Medeiros