

NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
February 9, 2012
Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Castle City Mobile Home Park
1500 Newcastle Rd.
Newcastle, California

Call to Order:

- Chairman Stearns called the NFPD Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

- Chairman Stearns present, Vice- Chairman Lewis present, Secretary Calkins present, Director Orsolini present, and Director Poore present.

Pledge of Allegiance:

- Chairman Stearns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

- Chairman Stearns told the audience that if they were here to speak about or ask questions pertaining to Measure B, they would be heard when we reached that item on the agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- VC Lewis made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Secretary Calkins seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Old Business:

- Capital Improvement Plan
 - On Hold
- Discussion, Measure B
 - Questions and Answers
 - How are the campaign signs and literature being paid for?
 - Privately raised campaign donations. No, taxpayer funds have been spent.
 - Has there been any ground work done on the R & S Properties site?
 - No, the board felt it was more prudent to wait until after Measure B is decided before spending any more money on the site.
 - What will the funds be used for if Measure B passes?
 - 40% will be used to fund a new fire station.
 - 40% will be used to increase salaries and add health and welfare benefits for the district employees, 20% will be used for maintenance and ongoing district expenses.
 - Why hasn't a design for the new fire station been made public?
 - We have only received one preliminary design from the architectural firm. It was way more station than we needed. The firefighters got together and whacked the design by better than 1/2. We didn't want to spend more money getting the plans re-drawn until the outcome of Measure B is final.
 - Why wasn't there a discussion with Gus Pearson and/or Jerald Saladana regarding the purchase or lease of their buildings/properties?
 - Mr. Saladana was approached about selling the vacant lot adjacent to the fire station. He declined to sell at that time. The bottom line is that the land the current station sits on is not large enough nor are the streets surrounding it suitable for trying to get larger equipment in and out effectively.
 - Why has the fire assessment been kept so low for so many years?
 - Previous boards tried to raise taxes more than once. Not all were successful. Also, this board's hand was called, so to speak, when a complaint was filed with Cal OSHA regarding the condition of the fire station (2010). Placer County Building was then obligated to begin the eviction procedure because the building is unsafe.
 - Has CalFire been asked to contract EMT services for Newcastle?
 - CalFire was asked if they had any interest in taking over the Newcastle Fire Protection District and providing all services. We received a letter back from Brad Harris declining such an offer.
 - Why are scare tactics being used to pass Measure B?
 - They are not scare tactics. They are facts. If Measure B does not pass the NFPD can no longer operate. We will be homeless. Placer County will have no choice but to continue with their code enforcement process which will include completely vacating the existing building.

- Why has the existing fire station been allowed to deteriorate? It has not been properly maintained over the years. It is very sad to see it in such a state of disrepair.
 - We have tried over the years to maintain the current station, however our budget has never allowed for any major renovations to be funded.
- Why haven't the public been kept informed about this issue?
 - The public have been kept informed in numerous ways:
 - We held a town hall meeting in September, 2009 at Newcastle School. We posted signs around town and had a flashing light sign at the intersection of Newcastle Rd. and Indian Hill Rd. Approximately 50 people attended.
 - The Firefighters Association has displayed many photos and made announcements about the condition of the station at their annual pancake breakfasts.
 - The NFPD has been featured by many media outlets. Including television and newspapers.
 - The Board of Directors meets every month on the second Thursday at Castle City Mobile Home Park, 6:00p. The agendas are required by law to be posted in 3 places. We post at the Newcastle post office, the bulletin board at Castle City and on the door at station 41.
 - Why are people being told that this measure has something to do with Proposition 13 when it doesn't?
 - Actually, the NFPD's rate at which they can collect money from the property taxes was locked in at .035 cents per dollar when prop 13 was passed. At that time we were an all volunteer department so that was ok. Times have changed and the amount of revenue being generated is no longer sufficient to fund the services provided.
- How much of NFPD's revenue come from property tax?
 - Approximately 50%.
- Why are Shirland Tract residents still paying an assessment for the station at Scott's Corner when there is no longer one there?
 - The station at Scott's Corner was closed because the building was unsafe, needed a new roof and the well was contaminated. Also, the NFPD could only afford to keep one firefighter stationed there at any given time.
- Why wasn't the public informed about the plan to hold a special election?
 - Actually, the Board passed a resolution allowing for the election on 11/10/2011 at an open board meeting. Also, there was a legal notice published in the Auburn Journal on 11/23/2011 of the district's intent to hold a special election.
- What is the definition of "Appropriate Fire Protection?"
 - No answer provided.
- What is the cost of this special election? I have heard it is upwards of \$20k.
 - No answer provided.
- Where will the money to pay for the election come from if Measure B fails?
 - No answer provided.
- Why isn't the tax based on the parcel size?
 - No answer provided.
- How much revenue is Measure B anticipated to generated annually?
 - About \$280k.
- How will a station be built?
 - The NFPD has been in contact with the USDA, Rural Community Development about a long term, low interest loan to finance the construction of a new fire station. The best estimates are that the payment will be approximately \$100k per year for each \$1m financed. Of course, these are just preliminary estimates.
- How long will it take to begin construction on a new fire station?
 - The board is aiming to begin construction in less than six months after Measure B passes.
- If Measure B passes, will the NFPD be able to live within the new budget for the foreseeable future?
 - Yes, we anticipate that this will carry us into the future. However, no one can predict in absolutes.
- There is an appeal process listed in the ballot literature. When will this process be available?
 - Director Orsolini will follow up directly with Mr. Powell regarding this topic.

- How long is the lease with R&S Properties for the proposed station site?
 - 40 years.
- What will happen if Measure B doesn't pass?
 - It is most likely that the NFPD will disband. Without a station to work out of, we will have no choice but to close the doors.
- What will happen to the children in the Newcastle School system if the NFPD ceases operations?
 - Hopefully, Measure B will pass and the subject will not be an issue.
- If the NFPD ceases operations, will someone respond to Newcastle?
 - Yes, someone will respond, but there will not be a "set" service provider. Whoever is available will respond.
- Because of the low wages and lack of benefits, how long does the average firefighter stay at Newcastle?
 - 1-1.5 years.
- I have 7 tax bills for 1 parcel. How will this be handled?
 - VC Lewis will follow up with Mrs. Gruber individually.
- I own more than one parcel within the Newcastle Fire Protection District. Will I have to pay the full amount on each parcel?
 - Look at your current property tax bill. If you are paying the full fire tax now on each parcel, then yes the new fee will be added to each parcel. If you are paying a reduced fee because the parcel is small or undevelopable, the formula being used to calculate your current tax will be used to calculate the new tax. For example, if you currently pay 10% of the fire tax on a parcel, you will be billed 10% of the new fee also.
- Why are we going for a parcel tax and not a general tax?
 - No answer provided.
- Does it seem fair that someone will have to pay \$300 for 2 modest sized parcels if Measure B passes and the guy with a winery on 80 acres will only pay \$150 because it is one parcel number?
 - No answer provided.
- If Measure B passes will this enable the NFPD to meet new enforcement standards?
 - This is still in its "Pilot Program" form. No definitive requirements have been given to the NFPD.
- Will the passage of Measure B enable funding of an engine at Shirland Tract?
 - No, not at this time.
- Will this tax money be kept in Newcastle?
 - Yes, this tax money must be kept in Newcastle. The state cannot "borrow" it to fill in their budget short falls.
- Has an archeological survey been done at the property site?
 - No
- What will happen if Cal Fire takes over Newcastle?
 - Newcastle will burn.
- Can we have another meeting next week to continue with more questions and answers?
 - Yes, a special board meeting will be called.
- Will my homeowners insurance go up if the NFPD fails?
 - This seems dependent on your location and particular insurance provider. Many residents have indicated that their insurance will go up dramatically and many have indicated that the failure of the NFPD would not have any effect on their rates. It would be best to contact your insurance company and ask the question.
- What is considered a taxable parcel?
 - The Placer County Assessor's office has a book which identifies what a taxable parcel is, regardless of size.
- If I currently own multiple parcels how can I avoid paying the proposed tax on all of them?
 - You can request a minor boundary change through Placer County; however this process is not cheap.
- Measure B comes at a time when the state is preparing to levy a \$150 "Cal Fire Tax" on rural residents. Is there any relief from that fee?
 - Assemblyman Kevin Jefferies has introduced legislation to repeal the so called "Cal Fire Tax". It is unknown at this time if that will be successful or not.
- When do the ballots have to be returned to the elections department?

- They must be delivered prior to 8:00p on March 6th. A simple postmark will not suffice. If your ballot is late, it will not be counted.
- What is the definition of “structure”?
 - No answer provided.
- How does someone get notified about upcoming board meetings and information?
 - The Clerk has provided a signup sheet to provide your name, email address and phone number. You will be added to the electronic distribution list. If you do not have access to a computer, you can send a written request to:
 - Clerk
Newcastle Fire Protection District
PO Box 262
Newcastle, CA 95658

Chairman Stearns thanked all who participated in the discussion.

A short recess was called at 8:02p.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:13p.

- Project Manager Update
 - Mr. Irvin did not provide any consulting services during the previous month.
- Uncollected Mitigation Funds, how to proceed?
 - Chairman Stearns reported that no further information has been received.
 - No action taken.

New Business:

- E-41B Expenditure for 2 new front tires and repair rear tire.
 - Director Poore made a motion to expend not more than \$1200 for the replacement of 2 tires and the repair of 1 tire on E-41B. Director Orsolini seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- POL-00003 Yearly Training Requirements, Revision C
 - VC Lewis made a motion to accept POL-00003 Revision C as written. Secretary Calkins seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Report on Station 41 Visit by Scott Harkins, Sr. VP, Risk Control for Glatfelter Insurance Group, NFPD Liability Insurance Provider.
 - BC Love reported that Mr. Harkins spent most of his visit taking pictures of the station and asking a lot of questions about the building and apparatus. Mr. Harkins indicated that he will give his written report to his superiors and the district will be notified about any changes to their current insurance coverage.
- Change NFPD Regular Board Meeting Time to 7:00p
 - No discussion
 - No action taken
 - Defer to March meeting
- Election of Board Officers
 - Chairman
 - Chairman Stearns made a motion to nominate VC Lewis for the Chairman’s position. Director Orsolini seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary Calkins made a motion to nominate Bob Stearns for the Vice Chairman’s position. Director Poore seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Secretary
 - Director Orsolini made a motion to nominate Secretary Calkins to another term as board Secretary. Director Poore seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
Director Orsolini seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire Report:



APPARATUS REPORT:
 E-41 IN SERVICE
 E-41B OUT OF SERVICE (*SEE NOTE BELOW)
 BR-41 IN SERVICE
 BR-41B IN SERVICE
 WT-41 IN SERVICE PENDING DRIVER

TRAINING HOURS FOR JANUARY

OLNEY:	36.5
BOWERS:	29.0
KIRK:	26.5
SUMAN:	13.5
HICKOK:	22.5
GIBSON:	7.5
TARN:	6.5 VERIFIED, 45.0 PENDING CERTS
THYER:	25.0
OLIVER:	26.0
COSBY:	7.5
HAAS:	25.0
HICKS:	16.5
OBUTKOV:	26.0
ZAMANI:	LOA

**Battalion Chief's Report
 January, 2012**
 Prepared by: BC Love

January Call Volume: 46
 Year to Date Call Volume: 46
 2011 Call Volume: 506
 % Difference from 2011 10.1%

TARGET SAFETY TRAINING HOURS:	
Assignments Overdue	
Users with overdue assignments:	0
Percent of users with overdue assignments:	0%
Overdue assignments:	0
Assignments Completed	
Users with assignments completed:	10
Percent of users with assignments completed:	71%
Assignments completed:	54
User Logins	
Users who have logged in:	14
Percent of users who have logged in:	100%

STAFFING LEVELS (INCL. ADMIN):

Full-Time Employees: 5
 Part-Time Employees: 5
 Resident Firefighters: 5 (1 is on LOA)
 Volunteers: 0

CURRENT PROJECTS:

A SHIFT:	7.5	2/0 staffing:	17/31 days = 55.00%
Re-building valves on SCBA bottles.		3/0 staffing:	12/31 days = 39.00%
B SHIFT:		4/0 staffing:	02/31 days = 06.00%
Hydrant inspections.		5/0 staffing:	00/31 days = 0.00%

C SHIFT:
 Coordinating repairs for E-41B
 Evaluating and testing of brush engines for summer service.

F/T Engineer Suman returned from LOA on 1/17/2012.
 Resident FF Zamani is returning from LOA on 2/1/2012.
 *E-41B was put out of service on 1/7/2012 by A shift for the following reasons:
 Electrical Issues...Mike Metz made the necessary repairs to the electrical issues.
 Pump packing needs to be re-done (leaks water)...Has been repaired by G&T Trucking \$199.95
 Bald Tires...FOR BOARD APPROVAL 2/9/12
 No hose bed cover...Will not be replaced



- BC Love also reported the following:
 - The So. Placer FPD survey did not come back favorably for a tax increase.
 - Lincoln will now have one engine to serve 42k residents.
 - Rocklin Fire Chief is retiring on 12/17/2012.
 - PCWA now has electronic hydrant mapping in place.

Director's Reports

- Stearns
 - Mr. Stearns has found it challenging to be Chairman all the years. He hopes that Mrs. Lewis will allow him to stay involved with the building project as things progress.
- Lewis
 - The Clerk has been directed to schedule a special board meeting for Thursday, February 16, 2012 at Castle City Mobile Home Park, if the room is available.
 - We are looking good budget wise. 50% of the year has elapsed and 51% of the budget has been spent.
- Calkins
 - None
- Orsolini
 - Little League opening day parade is 3/24/2012.
- Poore
 - None

Announcements:

February 16, 2012 – Board of Directors Special Meeting, Castle City MHP, 6:30 p.m. (TENTATIVE)
 March 6, 2012 – Ballots due to the elections department NO LATER THAN 8 p.m.
 March 8, 2012 - Board of Directors Regular Meeting, Castle City MHP, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:

Minutes Approved By:

Patrice Metz, Clerk

Yvonne Lewis, Chairman of the Board