



NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
AUGUST 14, 2013  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
461 Main Street, Newcastle, CA  
www.newcastlefpd.org  
Email: [info@newcastlefire.org](mailto:info@newcastlefire.org)

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Dave Ward called NFPD Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

VC Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Chairman Ward, VC Jordan, Secretary Elder, Director Egge, Director Sprouse, Chief Carr

**Consent Agenda/Action:**

Director Sprouse motioned to approve the July 10, 2013 Regular Board Minutes and July 24, 2013 Special Board Meeting minutes.

Chairman Ward	AYE
VC Jordan	AYE
Secretary Elder	AYE
Director Sprouse	AYE
Director Egge	AYE

Motion carried.

VC Jordan moved to approve the July, 2013 Expense Report. Director Egge seconded.

Chairman Ward	AYE
VC Jordan	AYE
Secretary Elder	AYE
Director Sprouse	AYE
Director Egge	AYE

Motion carried.

**NFPD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: AUGUST 14, 2013****Discussion/Information/Action****Cost of Health & Welfare Benefits**

Vice Chairman Jim Jordan lead the discussion:

- Benefits are capped. Newcastle has had a 6.03% increase in the cost of benefits.
- Open enrollment begins September 1.

**Public Discussion:**

- Bill Fawx asked about medical companies
- Chairman Ward suggested that NFD pay for medical and provide a raise for Dental & Eyeware
- Audience member suggested that Newcastle could pay an annual amount and let the employees get their own insurance
- Charman Ward is looking into that issue.
- Tim Compton suggested that Newcastle look into the new healthcare exchanges and/or health care subsidies
- Gerri Godsey stated that Kaiser may have plans
- Chairman Ward mentioned that there were issues with the new affordable healthcare plan
- Jamie Conyers asked about the consequences of going over our benefit cap and perhaps a new/updated resolution is needed

A special meeting will be held to further discuss this in more depth and possible need of a closed session.

**Proposed Budget:** Chairman Ward and Secretary Elder have been carefully reviewing the budget. Secretary Elder presented figures from the proposed income and expense budget. There will be a final proposed budget available in September 2013. It appears that should we will be in the black, with reserves in the general funds,

- Chairman Ward discussed what we could do with the excess income.
- Susie Brown asked if we still have \$100,000 from the United Indian American Community and whether we use it on the station.
- Director Egge stated the UIAC will work with us.

**Public Safety Issue:** Newcastle Elementary School has applied to put temporary buildings on the school property. Chief Carr inspected the water flow situation and found there was not enough water flow for protection for additional structures to be covered in case of fire and that there exists only one entrance/exit to the school creating another potential hazard for fire engines to access property and structures. Due to the safety issue for the children, the Board feels the urgency to act upon rectifying this as soon as possible. It would also involve legal liability in case of emergency. It was noted that while this issue has been addressed in the past, it appears to have been ignored. Director Sprouse read the June 26<sup>th</sup> Letter of Agreement signed by Kathleen Daugherty to the public.

**Public Comment – Limit, 3 minutes per speaker**

The subject was opened to the public for discussion of options to rectify the situation of the Newcastle Elementary School fire situation.

- Jamie Conyers asked about defensible space initiative
- Mr. Monahan stated the playground should have been cleaned up
- Gerald Saladana stated in the past there were burn days to clear the weeds, however Ray Vega had stopped the control burns.
- Rocky Robinson stated it was due to air quality control.
- Chairman Ward strongly suggested that people immediately contact by phone or write to the Placer County Board of Education, local Supervisors, the California Fire Marshal, Congressmen, and others to make them aware of the seriousness of this issue.
- Chief Carr read the current Mission Statement, following with the comment to everyone that all the trucks, hoses, etc. are of no good unless there is enough water and water pressure available to fight fires.

**NFPD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: AUGUST 14, 2013**

- It was noted that the current flow is below the necessary psi pressure needed for the school at present, which creates a severe problem should a fire break out. Flows often depend on local reservoirs and in high fire season can create problems if low in water.
- Captain Kirk stated 5psi is insufficient to fight a fire which is what the school's only fire hydrant tested at. He also stated the hydrants are to be tested on an annual basis for compliance. He has been in charge of reporting for the last 2 years.
- Director Egge excused himself from the meeting to call on the President of the Newcastle Elementary School Board, which was meeting at a co-incidental time.
- Mr. Monahan asked about the possibility of tying into the hydrant at that top of the hill to create more pressure
- Doreen Compton asked if a monthly fire drill was held at the school
- Director Sprouse asked if there was an Evacuation plan and what could be done to protect the school in the immediate future as well as later.
- Captain Kirk mentioned changing the run card
- Chief Carr said increasing staffing of water tenders
- Captain Kirk stated the possibility of putting in a tanker and the need for a pressurized pump if done
- Mr. Monahan suggested trenching
- Those who could be contacted to assist in accomplishing these safety measures could be: The Placer County Superintendent of Schools, Board of Equalization, CA Fire Administration, Board of Supervisors.
- Mr. Fawx stated the need for the Board to take action on this
- Doreen Compton asked if it was known as to who signed off the documents pertaining to the school issues
- This will be addressed further at a Special Board Meeting.

**Announcements**

Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2013 to further address the fire issue at the Newcastle Elementary School and possibly a partially closed meeting to address the current health care insurance issues.

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 6:00pm, 461 Main Street. Newcastle, CA.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm by Chairman Ward.

Minutes Prepared By:

Minutes Approved By:

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Christine Messner-McKillip, Clerk

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Dave Ward, Chairman of the Board