

NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

June 24, 2015, 6:00 P.M.

at 461 Main Street, Newcastle, CA 95658, Newcastle, CA 95658

MEETING MINUTES

Board Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Eric Sprouse, Vice Chairman
Jonita Elder, Secretary
Rocky Robinson, Director
Robin Enos, Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

- (A) Chairman called meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All Board Members Present.
- (B) Chief Higgins in attendance.
- (C) Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- (A) June 24, 2015 Meeting Agenda.
Agenda revised to move the closed session (Agenda Item #11-Executive Session) to next item on the agenda.
Director Robinson moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Secretary Elder. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed session) 6:03PM to 6:38PM

- (A) Conference with labor negotiators, employee organization: (Newcastle Professional Firefighters Association) (GC 54957.6) (District Negotiators: Jordan, Higgins, and Seargeant). *The board gave direction to the negotiation team.*

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- (A) Director Robinson made the motion to approve the submitted minutes for the board meeting of May 20, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.

5. BILL APPROVAL:

- (A) Monthly Expense Report – Month of June, 2015. Spreadsheet presented and reviewed by Chief Higgins and board. Brief discussion and clarification on the following items.
 - Item 21-Mallory Safety &Supply – new SCBA's – one more month to pay for SCBA's.
 - Question on fund amount on this item #4455 – fire equipment – current expenditures shows as a minus (-) figure. Shows as a positive, in 2014/15 FY budget. Per Chief Higgins, we made a payment. Lost check - \$27,772 was credited. Went in to following fiscal year. It was a correction from previous fiscal year.
 - The NFPD 2015/2016 Preliminary Budget Spreadsheet was distributed and discussed. (June not included in this preliminary budget). On this budget in the 2014/2015 current column for the fund number 4455 fire equipment has a negative amount -\$27,772.99.
 - Director Robinson made the motion to approve the monthly expense report as submitted; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.

- (B) Financial Report: Email copy available upon request info@newcastlefire.org

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (A) Per Chairman Jordan, he received a letter from the Placer County Grand Juror's Association. Implementation review committee looking to follow up on a previous Grand Jury report asking about funds for proposition F and how they are being spent. Chairman Jordan will ask Secretary Elder to follow-up on the letter and do some research.

7. Newcastle Professional Firefighter Association:

- (A) No reports from the Association.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- (A) Resident received a letter from PCWA saying water canal will be shut off today and tomorrow 7am – 9pm. Resident asks if Chief Higgins can call PCWA to ask if they can schedule outages better – considering the extreme heat we are experiencing. The location of the canal is Upper Gridley & South Canal. The concern is that there wouldn't be water for warm hot days. Director Robinson asks if the letter with the ditch number can be provided to Chief Higgins. There were concerns about fire protection and how does fire get put out. Per Chief Higgins, responding water tender's equipment has water in them 24 hours a day. (Water can be brought to site.) In addition, air tankers bring water to fight fires. Canal water is not relied upon.
- (B) Chris Cosby, NPFA inquired about budget for salaries and wages on the preliminary budget report – line item #1002 – 210,000 spent 131,000, and asks about the difference approx. \$78,000 – where did it go. Per the board, the fiscal year is not over yet.
- (C) John from the NCA (Newcastle Community Association) set up a recycling account so community can donate iron and stuff to raise money to help the community.

9. INFORMATIONAL/NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- (A) Chief's Report (By Chief Higgins).
 - Training: month of May consisted of 540 personnel hours.
 - Emergency Response for the month of May - EMS: 29 Auto: 7 Fire: 7 Public Assist: 13. Total of 56 responses.
 - General Information: 1) The new SCBA's are in. We are currently training with the new air packs before we put them into service. They should be in service around the first of July. 2) In FY 15/16, County payroll will start charging Newcastle Fire \$25 per pay period to offset their costs to the special districts throughout the County. There are 26 pay periods.
- (B) Resident asked about the Cal Fire vehicle parked outside the station. Per Chief Higgins, the vehicle belongs to a local community person who is out of Ione and has permission to park there.
- (C) New Fire Station Update (Chairman Jordan)
 - The environmental is out for public review. Engineering is finalizing plans for the new facility. Next step will be the bidding process and hopes to achieve this next month and will know more by August.
 - Supervisor Holmes called Chair Jordan and asked how things were coming along and offered to help. He's showing interest in the project moving forward.
 - Resident asked about an estimated completion date. Per Chairman Jordan, it depends on when we can get the bid process started, and how much groundwork can be done prior to next rainy season.
 - Resident asked about possibilities with the freeway lowering projects and potential fill we can use. Per Director Robinson, the entire freeway plan has changed. Noting will be happening until after Labor Day. Maybe only a third of originally expected dirt may be available.
- (D) Explore Fire Service Options. Chairman Jordan asks permission from the board to explore fire service options (stemmed from LAFCO report)...there may be potential for mergers, consolidations...and said it behooves the community and the board to make sure we know about all viable options for planning. He's asking the Board for formal approval to explore ALL opportunities, writing letters, etc.
 - Resident question/suggestion: Ophir has been petitioning to get Prop 172 funds. Instead of small districts separately petitioning, can the Board contact other Boards, get a

collaborative petition (for several districts) to get 172 funds released. Per Chairman Jordan, it sounds appropriate - made formal presentation to the Board of Supervisors for various districts... In some aspects we are already doing this. Would be good if all fire districts got together on the Prop 172 issue.

Per Vice Chairman Sprouse - signatures from the community can have a big impact. The community can organize and rally together. Would leave it to the community to get involved/organize, form coalition. Ophir's petition was well written. Resident's agree - we should do the same. Can leave petitions at local stores for residents to sign.

- Back to Chairman Jordan's request for the Board to explore fire service options.... Everyone's approval to move forward....Yes! –say the Board.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

(A) Preliminary FY 15-16 Budget. (Chief Higgins)

- Salary wage section...not sure what direction this will go/how much higher. Budget includes rough estimates – still some uncertainty with the new fire station, etc.
- Currently \$70,000 – estimated fund balance to carry over to next year, but still \$25,380 short of the working budget.
- December 15 – 1st draw from fiscal year property tax. So there is a period of time without income.
- Per Secretary Elder, we can only spend what we have.
- **Director Robinson made the motion to accept the preliminary budget as written/published; seconded by Vice Chairman Sprouse. Vote carries 5-0 with all directors present.**

11. Board of Director Reports:

(A) none

12. Open Session

(A) Proposal by Kelly ___ to lease the old fire station – and open an antique gallery/museum.

Expressed his vision and ideas. To his knowledge there is currently no Newcastle Historic Society. He can donate items. Can be manned by volunteers. Community needs historic pieces.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Location: 461 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Capik, Recording Secretary