

Minutes of the NFPD Regular Meeting: November 15, 2017

1. Call To Order; Flag Salute

Chairman Sprouse convened the regular meeting at 6 p.m.

Directors in Attendance: Eric Sprouse, Jonita Elder, Lawrence Bettencourt, Robin Enos

Director Karl was absent

Staff in Attendance: Chief Kushen

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Elder

2. Agenda Approval

Director Elder Noted that next month's meeting is actually on December 13th, due to the holiday. Director Enos announced he could not be in attendance because of prior obligations. The agenda was approved and accepted as posted with the change of date of the meeting for December. (Enos/Sprouse)

3. Approval of Minutes:

The October minutes were approved unanimously with Director Kahrl absent.
(Elder/Bettencourt)

4. Bill Approval and Financial Report

Chief Kushen reports that the county was late in delivering the budget, but that we had increases due to general tax revenue, interest, fire service recovery fees and new construction fees. Line item #2405 was over budget because of the air conditioners. There was an increase in 'office supplies' because of the notices placed in the Sacramento Bee for the legal notices bid process, however that will be moved to #4455 to be added to costs for the new fire station.

5. Correspondence: There was an agreement and contact information with PCSO to patrol the new building site. Chairman Spouse reiterated the need for the project manager to be the primary point of contact for questions regarding the building site.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Fire Chief Kushen's Report:

The Department has had 55 calls this month, including 24 medical aids, 4 grass fires, 4 vehicle accidents, 8-structure fires (several were assists in Auburn).

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association Report:

There has been a change of leadership within the Association; There is now a new President and Vice President.

9. Board Committee Reports:

(A) Building Committee: New Fire station update.

Project manager Martha McDonnell reported that there is an inspector on-site full time, now that the grading operation has begun. Vegetation has been cleared. They have uncovered a series (11) of concrete slabs, a toilet and a butcher shop from the migrant worker camp. As required by current laws, surveys have been taken for archeological artifacts. We have been able to locate the original archeologist associated with the

project and were able to save the cost of starting from scratch with a new one. We did find an unexpected drain on the property. We connected it to the Monroe pipe, tight piped it and encapsulated the pipe in crushed rock. The goal is to work around the weather.

George Attebury (civil engineer) reported that he has been in communication with SP Mud. We will work with SP Mud to incorporate the sewers for Kline Building, Monroe Transmission and the Fruit Sheds will which shall be condensed into a new pipe that comes down the Old State Highway. We are no longer responsible for the very expensive manhole located in previous orders.

Director Bettencourt reported that they will get the contract signed by the archeologist. It has been approved by our legal counsel. The United Auburn Indian Community was notified about the archeology efforts but they have not responded.

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

(A) Staff looking into updating the Fire Mitigation Fee Schedule for new construction.

There was discussion regarding increasing these fees.

(B) Status of the Van Pelt parade vehicle.

We are still waiting for information from legal on getting the truck titled transferred back into the District.

(C) Progress and update on the County Fire District Funding Task Force

The Task Force continues to have meetings, trying to find solutions for the funding shortages in many of the Foothill Districts without losing services. We have developed several different options for the County to look at. Director Bettencourt has been comparing wages and hourly benefits of fire fighters between districts. The disparity in wages and benefits between Districts keeps us from a continuous level of service. One option might be is to allow us to change our tax rate to 12%, we could easily overcome those disparities. Chief Gow reports that we have two problems: 1. Only 3 cents of every tax dollar comes to our District, while other Districts get more. We lose employees due to the disparity of increased wages and benefits in other Districts. Our goal is to educate the County regarding these facts. We are in direct competition with Cal Fire for service to our district. 2. PERS benefits could be transferred to our District if we consolidated all Districts into one District.

(D) Staff researching cost recovery measures for service: a) First Responder Fees b) False alarm response fees c) New construction inspection fees, (d) Business inspection fees.

Chief Kushen is evaluation all options to increase revenue. It is normal in most other Districts to include these fees.

11. Action Items:

(A) Consider and Approve the purchase of EMS supplies (approximate cost \$8,843.48) which will be reimbursed through Placer County EMS Improvement Fund.

Chief Kushen has been worked toward enhancing our level of service and the reimbursement has been approved by SSB and OES to upgrade our level of care to

include the additions of new medications and equipment. Motion passed unanimously with Director Kahrl absent. (Sprouse/Elder)

(B) Consider and Approve Firefighter Intern Program for College Fire Academy Graduates with a stipend of \$25 for every 24-hour shift OR \$50 for over each 48-hour shift.

This program allows us to have succession planning in place and augment our personnel on the engine. Motion passed unanimously with Director Kahrl absent.

(Elder/Bettencourt)

(C) Consider and approve purchase of thermal imaging camera for approximate cost of \$7000.

Chief Kushen reports that our current camera is obsolete and broken. Motion passed unanimously with Director Kahrl absent. **(Enos/Sprouse)**

(D) Review and approve schematic design of the new fire station with elimination of second story storage and meeting room.

Architect Ron Lichau designed a new schematic floor plan designed to further reduce building costs of new station, while avoiding having to go through the permitting process again. Square footage has been reduced by over 1000 feet, and now includes an infectious agent clean area for turnouts and equipment. The Board unanimously approved with Director Kahrl absent **(Elder/Sprouse)**

(E) Approve building committee to work on invitation to bid for Project Manager for phase II of the new fire station project.

Director Bettencourt estimates this will entail about 20/hours week for up to 6-8 months. The Board unanimously approved with Director Kahrl absent. **(Sprouse/Elder)**

12: Director Reports

Director Bettencourt will be out of town until the November 27th.

Director Elder reports that the town Christmas Party is December 7th and everyone is invited.

13. Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, 13, 2017

Location: 461 Main Street, Newcastle

Respectfully submitted by

Heather Pier