

Minutes of the Special NFPD Meeting: December 13, 2017

1. Call to order; flag salute

Director Sprouse called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Directors in Attendance: Chairman Sprouse, Director Elder, Director Bettencourt and Director Kahrl.

Director Enos was absent.

Staff in Attendance: Chief Kushen,

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved and accepted as posted unanimously, with Director Enos absent.

Chairman Sprouse explained that a special meeting had been called because our regular meeting times had been rearranged for the holidays. **(Bettencourt/Elder)**

3. Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were approved unanimously with Director Enos absent. **(Kahrl/Sprouse)**

4. Bill Approval and Financial Report

Chief Kushen reported that line item #1005 is slightly higher due to vacation and sick leave. Building maintenance (#2405) was higher because of the air conditioning that was installed. Office expenses (#2523) are high because the costs for the newspaper ads need to be moved to 'new building construction'. The County has made several errors in placement of funds this month that need correction. County Special service (#2556) was mistakenly charged for SunPro fees instead of the 'Professional services'. Small equipment (#2821) should have a \$20,000 Calf Fire grant which was accidentally put into Precinct costs (#2831). After fixing the errors, everything seems to be within normal limits.

5. Correspondence

The Board decided to continue discussion about the District Audit for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to the January meeting to give members a chance to study it. Director Bettencourt recommends sending a copy to the County Treasurer. Fire Chief Kushen noted that the even though the Department's revenue was down slightly, with a 12% increase in expenses (for wages and overtime) our position will actually improve by the end of the year over last. We have met the recommendations that were discussed in the audit.

6. Public Comment

John Dufour recommended naming the station after Ray Vega.

7. Fire Chief Kushen's Report

Calls have been slowing down due to the cooler weather. There were 29 calls for November; 4 significant traffic collisions, 1 vegetation fire. There have been upgrades made to the website. We are collaborating with Foresthill and Placer Hills to toward homogenizing our minimum standards and testing for all personnel. We are regularly releasing information on social media. Chief Kushen is researching potential grants toward the purchase of a new engine from the Air Pollution Control District. Chief Kushen reminds the public that Firehouse business should not be conducted over the Firefighters personal phones. The Chief wanted to congratulate Captain Greg Kirk who was awarded 'Newcastle Firefighter of the Year' by the Elks Lodge Annual Public Safety Group. Director Kahrl was deeply appreciative of all the work done by the firefighters

during Newcastle's Christmas event. We are getting 2 fire academy interns. This will give us 3 people on our Engine Company, both shifts. Director Sprouse wanted to remind the public that the Fire Department is a public entity. There has been trash dumping, car abandonment and other problems.

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighters Report

There have been changes in the leadership of the NPFA: Captain Potter has been replaced by Captain Kirk as President and Matt McCoy has stepped into the position of VP. The Firefighters contracts are up January 31st, and Captain Kirk has reached out to start negotiations.

9. Board Committee Reports:

A. Building Committee: New Fire Station Update- Phase 2- By reducing the square footage of the building, changes are required on the layout. Directors Bettencourt and Enos are working with the architect. PGE gave an estimate of \$59,000 for the transformer/electrical work. Because there is a rate increase coming, Director Bettencourt recommends waiting for payment until all changes are accounted for.

10. Informational/ Non-Action Items

A. Status update of the Van Pelt parade vehicle

The Van Pelt wasn't used for the Christmas parade because it's broken. The Directors would like the engine to belong to the District. Director Elder was concerned about the legality of giving away community property to another group. Director Sprouse reports that although the engine is insured by NFPD and stored in our building, the title is in Wayne Hickok's name. Director Kahrl asked if there was any demand for the vehicle, and whether it involved donations, and the firefighters said yes. Director Bettencourt said he would be uncomfortable using it unless it was actually in the District's name. Chairman Sprouse asked how the donations had been tracked and was told that they had not been. Currently, the association elects a caretaker for the engine (currently Wayne Hickok) and if something happens to the caretaker, another one is elected. Director Sprouse reiterated that the goal is to have the engine stay in our District in perpetuity. He suggested that legal papers be drawn up to meet that goal, perhaps an irrevocable trust. We will proceed in finding a solution that makes us all happy.

B. Placer County Fire Districts' Financial Stability Task Force progress update:

Chief Kushen reported that he, Director Reams, Director Hill, Director Bettencourt, Chief Gow and County Officials have been working toward developing recommendations to present to County on alternative funding for our fire districts. Chief Cow met with the County CPO to bring a draft before our boards in a timely fashion.

11. Action Items:

A. Consider and approve the purchase of new beds. The current beds are worn out. The Board voted unanimously to purchase new beds (~\$1600) with Director Enos absent. **(Sprouse/Elder)**

B. Review the Cultural resources survey of the new station site and update of site preparations.

Director Bettencourt reported that we found 11 foundations on site and several bags of artifacts. We returned to our original archeologist to keep costs low. All artifacts seemed to be Chinese in origin and dating from the 1800's and 'not of significant value'. There were no Native American artifacts found. There was discussion on what to do with the artifacts which included

placing them on display in the new station, donation to local museums or put up to auction to raise funds for Van Pelt. Director Bettencourt will take the items to a museum for evaluation. There was no action taken. There was discussion about the WWII plaque outside the station to make sure that it goes to the new building.

Director Bettencourt also reported that they expected 13,000 yards of dirt to be used and have used 7,000 to date and we are currently 8' below the final grade. The slope has been changed to 2:1. There is a request for payment from Mendez for \$129,000. Getting the 'free' dirt has been delayed because of permit problems.

12. Directors Reports:

Director Sprouse would like to have the sign at the building updated.

Director Bettencourt suggested a move to Newcastle School for meetings.

13. Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday January 17th, 2018

Location: TBD

Respectfully submitted by

Heather Pier
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____