

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, October 17, 2018  
9211 Cypress St.  
Newcastle, CA 95658

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

- a. Chairman Elder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. VC Bettencourt led the Flag Salute.
- c. Directors Elder, Bettencourt, Enos and Sprouse were present. Secretary Kahrl was absent.
- d. Chief Kushen was in attendance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Director Enos made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/19/2018 meeting with the following revision, remove the following sentence, 9. a., i. 1) ~~Mr. Schmidt said it shouldn't be a problem.~~ VC Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries.

**4. Bill Approval and Financial Report**

- a. Chief Kushen reported the following:
  - i. We still have not received any financial reports from Placer County. They're still having significant issues with the new financial software.
  - ii. Payroll is slightly higher than normal because of the Strike Team deployment and the Assistance by Hire assignments.
  - iii. All else is within normal limits. Overall, we have spent 37% of the FY budget with 31% of the FY elapsed.

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. None

**7. Fire Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Kushen introduced the new Fire Marshal, Vernell Brothers. Chief further explained that a grant is funding the Fire Marshal position for 1 year and that PHFPD was in the process of writing a grant application to continue funding the position beyond the first year.
- b. In September, there were 53 calls:
  - i. 24 Medicals
  - ii. 1 Vegetation Fires
  - iii. 3 Structure Fire
  - iv. 8 Vehicle Accidents
  - v. 2 Vehicle Fires
  - vi. 1 Smoke Check
  - vii. 4 False Alarms
  - viii. 6 Public Assists
  - ix. 4 Cover Auburn City

- b. Foresthill's tax measure didn't pass. It received 65.72% of yes votes. Just shy of the 66.7% required for passage.

**8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association**

- a. Captain Kirk reported that effective 10/1 the Association has new officers. Matt McCoy is President, Shannon Shaw is VP, and Kenny Kolster is the Secretary/Treasurer.

**9. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Building Committee: New Fire Station Update
  - i. VP Bettencourt reported the following:
    - 1) The plans with the reduced square footage have been submitted to Placer County.
    - 2) He met with George Rosasco of the Building Department and submitted new elevations.
    - 3) They are still working on the bid documents and specification manual to go out to bid.
    - 4) They are working on final applications and getting the updated fees for PCWA, SPMUD, and PG&E.
    - 5) Regarding the generator. VC Bettencourt recommends spending about \$500 to get the generator serviced. This should be added to the November agenda.
    - 6) Regarding the additional funding request to Placer County. The Treasurer's office has requested several documents including the 10 year plan. It will be important for the District to take the annual COLA increases on the current direct charges (measures F and B).

**10. Informational/Non-Action Items**

- a. Introduction of Fire Marshal Vernell Brothers.
  - i. This was already done during the Chief's report.

**11. Action Items**

- a. Will the Board of Directors of Newcastle Fire Protection District support the collaborative efforts of the fire districts of Placer Hills, Foresthill, Newcastle and Penryn in the development of an application to submit to Placer County LAFCO to reorganize into one fire district?
  - i. Chief Gow spoke to the history of the reorganization efforts.
  - ii. There was much general discussion between the board and the audience. The discussion focused on the fact that this action in no way commits the district to reorganization. It simply will allow PHFPD to include Newcastle in working toward the possibility of reorganization.
  - iii. Resident, Neil Anderson is not in favor of filing a LAFCO application. This has been gone over a dozen times before. He does not want to see the taxpayers lose local control of their fire district.

