

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
645 Kentucky Greens Wy.
Newcastle, CA 95658

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairman Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Captain Greg Kirk led the Flag Salute.
- c. All Directors were present.
- d. Chief Kushen was in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Secretary Kahrl made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. VC Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries.

3. Approval of Minutes

- i. VC Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17th regular meeting as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries.

4. Bill Approval and Financial Report

- a. Chief Kushen reported the following:

Revenues:

From the *draft* end of year County report, we received 100% of our budgeted Property tax and Measure B and F revenues.

We have purchased PPE and submitted for payment on our 2018 VFA grant (\$1500) We only purchased the items in June (back ordered issues).

Fire Development, Construction and Permitting Fees:

July 2019

➤ New Homes

Sprinkler Systems (3).....	\$2250.00
Propane (4).....	\$500.00
WUI (4).....	\$500.00
Driveway Inspection.....	<u>\$125.00</u>
Total.....	\$3375.00

Inspections July: 2019

- Commercial (2)
- Business (4)
- Defensible Space (9)

Last Month Info:

Expenses:

Over in equipment and apparatus maintenance

Over in Fire protective clothing; intern and volunteer equipment

Salaries are over due to strike team/cover assignments, coverage for sick/vacation time and the OT for filling the vacant engineer's position.

County reports:

We were informed that we would receive the final county report for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 in early August. We still cannot produce the final 2018/19 numbers until we receive these month 13 reports from last year. Both the 2018-year end and month 1 for this FY year are projected to be ready this week. We have not yet received the final 2018 numbers nor the July 2019 numbers from the county as of this morning.

We have received two proposals for the Fire Facility Fees study that is agendized as action item 11A

Chairman Bettencourt wants to make sure that the \$44K from Cal Fire is credited back to FY 18/19 so the year end totals are not upside down.

On page 1, the HME is gone and should be removed from the report.

VC Elder made a motion to approve the partial financial report as presented. Secretary Kahrl seconds the motion. Motion carries.

5. Correspondence

- a. Secretary Kahrl reported that he has been in touch with President Hills from PHF regarding equipment maintenance and the fire prevention program. There is nothing definitive to report at this time.

6. Public Comment

- a. Sue Stack:
 - i. With the recent commercial truck fires, can NFPD enact an ordinance to charge for services at these incidents?
 - 1) Chief Kushen reported that we currently use *Fire Recovery USA* to charge non-residents for these types of incidents.
- b. Glenda Freeman:
 - i. The website has not been kept up to date with previous agendas and minutes for the last several months. April, May and June 2019 are not posted.

7. Fire Chief's Report

Responses: Total – 56

Struct. Fires –10; Veh. Fire – 1; Veg. Fire – 5; Medical Aid –26; Vehicle T/C's –3; Haz-Mat – 1; Misc. – 10

Significant Incidents:

8/4 - Fully involved structure fire extended into vegetation.... upon arrival.

Received assistance from PHF, ABR, SPL, RYN, NEU. 100 degree day. Two FF's transported to SAFH for heat related injuries. Both treated and released.

8/5 - Fully involved semi-truck I-80 E/O Auburn hauling hay.

8/18 – Fully involved semi-truck fire that extended into the vegetation. 41 first on scene, containing the vegetation fire to appx. 1 acre, eliminating a significant threat to the community. RYN, SPL and Cal Fire assisted in this significant extended incident.

8/19 – Another fully involved semi-truck fire at 0100 that kept our crews committed for several more hours.

Multiple small roadside spot fires on W/B I-80 today. Quickly contained.

Apparatus:

The Rio Vista Engine on loan to us will be out of service for some tank repairs covered under the lifetime plastic tank warranty. There should be no budget impact to NEW from this repair. B-41 has been our primary engine this last week.

Staffing:

We are continuing the final background investigations for our Engineer candidates.

We have started our new Intern FF's. Unfortunately, our A shift F/F is unable to continue working. He will be eligible to reapply in the future

Grants:

We are awaiting the information from FEMA on a grant application pending for a fire engine.

ISO:

We received notification today of our upcoming October 2019 ISO 5-year Evaluation. PCWA has not agreed to provide all required ISO information and water system calculations for the ISO survey. If the limited information they do provide for ISO is insufficient, PCWA will charge a fee to provide this required information.

Administration:

FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019

There will be a Town Hall meeting in Auburn on August 28th starting at 6 p.m. at Gold Country Fairgrounds' Placer Hall. Placer County will host California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara for a community town hall Aug. 28 in Auburn on the fire insurance challenges facing many Placer residents. There is more info on this event in the link below.

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/6037/Fire-insurance-town-hall-set-for-Aug-28->

PG&E has set up a special Wildfire Preparedness section on their web site with information including preparing for potential power shut-offs. PG&E held a Wildfire Safety Open House on July 24th in Auburn. If you'd like to learn more about their efforts this summer, and how it impacts customers, I've requested our web site administrators to add links with additional information to our Newcastle Facebook page.

We have also requested a link to the Placer County OES site be added to assist with disaster preparedness information.

Last Month there was a request for a comparison of other Special District Fire Special Taxes.

SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTER APPROVED FUNDING

AGENCY	CHARGE PER SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE	TOTAL
<i>PLACERHILLS</i>		
PHFD FEE	76.26	337,492.02
PHFD2004	62.50	277,212.62
MEASURE A	185.00	947,570.00
Total	323.76	1,562,274.64
<i>NEWCASTLE</i>		
MEASURE F		163,337.88
MEASURE B		336,270.80
Total		499,608.68
<i>FORESTHILL</i>		
MEASURE M (2004)	138.74	340,190.48
MEASURE B (2019)	240.38	738,206.98
Total	379.12	1,078,397.46

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- a. Engineer McCoy reported the Professional Association is working with IAFF L3800 to become adopted members.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee (Bettencourt/Elder): New Fire Station Update (Chairman Bettencourt reporting)
 - i. Since this is a public job using public funds, 100% accuracy is required for all accessibility issues.
 - ii. The plans have been sent to the *Accessibility Specialist* through Tricorp.
 - iii. Hoping to submit the final plans to Placer County by the end of August.
 - iv. Because of the recurring delays, it was decided to invite Ron Lichau to the September board meeting. Chairman Bettencourt will contact Mr. Lichau.

- v. Glenda Freeman inquired as to whether or not the new station will be outfitted with a *Safe Surrender* specialized cradle box.
 - 1) Chairman Bettencourt reported that the new “specialized” box is not in the current plans.
- vi. SPMUD sent a letter to Gabe Mendes saying a portion of the sewer line, that he didn’t touch, but was buried under an additional 25 feet of dirt, has a deviation in it. SPMUD sent a camera down the line. They would like Mr. Mendes to fix it. Mr. Mendes sent an email to Chairman Bettencourt saying a “substantial completion notice was given in 2018. There is a 1 year warranty which has already expired. Mr. Mendes checked the portion in question and said it is flowing just fine and he doesn’t feel responsible to repair it. Chairman Bettencourt has sent an email to SPMUD but has not received a response. Mr. Mendes has estimated an additional \$30K-\$40K if he has to repair the line.
- vii. Sue Stack inquired regarding the “5 year, build it or give it back” clause attached to the new station land donation. Chairman Bettencourt asked for this topic to be put on the September agenda.

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Hazardous Abatement Ordinance:
 - i. Fire Marshal Brothers reported that the ordinance will be ready for a first reading at the September meeting.
- b. Discussion and direction on the Fire District’s property at the Chantry Hill Baseball Field.
 - i. There was general discussion between the board and audience with regard to ownership of the ball field property. The President of the Newcastle Little League was in attendance and reported that the league carries liability insurance with NFPD named as an additional insured.
 - ii. Chairman Bettencourt ended the lengthy discussion asking staff to find out and report back the following:
 - 1) What land does the district actually own?
 - 2) Is the liability insurance sufficient?
- c. Discussion on the draft of the final budget for FY 2019/2020.
 - i. Chief Kushen reviewed the draft final budget with the board and audience. There was much general discussion. The final budget will be presented and voted on at the September board meeting.

11. Action Items

- a. Consider and accept a proposal to prepare an updated *Fire Facilities Impact Fees* study.
 - i. Chief Kushen reported that two bids have been received.
 - 1) Willdan’s bid: \$9K.
 - 2) Capitol PFG bid: (not to exceed) \$5K
 - ii. After general discussion VC Elder made a motion to accept the bid by Capitol PFG. Director Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. **CLOSED SESSION:** Government Code §54957.6(a) Conference with the District’s labor negotiators Enos and Kahrl.
 - i. Adjourned to closed session at 7:25 p.m.
 - ii. Reconvened open session at 7:45 p.m.
 - iii. Chairman Bettencourt reported that the closed session discussion was about a tentative agreement.

- c. Consider and approve the MOU between Newcastle Professional Firefighters Association and Newcastle Fire Protection District for the term of 7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020.
- i. Secretary Kahrl reported the following:
 - 1) Committee went through a series of 3 meetings with the Association. They initially came in with a limited number of proposals.
 - 2) Assn. proposed \$2.50/hour pay increase. District negotiated a pay increase of \$1.50/hour.
 - 3) District proposed a longer term for the new MOU. Assn. was not interested in a multi-year agreement.
 - 4) Assn. proposed \$5K in matching funds to 457(b). District agreed to \$2K in matching funds.
 - 5) Assn. proposed District pay for hotel rooms for crews while deployed on strike teams. District agreed that hotel rooms should be authorized during deployment.
 - 6) Sick leave accrual has been increased from 10 hours/month to 14 hours/month which is more in line with neighboring districts.
 - ii. Secretary Kahrl supports the proposed MOU.
 - iii. Director Enos supports the proposed MOU.
 - iv. Director Heisterkamp supports the proposed MOU.
 - v. VC Elder supports the proposed MOU.
 - vi. Chairman Bettencourt stated: District will go into reserves to fund the proposed contract. Initially thought it would be approximately \$30K. It looks now like it will be closer to \$50K. This will affect future pay raises. It is very limiting to the district since it is only a one year contract. For those reasons, Chairman Bettencourt will be voting no on the proposed MOU.
 - vii. VC Elder made a motion to approve the MOU between the Newcastle Professional Firefighters Association and the Newcastle Fire Protection district for a term of one year (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020). Director Enos seconds the motion.
 - 1) Bettencourt NO
 - 2) Elder AYE
 - 3) Kahrl AYE
 - 4) Enos AYE
 - 5) Heisterkamp AYE

MOU is approved.

12. Directors Reports:

- a. Secretary Kahrl reported that he and VC Elder attended the Foresthill Forum meeting for the Placer County presentation related to fire service in the region. The County's presentation was not what was expected and was not informative.

13. Chairman Bettencourt adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

Approved: _____