

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
Pursuant to the Governor's Special Order N-29-20, issued March 17, 2020, the August 19, 2020 Regular Board of Director's Meeting was held via teleconference.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

- a. Chairman Kahrl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Director Heisterkamp led the Flag Salute.
- c. All Directors were present except Enos who arrived at 6:31 p.m.
- d. Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano and BC Slusher were present.
- e. Chairman Kahrl expressed condolences to VC Bettencourt on the loss of his great-nephew recently. He also sent well wishes for a speedy recovery for Chief Gow's son who is currently hospitalized.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Chairman Kahrl asked that item 11. (C) be scratched from the agenda as HR 7073 no longer exists. It is now SB 4308 and is currently part of the stimulus package being considered by Congress. Secretary Elder made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. VC Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (4/0, Enos absent).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Secretary Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting as presented. Director Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0, Enos absent).

**4. Bill Approval and Financial Report**

- a. Chief Gow reported that there isn't anything out of line in the financials. The radiator repair for E41 may cost as much as \$1500.  
VC Bettencourt made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Secretary Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (4/0, Enos absent).

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. None

**7. Fire Chief Gow's Report:**

- a. Chief Gow reported that July was a busy month.
- b. Chief is currently working on the reporting requirement of SB 1205 and will bring it to the board as soon as he can.
- c. Chief is working on a proposal to the PHF Board that would allow for a third Battalion Chief to be hired instead of replacing the Fire Marshal. The proposal will include the hiring of a part time outside Fire Marshal. The plan is still being discussed amongst the command staff. NEW will receive a copy of the proposal at the same time it is submitted to the PHF board.
- d. With the resignation of Chief Higgins from Penryn, BC Slusher has been helping to cover the Duty Officer position. Penryn has asked for proposals to provide Chief services from South Placer Fire and Cal Fire.
- e. **BC Slusher reported the following:**  
July - 56 Calls for Service  
Two major incidents in August -

- Twin Peaks - structure fire - August 8th
- Howell Incident - Natural Gas Leak - August 16

COVID- For the first time in several months we are under the threshold for the state watch list. If we continue to trend this direction we could see an opening up of business in two weeks.

2643 cases in Placer County  
8.4% Positivity Rate  
102.4 cases per 100,000 residents

Support Services-

Engine 41 underwent a major repair for a replacement of a radiator and is back in service.

Both Engine 41 and Brush 41 are back in service and in quarters

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

- a. Engineer McCoy reported that the contract negotiations with the district have wrapped up. He thanked the district for their professionalism during the negotiations.

**Director Enos joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.**

#### **9. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Building Committee update on the new fire station.
  - i. VC Bettencourt reported that Supervisor Holmes' assistant, Beverly Roberts, has requested that all correspondence asking for reduced or waived permit fees for the new station be sent to Tim Wegner (Chief Building Official).

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

- i. Update on the agreement for services from Placer County Auditor-Controller for FY 2020/2021 for a cost of \$4,514.96.
  1. DM Lofrano reported that she has been working on getting bids for NEW to get their own checking account outside of the Placer County Treasury.

#### **11. Action Items**

- a. Virtual presentation of commendations to Kirk Kushen and Vernell Brothers.
  - i. Chairman Kahrl read the commendation to Chief Kushen aloud and again, thanked him for his service to the community.
  - ii. Chief Brothers was not able to attend the meeting, however, Chief Kushen thanked the Newcastle board on his behalf.
  - iii. VC Bettencourt made a motion to adopt both commendations. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (5/0).
- b. Consider and approve a contract with the Lowest Qualified Bidder for construction of the Newcastle Fire Station.
  - i. Chief Gow reported that the County Treasurer (Ms. Windeshausen) has been very supportive of the districts' efforts to build a new fire station. If she approves revised terms of the loan agreement, the proposal will go to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

- ii. CNW Construction Inc. submitted the lowest bid (after the withdrawal of JPB Designs) of \$3.124M.
- iii. District's counsel has determined that this bidder is qualified.
- iv. Director Heisterkamp made a motion to accept the lowest bid by CNW Construction Inc. in the amount of \$3.124M. This motion does not include the "*Intention to Proceed*" as that will be voted on by the Board later. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).
- c. Consider and approve a letter of support for H.R. 7073 making Special Districts eligible for payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
  - i. This item was scratched from the agenda.
- d. **CLOSED SESSION:** Government Code § 54957.6 (a.) Conference call with the district's labor negotiators, Directors Enos and Heisterkamp.
  - i. The board adjourned to closed session at 7:00 p.m.
  - ii. The board reconvened open session at 7:28 p.m.
  - iii. Director Heisterkamp reported that revisions to the MOU were discussed.
- e. Consider and approve the MOU with local 3800 for the term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
  - i. Chairman Kahrl made a motion to approve the MOU as discussed in the closed session. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

**12. Directors Reports:**

- a. Chairman Kahrl reported that all four incumbents have agreed to run for the board again in November. There are no other candidates challenging the incumbents so there will not be an election held to fill the vacant seats. This will save the district substantial money by not having to pay election costs.

**13. Chairman Kahrl adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_