

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 18, 2021 Regular
Board of Director's Meeting was held via teleconference and in-person at:
Long Valley Community Hall
2008 Rattlesnake Rd.
Newcastle, CA 95658

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairman Kahrl called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- b. Secretary Heisterkamp led the Flag Salute.
- c. Directors Kahrl, Heisterkamp, Enos and Bettencourt were present. Director Elder was absent.
- d. Chief Gow, District Manager Lofrano, BC Nelson and Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

- i. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

4. Approval and Financial Report

- a. Chief Gow reported that vehicle maintenance expenses are up just a bit otherwise, all other expenses are right in line with where they should be.
- b. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (4/0).

5. Correspondence

- a. None

6. Public Comment

- a. None

7. Fire Chief Gow's Report:

- a. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi introduced Frank Udvarhely, District 3 representative to the Greater Auburn Are Fire Safe Council (FSC):
 - i. Mr. Udvarhely gave a summary of some of the FSC projects:
 1. Applying for an educational grant from PG&E.
 2. Purchased big red flags for volunteers to place during Red Flag Events.
 3. Hiring a consultant to amass information for outside agencies who provide assistance during evacuations to use.
 4. FSC meets at 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month at the Auburn City Chambers, 1225 Lincoln Way, Room 10.
- b. Chief Gow reported:
 - i. Placer Hills Fire (PHF) has deployed their Type VI engine, 1 Battalion Chief (BC) and 1 fire line medic to the Dixie fire.
 - ii. Engine 41 is currently in the shop for repair of the leaking tank.
 - iii. Lexipol Policy review and approval will begin again next month.
- c. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported that:
 - i. Construction within the district has slowed down.

- ii. Currently working on a defensible space inspection at a large horse ranch on Rattlesnake Rd.
 - iii. Cleared 2 hazardous vegetation violations.
 - iv. Received a grant in the amount of \$5300 for green reflective address signs within the Newcastle and Placer Hills districts.
- d. BC Nelson reported-
- 1. 48 calls in July.
 - 2. Newcastle got a field save in Ophir last night.
 - 3. There was a structure fire in the Shirland Tract area. It was a hoarder house. One firefighter (not Newcastle) was transported to the hospital because of overheating.
 - 4. Newcastle did an outstanding job during the River Incident. They were able to respond to 7 calls in the first 2 hours.

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- i. Engineer McCoy is waiting for Union President Clayton Thomas to return from deployment in order to sign the approved labor contract.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. None

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Update on the Departments' COVID-19 response.
 - i. Chief Gow reports that staff are closely monitoring ongoing developments with the highly contagious delta variant. The crews have been running many COVID patient calls. Staff education is ongoing. The OSHA Self-Attestation as to vaccination status has been completed for all employees.

11. Action Items

- a. Building Committee: Update on the USDA loan for the new fire station and possible action on any outstanding items.
 - i. Secretary Heisterkamp reported:
 - 1. Busy couple of weeks.
 - 2. Discussion around environmental documentation. We provided the USDA with all of the environmental information, but it was in the form of several different reports. The USDA is accustomed to receiving the information in one document with indices and addendums. That is how they wanted Newcastle to prepare their submission. The request from the USDA came in on a Monday, with a Friday deadline.
 - ii. Director Bettencourt reported that the environmental reports had been done between 2013 and 2015. It was requested that the reports be updated prior to initial submission. The consultants that provided the original reports also did the updates. Mr. Vukas (USDA) found the original reports and updates to be confusing and asked for them to be summarized. The final document is roughly 450 pages in length. The summarized report has been re-submitted to Mr. Vukas.
 - iii. Secretary Heisterkamp is confident that by the September board meeting the district will have a letter of commitment from the USDA for a loan. The district needs to be planning for their

interim lender in September. The interim lender should be able to get us funding within 30 days.

- iv. For September agenda: Review and approve interim lender for construction loan.
- b. Consider and approve a Joint Operating Agreement with Placer Hills, Penryn and Foresthill Fire Districts.
 - i. Chief Gow presented the second draft of the proposed JOA to share staff amongst Placer Hills, Penryn, Foresthill and Newcastle. He requested that the board review the document and submit any changes to him. The final agreement will likely come back to the board at the September meeting for final approval.

12. Directors Reports:

- a. None

13. Chairman Kahrl adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

Approved: _____