

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 December 15, 2021 Regular Board of Director's Meeting was held via teleconference and in-person at:  
Long Valley Community Hall  
2005 Rattlesnake Rd., Newcastle, CA 95658

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

- a. Chairman Kahrl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Director Enos led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present.
- d. Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, BC Nelson and BC Williamson were present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. VC Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. VC Elder made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

**4. Approval of Financial Report**

- a. Secretary Heisterkamp moved to approve the financial report as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. Charles Withrow spoke to the board expressing interest in purchasing the old station to be used as a wine grape crusher. Chairman Kahrl asked Mr. Withrow to leave his contact information with the recording secretary.
  - i. Director Bettencourt asked that an agenda item be added to the January meeting appointing an ad hoc committee to address the disposition of the old station.
- b. Jon Anacker stated that his family said a Thanksgiving prayer for the Newcastle safety team.

**7. Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
  - i. Chief Gow put Local 3800 in touch with the El Dorado County Firefighter's Union regarding ERAF funding.
    1. ERAF stands for the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund and "excess ERAF" occurs when local property taxes are sufficient to support local schools without major state aid, a condition that occurs in counties with high property values and relatively few school children.
  - ii. A joint test for Engineer will be conducted. The previous candidate list has expired.
  - iii. The county board of supervisors is taking another look at re-districting.
  - iv. A Newcastle Fire Captain's vehicle was stolen from station 41. It was recovered a short distance away. It had run out of gasoline. We will be looking into security for outside of the station.
- b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reporting:
  - i. Inspections and plan reviews have slowed down due to the holidays.
  - ii. Will complete training of crews to perform inspections next week.
  - iii. Will be attending a County Fire Prevention Officers Meeting tomorrow.
  - iv. Working on securing the donation of a utility vehicle for Newcastle.
- c. BC Nelson reporting:
  - i. Structure fire on Chaparral Lane.

1. Resources on scene: 10 Engines, Ladder Truck, 4 Water Tenders and AMR Ambulance.

d. BC Williamson reported that there were 26 calls for service during the last storm.

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

a. None

**9. Board Committee Reports**

a. None

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

a. Chief Gow reports that there has been no change in COVID procedures. All stations remain closed to the public.

**11. Action Items**

a. Consider request from "Fire Recovery" to change its billing practices.

i. Chief Gow reported that a copy of the letter from Fire Recovery is included in the board packet.

ii. VC Elder made a motion to accept "option 2" of the Fire Recovery correspondence which would require a Battalion Chief or above to approve any direct billing of patients. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

b. Consider and approve the 1st reading (continued) of the Catastrophic Leave policy.

i. Chief Gow reported that most departments don't allow for the donation of sick leave under the "Catastrophic Leave" Policy. The union has asked to have sick leave donation included in our policy as employees don't accrue enough vacation or holiday time in a year to make any meaningful donation to another employee who is in need.

ii. Director Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the first reading of the Catastrophic Leave Policy as presented. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries 3-2 via roll call with Kahrl, Enos and Heisterkamp voting yes; Elder and Bettencourt voting no.

c. Consider and approve the 2nd reading of the Incident Deployment Rules of Engagement (Strike Team) policy.

i. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the second reading as presented. VC Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

d. Building Committee update on the construction of the fire station and possible action:

i. Director Bettencourt presented the following information:

1. Artist renderings of new station.

2. Construction is expected to begin in January, 2022.

3. 263 days of construction from notice to proceed.

4. New station must be completed by 10/31/2022 to get USDA funding.

5. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the notice to proceed. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

e. Consider and approve the meeting dates for 2022.

i. Chairman Kahrl requested that the 12/21/2022 meeting be moved to 12/14/2022.

ii. VC Elder made a motion to approve the 2022 board meeting dates as amended. Director Enos seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call (5/0).

**12. Director's Reports**

a. None

**13.** Chairman Kahrl adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

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Approved