

NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 15, 2015 @ 6:00pm

At 461 Main Street, Newcastle, Ca 95658

Meeting Minutes

Board Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman

Eric Sprouse, Vice-Chairman

Jonita Elder, Secretary

Rocky Robinson, Director

Robin Enos, Director

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman called meeting to order at 6:00pm. All Board Members present.

Chief Higgins in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

April 15, 2015 Meeting Agenda. After reviewing the posted agenda, Secretary Elder moved to approve the agenda as posted; seconded by Director Robinson. Motion carried out unanimously with all Board members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Sprouse made a motion to approve the submitted minutes for the board meeting of March 18, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out unanimously with all Board members present.

BILL APPROVAL

Monthly Expense Report – Month of April, 2015 spreadsheet presented and reviewed by Chief Higgins and Board; brief discussion and clarification on a few items.

Director Robinson made the motion to approve the monthly expense report as submitted; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out unanimously with all Board members present.

Financial Report: Email copy available upon request info@newcastlefire.org

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INFORMATIONAL/NON-ACTION ITEMS

(A) Chief's Report (by Chief Higgins)

Training for month of March – 381.5 personnel hours, Instructor 1A training with 26 participants and continued prepping for upcoming fire season.

Emergency Response for the month of March – EMS: 23, Auto: 8, Fire: 1, Public Assistance: 9,

Total of 41 responses

General Information: the “Raise I-80” project is continuing. The Horseshoe Bar overpass shutdown is scheduled for April 21-22.

(B) New Fire Station Update: Chair Jordan has no new information regarding the real estate. UPRR unresponsive, May 2015 timeframe for UPRR response still in effect. Discussion by Board members about alternatives concerning issues with sewer/plumbing problems at site.

(C) Discussion concerning contract with Penryn Fire for services renewal. Current contract will expire at the end of June, 2015. New contract proposal to include an increase from \$75,000 to \$93,000 for five (5) years. Discussion's by the Board members concerning contract increase for an addition of a part-time EMS Coordinator to aid the district contract and improve services. A suggestion from the floor to create a “Task Force” to review problems, costs and benefits is under consideration by the Board. Recommendation's to be made at May meeting.

New development Residential and commercial building plan checks are performed by County officials with fees going to the County. Penryn Fire Protection District has offered to perform these plan checks including the inspections needed and Penryn will receive the fees associated by each project. Chief Higgins will now be involved with each project from the beginning to the final inspection.

(D) Discussion by Board members concerning contract renewal for Neil Anderson's services for 2015-2016. Discussion of proposed an increase of \$500 to services contract to offset increased workload concerning a new report to be generated to the State Controller's office which describes various parcel tax situations.

(E) Discussion by Board members concerning cost of living adjustment (COLA) for measures F & B. Increase up to 2.5% is possible. Measures F & B have had no increases for 3 years. Several comments from the floor including a suggestion of a simple profit/loss statement from the floor to determine the Fire District's financial position is warmly received by the Board and is under consideration. This will be an action item for next month.

(F) Discussion by Board members about Prop 172 funds: Chair Jordan will have more information at next month's meeting. Prop 172 provides a .05% increase to the sales tax to benefit public safety, including fire protection districts. The Board is working with County Supervisors in receiving some of that tax revenue.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Jordan requests a motion to approve the contract renewal for Neil Anderson's services for 2015-2016. Vice-Chair Spouse made a motion to approve contract renewal; seconded by Director Robinson. Motion passed unanimously with all Board members present.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Enos: encourages all to attend the "Celebration of Newcastle" day on May 15, 2015.

Director Robinson: encourages all to be aware of SB520

Vice-Chair Sprouse: states improvement of reputation of Newcastle Fire District reported on by Chief Higgins is trending upward.

Chair Jordan: remarks how the NFD Board is important to the NFD reputation

Secretary Elder: Ditto to Chair Jordan's remarks

From the public: Encouragement from the public that the NFD and the Board are doing a good job and promoted the idea of the Board attending the Festivities on May 17 to mingle among and be more visible to the citizens of Newcastle.

Next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2015. Location: 461 Main Street.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.