

# NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**October 21, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

at 461 Main Street, Newcastle, CA 95658, Newcastle, CA 95658

## MEETING MINUTES

Board Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman  
Eric Sprouse, Vice Chairman  
Jonita Elder, Secretary  
Rocky Robinson, Director  
Robin Enos, Director

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

- (A) Chairman called meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All Board Members Present.
- (B) Chief Higgins in attendance.
- (C) Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

- (A) October 21, 2015 Meeting Agenda.  
Director Robinson moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Secretary Elder. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Conference with Labor Negotiators, Employee Organization; (Newcastle Professional Firefighters Association) (GC 54957.6) (District Negotiators: Jordan, Higgins, and Sergeant). 6:01pm – 6:37pm

### **4. OPEN SESSION:**

- a. The board met in closed session with legal counsel regarding MOU between the District and the Firefighters Association and many questions were asked and answered. The board feels very positive about the MOU at this time, however they agreed to table the vote on the MOU and continue the discussion two weeks out at a special meeting where they will take a vote at that time. The document will be posted to give the community an opportunity to prepare and review and ask questions.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- (A) Director Robinson made the motion to approve the submitted minutes for the special meeting of July 21, 2015; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out with a 4-0 vote with Directors present; Vice Chairman Sprouse abstaining as he was not present at the special meeting.
- (B) Director Robinson made the motion to approve the submitted minutes for the board meeting of September 16<sup>th</sup>; seconded by Secretary Elder. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.

### **6. BILL APPROVAL:**

- (A) Monthly Expense Report – Month of October, 2015. Spreadsheet presented and reviewed by Chief Higgins and board. Brief discussion and clarification on item 23 – legal service is for MOU.
  - Secretary Elder made the motion to approve the October monthly expense report as submitted; seconded by Director Enos. Motion carried out unanimously with all Directors present.
- (B) Financial Report: Email copy available upon request [info@newcastlefire.org](mailto:info@newcastlefire.org)

### **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (A) Chairman Jordan had comment on proper method of correspondence regarding Mr. Saladana's email and his gift deed. To the public: if you do have questions, sending questions to the Chief or Chair Jordan or the assigned person is the way to go, that way the Brown Act is followed and the issue is addressed in the right way.

### **8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter Association:**

(A) No reports from the Association.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

(A) none.

**10. INFORMATIONAL/NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

(A) Fire Service Options – Chief Lawrence Bettencourt (South Placer Fire District, Chief) Presentation on future options for the District. He received a letter from NFPD in June inviting him to discuss a merger, consolidation or contract for services with Newcastle and the Penryn Fire Protection District. The Draft Proposal includes possible district funding savings or consolidations; station closures; staffing plans; a possible Contract-for-Services; multiple agency cooperation and service coverage. The presentation is for initial consideration purposes only and the NFPD Board’s evaluation of the proposal and future potential contract opportunity.

(B) New Fire Station Update (Chairman Jordan)

- We are proceeding with permits. Caltrans has cleared our submittal. The County review is getting closer. The planning department is working on their items.
- Groundwork and fill progress: tree permit for tree removal is needed. An arborist is working on a report for the District and County and then clearing can start on the property.
- Per Chair Jordan, Permit dates are okay with regard to timeframes. The status of the loan from the County is okay.
- Per Chairman Jordan, regarding the schedule/progress – we have to wait and allow the process to happen as it needs to.
- Director Robinson would like to see a bulletized list or agenda on the fire station progress, so as to not delay the sharing of information to other board members restricted to discussions in monthly meetings. The board also feels that if more information is provided, then more help from others could potentially benefit the project.
- Chairman Jordan will look into posting more frequent updates to the District Website (as the Board suggested), for all to view the work that’s being done and the progress.

(C) Chief’s Report (By Chief Higgins).

- General information: The I-80 Bridge raising project is postponed until January 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will work out best for us as ROP students will be out for the semester. So the access in the Auburn City and Maidu Stations will be better if the facilities are able to be used by Newcastle.
- Emergency Responses for the months of September:  
EMS: 31 Auto: 5 Fire: 2 Public Assist: 11. Total of 49 responses.
- Chief Higgins will be leaving for LA on Sunday in a 4 day continued education training class. Also Friday/Saturday training this week.

**11. ACTION ITEMS:**

(A) Employee MOU Approval by the Board with discussion.

- The District will post the document for community review. **A special meeting will be held on November 4th at 6pm.** Also at that meeting the board will review a property deed adjustment and discuss Chief Bettencourt’s proposal.

(B) Property adjustment fees for reimbursement – presented by Neil Anderson.

- A property was adjusted last year, but the district assessed tax and charged him (Mr. Bellato). Mr. Anderson’s oversight. The Board approved the reimbursement correcting a \$27 fee.
- The Johnson property is a 4.7 acre property where the County separated a small piece of property, less than an acre. Mr. Anderson recommends, based on the size and arrangement of the property, a no-charge for the small piece. Director Robinson recommends the resident go to the County to resolve the issue. Secretary Elder agrees.
- Board asked how many taxpaying parcels are in the District. Per Mr. Anderson there are about 1,938 parcels.

(C) FEPP Agreement, RES# 2015\_11. (Federal Excess Personal Property=FEPP)

- We already have an agreement with the Federal Government. No Cost. This resolution is just to renew the agreement. In case we need the equipment or other items, we can access the property.
- Director Robinson made the motion accept the resolution and bring it resolution to a roll-call vote; seconded by Secretary Elder. Vote carries 5-0 with all directors present.

- **Roll Call Vote:** Chairman Jordan-Aye; Secretary Elder-Aye; Vice Chairman Sprouse-Aye; Director Robinson-Aye; Director Enos-Aye. **Vote Carries 5-0 all directors present.** Resolution approved.

**12. Board of Director Reports:**

(A) none.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.**

- 13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015. Location: 461 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gayle Capik, Recording Secretary