

NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

November 22, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

at 9211 Cypress Street (Engine Bay), Newcastle, CA 95658, Newcastle, CA 95658

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Board Present: Eric Sprouse, Chairman
Jonita Elder, Secretary
Robin Enos, Director
Neil Anderson, Interim Vice Chairman
Not Present: Lawrence Bettencourt, Interim Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

- (A) Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- (B) All Board members present with the exception of Mr. Bettencourt
- (C) Chief Gow was also in attendance.
- (D) Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- (A) November 22, 2016 Special Meeting Agenda.
 - Vice Chairman Anderson made the motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Director Enos.
VOTE: All in favor 4-0. Motion carried out with Board members present.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- (A) Consider and approve the MOU between the Newcastle Fire Protection District and the Newcastle Professional Firefighters Association.
 - Vice Chairman Anderson made the motion to approve the MOU as previously discussed; Seconded by Director Enos.
 - Anderson: Thinks the agreement is good. Managed to increase salary within our range of income. Thinks the terms and conditions of it are excellent. There was some concern (was hoping Lawrence could have been here). Some concern that we may have gone over what we said we had available by \$9K. Anderson disagrees with his calculations. Lawrence included too many people in the insurance. Calculation spreadsheet are covering other areas of the budget. Thinks we are in good shape. We will need to submit a new revised budget to the County. Previous budget was the wrong budget submitted. Per Secretary Elder, at the first of the year, will probably have to do a budget adjustment. Anderson thinks the MOU is good. It deals with the things the firefighters wanted, and we wanted to give them. Thinks we should approve the MOU.
 - Elder: Thinks that we have made an excellent agreement with the firefighters. For a long time they received low wages. Brought them up to where everyone else is, which is fair.
 - Enos: no comments
 - Chief Gow: no comments
 - Sprouse: Thank you very much to Neil, Joni, and Kristianne, the labor negotiation team and firefighters. He talked to Lawrence about being on ad hoc committee for finances. Being an ex-Chief...his conservative approach to doing the budget...different way of looking at it. The budget was hand calculated. Believes that the offer and what is on the table...is sustainable.

We still need to come up with sustainable budget to get our loan. Thinks it's sustainable as well. For it. Will attract firefighter staff. Staffed to be able to serve our communities. Strike team revenue potential is good.

- Resident comments: Bill Kahrl, NCA. Looked thru agreement, thinks it looks wonderful, and thanks for that. It appears under this agreement we will not be closing the fire station. Sprouse: We don't anticipate any closures. Potential for brown-outs of course. Has talked with Chief, and he doesn't foresee that either.
- **Roll call VOTE:** Secretary Elder – Aye; Director Enos – Aye; Vice Chairman Anderson – Aye; Chairman Sprouse – Aye. 4-0 all in favor. Vote carries with board members present.
- Sprouse: Let the minutes reflect that Lawrence Bettencourt (out of town with family during the holiday)...talked with him. Communicated ahead of time that he would not be here and it was approved.
- Anderson: Announced that this would be his last meeting. They will be swearing in somebody next time. Wanted to thank the board for putting him into this position. Glad he could help out. Thinks we've accomplished good things. Headed in the right direction. Thanks the board.
- Elder: thanks Neil...He's been a breath of fresh air on our board. He knows and does a lot of things. Has done a lot of work.
- Sprouse: Regarding the election - the counts...two away from final decision. Joni up by two right now. Hopefully wrap things up by tomorrow. As it is right now, we'll have Bill Kahrl, and Joni.
- Resident: Castle City has been cold, without hot water. They have gotten tests. Hopefully lighting the pilot for 200 residents soon. There were old pipes.
- NPFFA-Potter: On behalf of the Fighter's Association, wanted to say thanks for making things easier...transition with MOU. Really appreciate it.
- Sprouse: This MOU is significantly longer than the last one. It stretched out over 20+ months. Longer than a 12 year contract. That was part of the negotiations. Now we can settle in, get some work done, hopefully get station built, get some part-time firefighters on board, get some strike teams under our belt...and continue forward. Hopeful about everything.

6. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, Dec 21, 2016. Location: 461 Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle Capik, Recording Secretary