

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Special Board of Directors Meeting
November 15, 2023
Held via teleconference and in-person at:
Long Valley Community Hall
2005 Rattlesnake Rd., Newcastle, CA 95658

Amended 12/20/2023

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairman Kahrl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Secretary Heisterkamp led the flag salute.
- c. Directors Kahrl, Heisterkamp and Bettencourt were present. Director Elder was absent.
- d. Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, BC Williamson and BC Slusher were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chairman Kahrl requested that item 11(A) be addressed after the agenda is approved. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (3/0).

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Director Bettencourt made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18th regular meeting as presented. Secretary Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

4. Approval of Financial Report

- a. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the financial report as presented by Chief Gow. Director Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

5. Correspondence

- a. None

6. Public Comment

- a. Jon Anacker – Replaced bridge that crossed creek at his property. Now vehicles have access for fuels mitigation.
- b. Chairman Kahrl – When the Board of Supervisors is asked to continue the Chipper Program or not, the Fire Board should chime in and ask them to continue the program.

7. Chief's Report

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
 - i. Newcastle
 1. Former Fire Board member, Neil Anderson passed away. His service will be held on 11/16 at the Methodist Church in town (12:00 p.m.) with interment at Newcastle Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.
 2. There have been continued talks with the County Supervisor regarding reorganization efforts.
 3. The LAFCO MSR (Municipal Services Review) is continuing. Placer Hills met with the consultant. The study is expected to be complete in December or January.
 - ii. Penryn
 1. Nothing to report.
 - iii. Placer Hills
 1. Nothing to report.
- b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi Reporting:
 - i. 3 Single Family Dwelling (SFD) plans reviewed.
 - ii. 2 SFD hydro inspections.
 - iii. 2 SFD final inspections.
 - iv. 1 cell tower inspection.

- v. Mitigation fee increase was rejected by Placer County. They require a Capital Improvement Plan/Mitigation review. They were re-submitted to Placer County today and should come back to the Newcastle board in December.
- vi. The Board of Supervisors appointed Jon Anacker to the Auburn Fire Safe Council.
- c. BC Williamson Reporting:
 - i. 97% of business inspections have been completed.
 - ii. Since we have been in the new station for 1 year, the warranties will be expiring. PG&E will be dropping the line across the freeway tonight between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. tonight.
- d. BC Slusher Reporting:
 - i. 57 calls in October.
 - ii. Aid was provided 16 times.
 - iii. Aid was received 1 time (48 Planks structure fire).
 - iv. The extractor from PHF station 85 will be moved to station 41.
 - v. Captain Hickok was thanked for the excellent job he did building a redwood fence at PHF station 86.

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- i. Engineer McCoy reporting – Public is still stopping by the new station almost daily to check it out and schools are coming for tours.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
 - 1. No report.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
 - i. Chairman Kahrl reported about the Cal LAFCO meeting he attended in October.
 - 1. The importance of consolidating fire districts was discussed.
 - 2. In Placer County and other parts of California general plan amendments are focusing on open space. Specifically, why are we protecting farmland? Shouldn't we be turning this into affordable housing?

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. None

11. Action Items

- a. Fire Board vacancy: Interview applicants, appoint and seat the new Director.
 - i. One candidate, John Burns, applied for the vacant board seat.
 - ii. Mr. Burns was given the opportunity to address the board with his background and to ask any questions about serving on the board.
 - iii. Chairman Kahrl explained to Mr. Burns about the election cycles and standing committee assignments.
 - iv. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to appoint John Burns to the vacant board seat. Director Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (3/0).
 - v. Recording Secretary Metz administered the oath of office to Mr. Burns.
 - vi. John Burns took his seat at the board table at 6:10 p.m.
- b. Consider and approve the first reading of the Capitalization Plan.
 - i. Chief Gow reported that with the completion of the most recent audit, the auditor requested a Capitalization Policy be adopted. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the first reading as presented. Director Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- c. Consider and approve staff's request to purchase the following items:
 - i. Fuel vault for gas and diesel – approximate cost, \$20k - \$25k.

1. Chief Gow reported that approximately \$2.00 per gallon will be saved on both regular and diesel (from Hunt) if the district has its own vault.
 2. Secretary Heisterkamp reported that Newcastle no longer qualifies for a USDA equipment grant.
 3. The board discussed at length the financial implications of approving funding for both the fuel vault and the request to fund 8 new SCBA's at a cost of \$80k.
 4. The board declined to take action on item c. (i).
- ii. 8 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus – cost \$80k.
1. The board discussed with staff why new SCBA's are needed and if the existing SCBA's might be sold to recoup some of the funds spent on the new ones. Staff is certain that the existing SCBA's can be sold, but their value will have to be researched.
 2. The board focused on the fact that the new SCBA's are a safety issue and should be given priority funding (over a fuel vault).
 3. Secretary Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the purchase of 8 new SCBA's at a cost of \$80k. Director Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

12. Director's Reports

- a. None

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

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

Approved