

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Special Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2024
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 Burns led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present.
- d. Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, BC Williamson, and DM Armstrong were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Secretary Heisterkamp requested the following correction to the 2/21/2024 minutes, 9. Board Committee Reports, 1. 2nd bullet, ...” *will call Placer County*” VC Elder made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Director Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

4. Approval of Financial Report

- a. VC Elder made a motion to approve the financial report as presented by Chief Gow. Director Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

5. Correspondence

- a. Chairman Kahrl reported on a press release from the CA Insurance Commissioner: “Commissioner Lara announces next phase of Sustainable Insurance Strategy to safeguard Californians’ access to insurance.”

6. Public Comment

- a. Newcastle resident, Joanne English asked the board how hydrant locations are determined and if additional hydrants can be added.
- b. Jon Anacker – Thanked Director Bettencourt for being “tenacious” about building the new fire station.

7. Chief’s Report

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
 - i. Newcastle
 1. The new station furnishings have been ordered.
 2. E41 is currently out of service.
 - ii. Penryn
 1. Nothing to report.
 - iii. Placer Hills
 1. MOU with L3800 is done (pending approval).
- b. Fire Marshal D’Ambrogi Reporting:
 - i. 1 Single Family Dwelling (SFD) plan reviewed.
 - i. 1 SFD final inspection.
 - ii. 1 LPG inspection.
 - iii. Winery is beginning to build their water system. The majority of water is in Newcastle’s area.
 - iv. Director Burns was appointed to the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council at their last meeting.
- c. BC Williamson Reporting:
 - i. January and February 2024
 1. Fires -13
 2. Medical- 71
 3. Hazardous Cont.-14
 4. Service Calls- 17
 5. Good intent- 27
 6. False Alarms- 4
 7. Total 146

8. January And February 2023 total 171
9. -15% from last year.

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- i. Engineer McCoy reported that everyone is grateful for the new furniture.
- ii. Would like to open MOU negotiations with the district.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
 1. Director Bettencourt reporting:
 - PG&E will not re-schedule the transformer work until Caltrans extends their permit for the work to commence. PG&E is working on this.
 - Director Bettencourt verified with DM Armstrong that no check has been received from the county to reimburse the landscape deposit.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
 1. No report.

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Board to review LAFCO letter regarding Joint Operations Agreement and Agreement for Administrative Services.
 - i. Chief Gow reviewed the letter received from LAFCO dated February 28, 2024.
 - ii. The Placer Hills attorney has been consulted and requested to write a response.
- b. Board to discuss NFPD's parcel ownership at the Chantry Hill Ballpark.
 - i. Secretary Heisterkamp reviewed the data from the title search. The fire district owns the two small parcels; however, the "Village of Newcastle" owns the largest parcel. The board will need to further consider and take action to determine how the continued use of the field will be administered, specifically, the requirement for the Little League to provide insurance documentation indemnifying the district from year to year.

11. Action Items

- a. Consider and vote for the Special District Representative for Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission.
 - i. VC Elder made a motion to vote Chairman Kahrl for the "regular" Special District Representative position. Secretary Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).
 - ii. Director Bettencourt made a motion to vote Chairman Kahrl and Teresa Ryland for the "alternate" Special District Representative positions. VC Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

12. Director's Reports

- a. Director Bettencourt reported that the Newcastle and Placer Hills "Contracts" committees met. Placer Hills has reported that they are seeking a 10% increase to the administrative contract. If this happens, that will bring the percentage of the annual budget expended on salaries to 88%. Anything above 85% is worrisome.
 - i. Secretary Heisterkamp stated that it will be tight and that he will need to run the numbers.
- b. Secretary Heisterkamp reported that the plaque recognizing retired DM Lofrano has arrived. Requested that Chairman Kahrl write a letter to Gill letting her know.
- c. Director Burns reported on his being appointed to the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council.

13. Chairman Kahrl adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

Approved