

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
Long Valley Community Hall
2005 Rattlesnake Rd., Newcastle, CA 95658

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairman Heisterkamp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Chairman Heisterkamp led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present except VC Bettencourt.
- d. Chief Gow, DM Armstrong and BC Slusher were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Director Elder made a motion to approve the agenda with as presented. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Director Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21st regular meeting as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

4. Approval of Financial Report

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

5. Correspondence

- a. Secretary Burns reported that he received information that Summit Specialty Insurance Co. is now writing homeowners' policies in California. He will report further on this in July.

6. Public Comment

- a. Jon Anacker
 - i. His neighbor was recently burning, Engine 41 was called out. He is happy to report that the engine was able to turn around in his driveway without a problem.
 - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp expressed the Board's appreciation to Mrs. Anacker for the delicious cookies.

7. Chief's Report

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
 - i. Talks with Auburn City Fire to share command staff have progressed well. Not quite ready to share details yet.
 - ii. Annual employee physicals
 1. White paper is done.
 2. L3800 is ok with the scope of the policy.
 3. Should come before board in July.
 - iii. Strike Teams
 1. The State will be adding 10% to Strike Team pay rates. A side letter must be added to the MOU with L3800 citing the parameters for the rate change.
- b. BC Slusher reporting for Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi:
 - i. Fire Alarm Plan Review 1
 - ii. Hydro/Rough Inspection (SFD) 3
 - iii. Defensible Space Inspection 1
 - iv. LPG 3
- c. BC Slusher Reporting:
 - i. Call Volume May (67)
 1. Fire 6
 2. Overpressure 0
 3. Rescue EMS 42
 4. Mutual Aid Given 13
 5. Mutual Aid Received 6
 - ii. Year to Date (2025) 386
 - iii. Year to Date (2024) 364

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- i. Captain Shaw reporting:

1. The Local had a successful outing at the Newcastle Community Association event in May.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
 - i. Director Lee reported that the fuel tank has been installed and that the electrical wires have been run.
 - ii. The permit is in process.
 - iii. A procedure should be developed to ensure gas and diesel are not confused when fueling.
 - iv. Chairman Heisterkamp stated that we need to create a contract with the district's that will be using the pumps.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
 - i. Director Elder reported that this is a work in progress.

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Board to discuss Newcastle Fire's parcel ownership at the Chantry Hill ballfield.
 1. Chairman Heisterkamp left a message for the Superintendent, has not received a response yet. DM Armstrong is working on getting update insurance documents from the little league.
- b. Board to discuss the progress of the reorganization and the LAFCO process for Newcastle and Placer Hills Fire Protection Districts.
 - i. Chairman Heisterkamp reporting
 1. DM Armstrong will add the financial review documents to the website tomorrow.
 2. The cost of doing business has risen exponentially in the last few years.
 3. The reasons for wanting to do this merger include (but are not limited to):
 - Provide Advanced Life Support services to the Newcastle community.
 - Provide enhanced salaries, benefits and retirement to employees.
 - Be able to purchase replacement equipment.
 4. If the merger fails, Newcastle will likely face an employee retention problem.
 5. Newcastle is predicted to cover costs until 2028, then the outlook runs into the negative. Making the merger necessary.
 6. When the merger is successful, an overlay of Placer Hills tax assessments will be applied to Newcastle parcels (Newcastle's existing taxes will go away). This increase in Newcastle taxes is projected to increase the revenue of the merged district by \$100k/year.
 7. The merged district is not projected to operate "in the black" until 2031.
 8. To review the financial projections in full, please visit: <https://newcastlefire.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/25003-Placer-Hills-Newcastle-Fiscal-Study-Report-06-04-2025-FINAL.pdf>

11. Action Items

- a. Consider and adopt Resolution No. 2025-05 adjusting Tax Measure B by a Cost-of-Living increase of 2.7% for FY 2025/2026.
 - i. Director Elder made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-05 as presented. Director Lee seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- b. Consider and adopt Resolution No. 2025-06 adjusting Tax Measure F by a Cost-of-Living increase of 2.7% for FY 2025/2026.
 - i. Director Elder made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-06 as presented. Director Lee seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- c. Consider and adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 requesting collection of Measure B and Measure F charges on the tax roll for FY 2025/2026.
 - i. Secretary Burns made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 as presented. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- d. Consider and Approve Memorandum of Understanding for the terms and cost of \$6,220 for the Auditor-Controller services for FY 2025/2026.

- i. Director Elder made a motion to approve the MOU with the Auditor Controller's office as presented. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- e. Consider and Adopt Resolution No. 2025-08 amending the budget for FY 2024/2025.
 - i. DM Armstrong summarized the changes.
 - ii. Director Lee made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-08 as presented. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- f. Consider and Adopt Resolution No. 2025-09 Adopting the Preliminary Budget for FY 2025/2026.
 - i. Director Lee made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-09 as presented. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- g. Consider submitting a nomination for the vacancy of the alternate member seat representing special districts on Placer County LAFCO.
 - i. The board took no action on this item.

12. Director's Reports

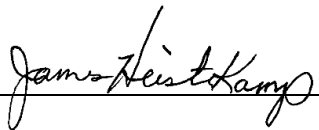
- a. None

13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary



Approved