

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
July 16, 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 6:01 p.m.
- b. VC Bettencourt led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present.
- d. Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi and BC Nelson were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chief Gow reported that there is an error at the bottom of the agenda. The next board meeting will be on August 20th. Chairman Heisterkamp requested that item 10. (A) be permanently removed from future agendas.
- b. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the agenda with as amended. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Director Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18th regular meeting as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries 4/0 via roll call vote with VC Bettencourt abstaining.

4. Approval of Financial Report

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

5. Correspondence

- a. Chief Gow reported that he has received the ballot from LAFCO for the upcoming election of the special district – alternate position. This will come before the board at the August meeting for action.

6. Public Comment

- a. Jon Anacker
 - i. Praying for a good outcome for both sides as it relates to labor negotiations.

7. Chief's Report

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
 - i. Newcastle's old SCBA's have been sold for \$9k.
 - ii. Policy manual updates may be ready for board consideration at the August meeting.
- b. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reporting:
 - i. Hydro/Rough Inspection (SFD) 3
 - ii. SFD Final 1
 - iii. Defensible Space Inspection 1
 - iv. LPG 5
- c. BC Nelson Reporting:
 - i. Call Volume Through 6/30/2025 - 393
 - 1. Fire 25
 - 2. Overpressure 0
 - 3. Rescue EMS 235
 - 4. Hazardous Condition 11
 - 5. Service Call 39
 - 6. Good Intent 72
 - 7. False Alarm 10
 - 8. Severe Weather 1

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- 1. No Report.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
 - i. VC Bettencourt reported that the permit for the fuel tank was issued on 7/5/2025 and expires on 8/5/2025. BC Nelson was asked to have the emergency shutoff sign installed.
 - ii. Would like to have the system in service by 8/5/2025.

- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
 - i. Chairman Heisterkamp discussed *Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)*. Vice Chairman Michelini from Foresthill Fire will present a sample JPA at the next meeting.

10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Board to discuss Newcastle Fire's parcel ownership at the Chantry Hill ballfield.
 - i. To be removed from future agendas.
- b. Board to discuss the progress of the reorganization and the LAFCO process for Newcastle and Placer Hills Fire Protection Districts.
 - i. Chief Gow re-capped the process up to now.
 - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp reviewed financial projections as created by the LAFCO consultant (Attachment A).
 - iii. Chairman Heisterkamp also reviewed a spreadsheet listing different scenarios for overlaying all or a combination of special assessments to adequately fund the proposed consolidation between Placer Hills Fire and Newcastle Fire (Attachment B).
- c. Board to review and discuss the draft Employee Physical Exam Position Paper.
 - i. Chief Gow discussed staff's recommendation for completing annual physical exams for safety personnel.
 - 1. Staff recommends staying with Occu-Med for pre-employment physicals as they are 100% covered by Newcastle's insurance provider.
 - 2. Contract with 1582 for annual physicals with any costs above the basic exam being paid by the employee.
 - 3. Approval Procedure:
 - Review with Command Staff
 - Review with Board Presidents
 - Send draft to all staff, boards and L3800.
 - Add to board agendas for 2-3 months for input and revisions as needed.
 - Final adoption and addendum to Policy #1021.
- d. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation update for 2026.
 - i. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi requested that *LHMP Update* be added to future agendas.

11. Action Items

- a. **CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to California Government Code § 54957.6(a.) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS; Discussion of Side Letter of Agreement with Local 3800. District Negotiators: Directors Burns and Heisterkamp.
 - i. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned open session at 7:22 p.m.
 - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp re-convened open session at 7:28 p.m.
- b. Consider and approve the Side Letter of Agreement with Sierra Nevada Firefighters, Local 3800 for a term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
 - i. Chairman Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the Side Letter. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

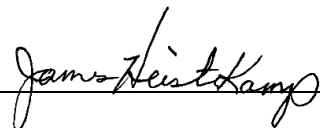
12. Director's Reports

- a. None

13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary


Approved