

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
November 19, 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. Secretary Burns led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present.
- d. Chief Gow, BC Slusher and BC Williamson were present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (5/0).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Secretary Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting as presented. VC Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries via roll call vote (3/0) with directors Heisterkamp and Elder abstaining.
- b. Chairman Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> with the following amendment: *item 1. (e.) VC Bettencourt Chairman Heisterkamp expressed his sympathies...* Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries via roll call vote (3/0) with directors Burns and Bettencourt abstaining.

**4. Approval of Financial Report**

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

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. Jennifer suggested that Newcastle develop a policy/procedure regarding battery powered vehicles. BC Slusher reported that currently there is not a county wide standard. All crews have had training on responding to battery powered vehicle fires provided by Tesla.
- b. Kathleen Kahl stated that she ordered a battery powered lawnmower from Amazon. The equipment didn't work; however, Amazon would not take the non-functional item back because of the batteries being hazardous.
- c. Jon Anacker had a great time taking his grandkids to the Veteran's Day parade.

**7. Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
  - i. ISO survey is complete. Newcastle's ISO rating will stay the same.
  - ii. BC Nelson has retired.
  - iii. The Tri-District awards dinner is tentatively scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.
  - iv. South Placer (SPL) Fire Chief Duerr has resigned effective at the end of the month. Deputy Chief Darin Snedeker will be the next Fire Chief.
  - v. SPL is planning to go back to the public for a new tax measure.
  - vi. SPL is planning to respond their ambulance out of Loomis beginning in December.
  - vii. Final Lexipol updates are forthcoming.
- b. BC Williamson reporting for Fire Marshal D'Ambrogio:
  - i. SFD Plans in 0
  - ii. Hydro/Rough Inspection (SFD) 0
  - iii. SFD Final 3
  - iv. Defensible Space Inspection 0
  - v. LPG 0
- c. BC Slusher Reporting:
  - i. Call Volume YTD – 716
  - ii. Total Incidents (October) – 60
  - iii. Call Volume YTD (2024) - 688

**8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association**

- i. No report.

**9. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
  - i. VC Bettencourt reported that the showers are being upgraded during the repair process.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
  - i. Chairman Heisterkamp reporting:
    - 1. Discussions regarding the possibility of establishing a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for South Placer Fire to provide ambulance service to Penryn and Newcastle have begun.
    - 2. The ambulance issue within Placer County is complex and will not be easy to address.

**10. Informational/Non-Action Items**

- a. 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.
    - 1. The final letter from LAFCO stating that the application for consolidation is complete.
  - ii. LAFCO now has 90 days to hear the application.
  - iii. LAFCO will most likely hear the application in February 2026. They will notify the public 30 days prior to the February meeting.
  - iv. Chairman Heisterkamp reported that a calendar of upcoming "key1" dates is being developed.
  - v. Secretary Burns had occasion to speak with Supervisor DeMattei. The Supervisor seems supportive of the application to consolidate.
- b. Board to review and discuss the draft Employee Physical Exam Position Paper.
  - i. Chief Gow reported that the committee will be meeting on Saturday to meet and confer with Local 3800.
- c. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation update for 2026.
  - i. BC Williamson reported that according to the survey, wind, weather and wildfire are the top 3 main concerns of survey respondents. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is next.
- d. Review and discuss the Sub-Joint Operations Agreement by and between Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHF) and Auburn City Fire Department (ABR).

Chief Gow reviewed the documents which were presented to the Auburn City Council by Chief John Rogers. The "sub-agreement" will be an extension of the existing Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) for shared staffing between PHF, NEW, Penryn Fire (RYN), Foresthill Fire (FHF) and ABR. FHF will not be a party to the new "sub-agreement".

**11. Action Items**

- a. Consider and adopt Resolution 2025-12 Adoption of the annual fee report, capital improvement plan and fee increase.
  - i. Chairman Heisterkamp opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.
  - ii. No public comment was received.
  - iii. Chairman Heisterkamp closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.
  - iv. VC Bettencourt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-12 as presented. Director Lee seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).

**12. Director's Reports**

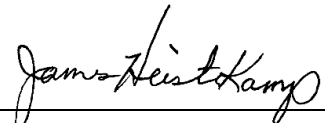
- a. VC Bettencourt will be absent from the December meeting.

**13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary



Approved