

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
December 17, 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. Directors Heisterkamp, Burns and Elder were present. Directors Bettencourt and Lee were absent.
- d. Chief Gow, BC Williamson and Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi were present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Director Elder made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (3/0).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Director Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (3/0).

**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 (3/0).

**5. Correspondence**

- a. Director Elder reported that she received communications from Mr. Tripp regarding the safety of the road at Shirland Tract, Andregg and Slade Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Tripp were present and will address the board during public comment.

**6. Public Comment**

- a. Wally Tripp addressed the board regarding an ongoing conflict with a neighbor in the area of Shirland Tract, Andregg and Slade Ridge. The road is currently 12 feet wide with a 5 mph speed limit. A neighbor wants to increase the speed limit to 15 mph to accommodate a commercial winery. Mr. and Mrs. Tripp are involved in a 5-year lawsuit which is close to going to trial. Previously, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi provided testimony during a deposition.
  - i. Chairman Heisterkamp thanked Mr. Tripp for his comments and suggested that he continue to work with Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi on this matter.
- b. Jon Anacker thanked the fire crews for all that they do.

**7. Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
  - i. Foresthill is talking about pulling out of the director's group.
  - ii. The new South Placer Fire Chief will join the group.
  - iii. South Placer Fire is planning to go back to the public for additional funding in 2026.
  - iv. South Placer is very interested in expanding their ambulance response area.
- b. BC Williamson provided the Fire Marshal report:

i. SFD Plans in	0
ii. Hydro/Rough Inspection (SFD)	0
iii. SFD Final	1
iv. Defensible Space Inspection	0
v. LPG	2
- c. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi provided a flow chart which breaks down Fire Prevention into four major categories, Pre-Development, New Construction, Vegetation Management/Risk Reduction and Inspections/Investigations. Each major category has multiple sub-tasks.
- d. BC Williamson reported that Captain Hickok completed the repairs of the first shower at station 41.

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

- i. No report.

**9. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
  - i. No report.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
  - i. No report.

**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.
  - ii. LAFCO will hear the application on February 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. They will notify the public 30 days prior to the February meeting.
- b. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation update for 2026.
  - i. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi stated that there isn't much new to report. He anticipates having the document ready for review in the new year.
- c. Review and discuss the Sub-Joint Operations Agreement by and between Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHF) and Auburn City Fire Department (ABR).
  - i. Chief Gow reported:
    - 1. ABR has signed the agreement.
    - 2. PHF has signed the agreement.
    - 3. The target start date is February 2026.

**11. Action Items**

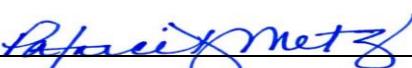
- a. Consider and approve the first reading of an addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy.
  - i. Chief Gow reviewed the proposed addendum to Policy 1021 Wellness and Fitness.
  - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp stated that with regards to addendum item 4, "*Employees who decline the District physical may see their own physicians and may provide a signed letter from the examiner. The District will pay for any costs not covered by the employees' insurance.*" A maximum dollar amount to be covered by the district needs to be indicated.
  - iii. The board did not take action on this item.
- b. Consider and approve meeting dates for 2026.
  - i. Director Elder made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates as presented. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (3/0).

**12. Director's Reports**

- a. Secretary Burns reported that there will be a Fire Safe Council meeting on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

  
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Approved