

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
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. VC Bettencourt led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present.
- 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. Director Lee seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (5/0).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Director Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17th regular meeting as presented. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries (4/0) with VC Bettencourt abstaining.

**4. Approval of Financial Report**

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

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. Jon Anacker appreciates the quick response when he emailed a question to Chief Gow.

**7. Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
  - i. Finalizing the Lexipol updates. Will be ready for the first reading in February.
  - ii. The County Fire Chiefs are actively discussing ambulance service in Placer County.
  - iii. Eric Reams has been promoted to Battalion Chief at Placer Hills.
  - iv. Joint testing (all 4 agencies) for Engineer is being coordinated.
- 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 0
- c. BC Williamson provided the Operations report:
  - i. 70 calls for service in December.
  - ii. Aid given to other agencies: 14
  - iii. Aid received: 6
  - iv. Total incidents in 2025: 820
  - v. Total incidents in 2024: 781

**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. Chief Gow is working on setting up the next meeting.
  - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp would like the meeting scheduled after 2/11 (LAFCO meeting).

**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. Has posted the Notice of Public Hearing to property owners within the Newcastle Fire Protection District.

- iii. Chief Gow is confident with the process.
- iv. LAFCO will hear the application on February 11, 2026.
- v. Chairman Heisterkamp will not be able to attend the LAFCO meeting but has written a letter to the commission.
  - 1. Chairman Heisterkamp would like any attendees at the LAFCO meeting to follow Chief Gow's lead when it comes to discussions.
- vi. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported that post cards with the dates of the upcoming Town Hall Meetings have gone out. They will be held on 1/31/2026 at 2:00 p.m. and 2/3/2026 at 6:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Long Valley Community Hall.
- b. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation update for 2026.
  - i. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reporting:
    - 1. Draft copies of each agency's annexes have been sent out and reviewed by staff. Corrections were made and returned to consultants.
    - 2. Planning committee meeting to be held in February to review the final draft.
    - 3. Public meeting to be held in March to review.
  - 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. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi and District Manager Armstrong are working on the contracts.
      - 2. Plan to go "Live" on 1/31/2026.

#### 11. Action Items

- a. Consider and approve the first reading of an addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy.
  - i. Chief Gow reported that the requested changes have been incorporated.
  - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp made a motion to approve the first reading of the addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy as presented. VC Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).
- b. Election of Board officers and appointment of Board Committees.
  - i. Chairman Heisterkamp made a motion to keep the slate of board officers the same since there will be upcoming changes when the reorganization with PHF is complete. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).
    - 1. Chairman: Heisterkamp
    - 2. Vice-Chair: Bettencourt
    - 3. Secretary: Burns
  - ii. VC Bettencourt made a motion to keep the board committee assignments the same. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (5/0).
    - 1. Building Committee: Bettencourt/Lee
    - 2. Personnel Committee: Burns/Heisterkamp
    - 3. Finance Committee: Elder/Heisterkamp
    - 4. Contract Administration: Bettencourt/Lee
    - 5. Inter-district Ad Hoc: Heisterkamp/Elder

#### 12. Director's Reports

- a. Secretary Burns reported that the North Auburn and Ophir Fire Safe Councils are merging with the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council.

13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

  
Approved