

Newcastle Fire Protection District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
March 18, 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. Chief Gow led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present except Director Lee.
- d. Chief Gow, BC Williamson and Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi 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 (4/0).

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (4/0).

4. Approval of Financial Report

- a. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the financial report as presented by Chief Gow. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (4/0).

5. Correspondence

- a. None

6. Public Comment

- a. Jennifer – Attended the recent MAC meeting. There was discussion about the recent garage fire where solar batteries burned. A firefighter was sent to the hospital.
 - i. Captain Hicks and Engineer McCoy were on that call and reported that they are okay, but that this was a very hazardous situation.
- b. Jon Anacker –
 - i. Reported that he missed the LAFCO meeting in February where the vote to approve the merger with Placer Hills Fire was taken. He attended the March meeting and thanked the commission for approving the merger.
 - ii. He attended the Q & A meeting hosted by the Newcastle Community Association. He thanked the crews that were in attendance to answer questions.
 - iii. Great job by Chairman Heisterkamp regarding the letter published in the Auburn Journal about the benefits of the merger with Placer Hills Fire.

7. Chief's Report

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
 - i. Having frequent meetings with command staff. The agreement for shared services with Auburn City Fire is working out well.
 - ii. Western Placer County Fire Chiefs Association (WPFCA):
 - 1. There is new cooperation with Cal Fire and South Placer Fire (SPL) as both agencies have new Fire Chiefs.
 - 2. The current discussions center around communications. There are currently five dispatch centers in the county. This is a complex issue and will not be easy to address.
 - 3. The county chiefs are talking with American Medical Response (AMR) about the future of ambulance service in Placer County.
 - iii. The plan is to complete the Engineer/Paramedic hiring process on Friday (3/20).
- 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 1
- c. BC Williamson provided the Operations report:
 - i. 820 calls for service in 2025.
 - ii. Aid given to other agencies: 208

- iii. Aid received: 46
- iv. The bathroom repair project is complete.
- v. VC Bettencourt reported that after a little over two years, both shower pans in the station cracked. Staff ripped everything out. It was discovered that the holes for the drains had been cut larger than they needed to be so the shower pans cracked over the openings. The plumber came back and repaired the drain openings. The showers were upgraded to tile. VC Bettencourt is trying to recover the cost of the original pans. We will never recover the labor costs. The cost of the shower repair/upgrades: \$1,645.91.

8. Newcastle Professional Firefighter's Association

- i. Engineer McCoy reported that he and Captain Shaw have attended two events regarding the merger with PHF. The events went well with a lot of good discussions.

9. Board Committee Reports

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
 - i. Covered in 7. c.
- 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. There is one more week in the protest period.
- b. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation update for 2026.
 - i. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reporting:
 - 1. The plan will be going to the public for review on March 23rd.
 - 2. The public meeting date is TBD.
 - 3. The process should be completed in October or November 2026.
 - 4. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) survey is currently available on the district's website.

11. Action Items

- a. Consider and adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 Review and accept the state mandated annual fire inspection report for 2025.
 - i. BC Williamson reviewed the report.
 - ii. Director Elder made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-01 as presented. Secretary Burns seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- b. Consider and approve the second reading of an addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy.
 - i. Chief Gow reported that no changes have been made since the first reading.
 - ii. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the second reading of the addendum to the Wellness and Fitness Program Policy as presented. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- c. Consider and accept a proposal for the renewal of the district's insurance policy with CalMutuals JPRIMA for April 1, 2026 – April 1, 2027.
 - i. DM Armstrong reported that there has been a 9% increase in the premium. The renewal premium is \$48,246.00.
 - ii. The board discussed the fact that when the merger with PHF is completed, the policy will be cancelled and there should be a pro-rated refund of the premium.
 - iii. Director Elder made a motion to accept the proposal by CalMutuals JPRIMA for April 1, 2026 – April 1, 2027, at a cost of \$48,246.00. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- d. Consider and approve the audit for fiscal year 2024-2025 as prepared by Smith & Newell CPAs.
 - i. Chairman Heisterkamp reported that the audit looks good and there were no issues that require action.

- ii. VC Bettencourt made a motion to approve the audit as presented for fiscal year 2024-2025 prepared by Smith & Newell CPAs. Chairman Heisterkamp seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

12. Director's Reports

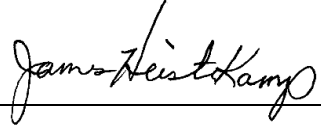
- a. VC Bettencourt congratulated Chief Gow on being inducted into the California Fire Chiefs Association Hall of Fame for 2025.
- b. Chairman Heisterkamp asked that a discussion item be placed on the April agenda for the appointment of two Newcastle board members to the new "merged" Placer Hills Fire board.

13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary



Approved