

Newcastle Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
April 15, 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. Secretary Burns led the flag salute.
- c. All directors were present except Director Lee.
- d. Chief Gow, BC Williamson, Asst. Chief Slusher, DM Armstrong 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. Director Elder made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 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. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously (4/0).

**5. Correspondence**

- a. None

**6. Public Comment**

- a. Letter from Captain Wayne Hickok read into the record regarding his re-assignment from Newcastle Station 41 to a station within the current Placer Hills Fire Protection District (post-merger). Captain Hickok expressed his gratitude at being able to spend his 40+ year career in Newcastle, but he is also disappointed at his re-assignment.
- b. Jon Anacker –
  - i. Feels that there was a lack of understanding by many residents of Newcastle regarding the inter-agency cooperation between Newcastle Fire and Placer Hills Fire. That said, he would like to put forth a request that the new combined fire district be given a new name that encompasses both combining districts.

**7. Chief's Report**

- a. Chief Gow reporting:
  - i. Working with Auburn City Fire is going well.
  - ii. Placer Hills staff are working on on-boarding the current Newcastle employees into the Placer Hills system. This will most likely be completed prior to 7/1/2026.
- b. BC Williamson provided the Fire Marshal report:
  - i. SFD Plans in 2
  - ii. Hydro/Rough Inspection (SFD) 0
  - iii. SFD Final 1
  - iv. Defensible Space Inspection 0
  - v. LPG 1
- c. Assistant Chief Slusher provided the Operations report:
  - i. 55 calls for service in March 2026.
  - ii. Aid given to other agencies: 3
  - iii. Aid received: 1
  - iv. YTD Calls (2026): 199

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

- i. None

**9. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Building Committee report on the new fire station.
  - i. VC Bettencourt is still working on recovering money for the shower replacements at station 41.
- b. Inter-district Cooperation Ad-hoc Committee.
  - i. No report.

## 10. Informational/Non-Action Items

- a. Status on Placer County Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan update for 2026.
  - i. Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reporting:
    1. LHMP draft is available for public review on the district's website.
    2. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) survey is currently available on the district's website.
    3. Evacuation/Transportation/Resiliency Plan:
      - Identify evacuation routes and how those routes can be improved.
      - It will be a very comprehensive plan.
      - Draft plan is expected by January or February 2027.

## 11. Action Items

- a. Consider a request from William and Judith Dawson to exempt Measures B and F for their property – APN 031-073-010-000.
  - i. Chief Gow reports that the parcel is not developable.
  - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp reported that historically, property owners have been encouraged to combine parcels. The board hasn't been approving these requests.
  - iii. The board declined to take action on this item at this time.
- b. Consider and approve a selection process for the board members of the reorganized Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Protection District.
  - i. Chairman Heisterkamp reported that PHF is going to use the same process as they currently use to elect board officers. He would like to recommend that NEW do the same to choose their representatives that will sit on the board of the reorganized district. Elections will be held at the May meeting.
  - ii. Chairman Heisterkamp made a motion to use the same process as is currently used to select board officers for the purpose of selecting two representatives to sit on the board of the reorganized fire district, effective 7/1/2026. VC Bettencourt seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).
- c. Consider and vote for the Special District Representative on the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission.
  - i. Chief Gow reported that staff respectfully requests that current special district representative Judy Friedman, be considered.
  - ii. VC Bettencourt made a motion to cast Newcastle's vote for Judy Friedman. Director Elder seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously via roll call vote (4/0).

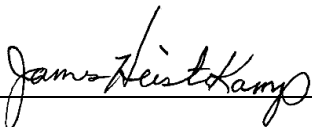
## 12. Director's Reports

- a. Chairman Heisterkamp reported that June will be the last official Newcastle Fire board meeting.

## 13. Chairman Heisterkamp adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Patrice Metz, Recording Secretary

  
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Approved