

Penn Valley Fire Protection District
PENN VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Penn Valley Fire Protection District was called to order by Chairman Farrell at 6:30 P.M. at Station 43. Michelle Thelen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

PRESENT

Directors: David Farrell, Kurt Grundel, Terry McMahan, John Pelonio and Bruce Stephenson

Absent: None

Board Clerk: Debbie Hughes

Others: Chief Wagner, M. Thelen, J. Favetti and other Fire Department personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

1. **Penn Valley Community Rodeo Association – Discussion and Possible Reduction of 2017 Rodeo Ambulance Invoice**

John Favetti, President of the PVCRA was in attendance to discuss the 2017 rodeo ambulance invoice. Chief Wagner explained that in the past they were charged actual hourly wages for the personnel that staffed the ambulance and \$28 per hour for the ambulance stand-by. Those rates came from our old fee schedule. Our new fee schedule was adopted by Ordinance at the April board meeting and became effective May 5, 2017. The PVCRA was never notified of the new rates and it hasn't been by contract. The charges for the last 4 years were an average of \$525 total and this year's amount is \$1,535. J. Favetti had a check ready to pay the total if necessary but hoped the board would reconsider a different amount. They hadn't budgeted for the higher rates. Director Pelonio motioned to use the old fee schedule for this year's ambulance invoice. Director Stephenson seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

M. Thelen notified the Board that we had good financial income with less expenses the last year. Vice- chairman Grundel motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director McMahan seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Chief Wagner attended the meeting this morning. He reported that:

- OES grants that the County were approved for are getting closer to being here.
- Cal Fire Station 40 has no engines there at night due to the septic system failure. They have engines staffed from 8AM to 8PM.
- The district has been receiving some complaint forms regarding non-compliance with Nevada County's Hazardous Abatement Ordinance. Cal Fire is also answering some of those complaints through their defensible space inspectors.
- The GVECC and Cal Fire incidents have been way up. There are lots of wildfires in the State. Cal fire usually has 7 engines in the unit and as of now there are only 3.
- S-SV EMS has added another county to their ambulance operating area agreements.
- Nevada County Fire Safe Council just came out with their 2017/18 Fire Season Guide.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE AGENCY (NCFA)

Vice-Chairman Grundel reported they have had trouble making a quorum. They are coordinating meeting this month to adopt their budget. He said they operated in the red last year due to unforeseen expenses. The State charges for leasing buildings for the repeaters and they haven't billed for the last 5 years. They just sent a retroactive invoice. The air compressor failed and that account hasn't been funded in some time. He's proposing the JPA borrow out of the general fund and start putting money back into the Capital Fund for a new air compressor and pay back the general fund; costs will have to be increased to the fire districts.

LAFCO

Vice-Chairman Grundel reported that Ed Beckenbach of North San Juan Fire was elected as Alternate Special District member. He also said that there will be no significant increases to the special districts next year.

PENN VALLEY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Chief Wagner said there is a meeting tomorrow night. They have implemented the breakfast menu changes.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

In addition to report in packet Chief Wagner stated that:

- He has promoted P/T FF Robert Radican to F/T. Andrew Goettle has received a promotion to Lieutenant effective 07/16/17 after doing well on the exam and by consensus of the Captains and Chief. Lt. Kadrie will officially be retired 07/14/17.
- This month finishes the 6 months for the interns. 2 of them will stay on. Cal Fire has been hiring them after they earn their Firefighter 1.
- Our new fire engine was placed in service 6/27 and we have been at 4 or 5 fires with it since then.
- The 4th of July went well; no fires or medicals, a few fireworks complaints. T. McMahan coordinated the fireworks task force.

- Included in the packet is a letter addressed to the United States Forest Service from Cal OES regarding non-payment from USFS to local government strike teams that are fighting fires on federal lands.
- For June we had 148 calls – up 12 calls from 2016.

EMS -

1. Captain Thomas stated that we are barely meeting our urban and rural response times. We have also had an increase in volume.
2. Included in the board packet were ambulance reports from Wittman through 5/31 and D. Hughes for billing and collection we did before 1/1/17. Wittman Enterprises has collected \$76,221. through May 31st and we have collected \$172,856 through June 30th so we are on track to probably go over the budgeted revenue for 2016/17. Staff will provide the board with an up to date accounting of billing, payments, and collections at the August board meeting.

FIRE PREVENTION –

1. Inspections are being performed by crew and Captain Thomas.
2. Captain Thomas attended Elderly Residential Care Facility training, NCSO emergency vehicle operations with the use of simulators training and Sacramento-Sierra Regional Arson Task Force training.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. CalPERS Cost to Upgrade Safety Members to Level 4 Survivor Benefits

D. Hughes said this has already been approved in MOU negotiations but the cost must be made public prior to approving the Resolution that is coming from CalPERS. The cost is \$941 annually.

2. Discussion and Approval of Nevada County Exclusive Operating Area Ambulance Provider Agreement with Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS

The last agreement was signed in 2007. Chief Wagner and Captain Thomas had changes that were beneficial to the district incorporated into the contract such as we were providing emergency ambulance service prior to June 1, 1980 which actually grandfathered us in for our district area under CA Health and Safety Code. Which means we couldn't lose our contract. S-SV EMS was amenable to the changes that were presented to them. Captain Thomas mentioned that in Section O Fees, Management/Monitoring fee the annual fee is \$1,025 annually with a 2% increase per year for five years. Director Pelonio motioned to approve the agreement. Vice-Chairman Grundel seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

Continued Discussion for Annual Operating Carryover

Chairman Farrell opened up the discussion stating the Special District Reserve Guidelines published by California Special Districts' Association that Director Pelonio shared in a previous board meeting had some good guidelines. Basically there are 5 components we need to look at, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned or designed fund balance, unassigned or undesignated fund balance and non-spendable fund balance. Chief Wagner said

that North San Juan Fire maintains a minimum of 10% reserve of their total operating cost, Nevada County Consolidated Fire and Higgins both reserve 2% months operating cost. Ideally we should be putting away money for vehicle debt, for a 10 year vehicle we should put away what that vehicle would cost in 10 years. Director Stephenson would like to get to a 20% uncommitted reserve especially since everything in the fire and EMS service is so expensive. The Committee members will try to set up a meeting and report back to the next board meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. Chairperson Farrell – The Auxiliary luncheon on Monday was very nice and successful; the Auxiliary donated \$45,000 for the mid-year donation.
2. Vice-Chairman Grundel – No report.
3. Director McMahan – Young NCCFD honorary firefighter Dawson passed away and the family asked if the fire department could have a presence at his celebration of life. Nevada County Consolidated Fire, Penn Valley Fire along with other fire departments escorted the family to Western Gateway Park. The family was very appreciative of everything everybody did especially NCCFD.
4. Director Pelonio – He thanked the quickness of the firefighters for quickly knocking down a fire on Burke Road – A 1/10th mile from his home.
5. Director Stephenson –
 - He was at Dawson's memorial and he thanked the troops (Chief and staff) for what they did that day.
 - North San Juan Fire had fire gear stolen out of their locked vehicle while on an emergency call.
 - Now that the new engine is in service he'd like to have a department photo taken with it.

Chief Wagner said that August 6th is a CPR class day for all department members.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:20 PM the board entered into closed session under Government Code Section 54957.6.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

At 9:45 the board came out of closed session. Chairman Farrell said no action was taken.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

(refer to red correspondence book)

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hughes
Clerk to the Board