

Penn Valley Fire Protection District
PENN VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018

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

PRESENT

Directors: Kurt Grundel, Joey Jordan, and Bruce Stephenson

Absent: Chairman Farrell and Director McMahan (both excused)

Board Clerk: Debbie Hughes

Others: Firefighters, Chief Wagner, CPA Lisette Hutchins, PVCRA representative Mark Frederick and M. Thelen

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Audit Review and Approval – Fiscal Year 2016/17 Jensen & Smith

CPA Lisette Hutchins from Jensen-Smith CPA was here to present our 2016/17 audit. She reported to the board that the District received a clean, unqualified opinion with no material weaknesses and no findings. She said the theme of the District this year was lots of growth, acquisition, assets and activity. The District has \$409,000 in unrestricted funds which puts us in a healthy position. Director Stephenson motioned to approve the 2016/17 draft audit. Director Jordan seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Discussion and Possible Approval of Stand-by Ambulance Agreement with PVCRA

M. Frederick was at the meeting to represent the PVCRA. He reported that the PVCRA is a 501C non-profit and the rodeo helps many local groups such as Ready Springs School, Nevada Union High School Junior Livestock program, 4-H, Penn Valley Little League to name a few. The PVCRA is asking for a reduction for the ambulance stand-by agreement for the rodeo. Our employee costs depend on who is working, could be an intern, FF, Captain, etc. Chief Wagner had Legal Counsel draw up an agreement that has cost of staffing at an average of \$50 per employee or \$100 total per hour since there must be 2 people on the ambulance, and for equipment; ambulance staging at \$56 per hour. That would keep the invoice for the rodeo under \$900 and much less than the

first billed amount last year of \$1,300 that was reduced to \$800 by the District Board. The \$900 should cover expenses for the District. Director Stephenson motioned to accept the proposed agreement from Michael Colantuono not to exceed \$900. Director Jordan seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Stephenson motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Jordan seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Chief Wagner reported they had a short meeting this morning. Discussed items were:

- Office of Emergency Services (OES) of Nevada County has received IPADS and pagers from the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) grants for distribution to fire and safety personnel. They will be working on some table top exercises and training with LWW, LOP and Alta Sierra communities on emergency evacuations.
- State OES is ramping up for fire season. They have \$100,000,000 extra to purchase fire apparatus and hire extra firefighters. They want to place the almost 100 extra fire engines in various places in CA, so they can quickly respond without a long driving time.
- The Fire Safe Council is hosting a wildland fire preparedness class the 1st Saturday in May.
- Grass Valley ECC hired 3 new dispatch clerks who have almost completed training and will be working at the Command Center soon.
- Grass Valley's Sierra College began their Fire Academy in March with 10 students.
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire will be hosting a mass casualty incident (MCI) drill soon March 15th.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE AGENCY (NCFA)

Director Grundel said they met in February. He will be working with the Secretary on budget planning for fiscal year 2018/19.

LAFCO

They are meeting next week. Director Grundel is the budget Chairman for LAFCo and says all districts will most likely have a 3.3% increase for 2018/19.

PENN VALLEY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

PVFA President Dennis Bertolucci apologized for not previously providing a report. See the report in board packet for all the items he covered.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

In addition to report in packet Chief Wagner reported:

- Personnel were recently dispatched to a debris fire with fireworks that turned out to be a RV fire off Black Road. There was a female fatality and one person with 3rd degree burns. Captain Thomas came up to do the investigation.

- Rough and Ready Fire Captain Pettee is training to be a fire investigator. Captain Thomas shared his knowledge, and district forms that Captain Pettee can use for R&R Fire.
- Update on property tax – We are waiting on the county to get back to us or our Legal Counsel. At the time this all transpired in 1986 we were a dependent district relying on the Nevada County Board of Supervisors for board appointments. A letter drafted from Nevada County Auditor-Controller’s office on 10/28/1986 to LAFCo stated that negotiations for annexation between districts had to be completed within 30 days. LAFCo notified CA State with a letter dated 11/20/1986 that said negotiations were complete. The District was never involved in any negotiations.
- Our apparatus decals are a little different now with newer artwork. Grass Valley Sign Company made them and have agreed to share that artwork with our T-Shirt Vendor, so everything can be similar.

Emergency Medical Services

In addition to report in packet Chief Wagner reported:

- Call volume has increased.
- Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS has updated EMS protocols that will result in some in-house training and increased equipment costs.

Fire Prevention

- The Hazard Vegetation Ordinance from the Board of Supervisors is a hot topic now. NCCFD and we are the only districts able to enforce it and it is currently complaint driven only. Nevada County is looking at developing an Administration Citation that can be mailed instead of having to leave at the property and possibly hiring a person to specifically do these inspections and follow-up,
- Nevada City School of the Arts is on-going for occupancy code compliance issues.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

3. Discussion and Approval of CalPERS Resolution 2018-02 Add Amendment to contract for Section 21118 Partial Service Retirement for Local Miscellaneous Employees

The Resolution of Intention was approved last month. This is to formalize the amendment, a process that CalPERS requires. Director Stephenson motioned to approve Resolution 2018-02 as the Resolution of Intention was passed unanimously last month. Director Jordan seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Annual Review of
 - A. Safety-Officers Report
 - B. Training Officers Report
 - C. Equipment and Apparatus Report

Captain Miller reported on these items in addition to report in packet:

Safety – At the Lobo Fire the district had many close calls, but no civilians or employees were hurt, Engine 43 got a little bit scuffed up and at one time was surrounded by flames on all sides.

Training – It is down from last year - 2500 hours versus 3800 but still up to Captain Millers high standards. He said our incidents are ran very well and that the quality of training is important not necessarily the hours.

Equipment and Apparatus - Engine 43 needed lots of attention last year. It was all normal wear and tear costs. Medic 43 is 11 years old and we need to start looking at a replacement plan for it. He's comfortable it will run well for several more years. The utilities have normal wear and tear. The old Pierce engine is in the apparatus bay at Station 45. We will have to declare it surplus and then can sell it, some rough estimates of what it's worth is about \$12,000.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. Chairman Farrell – Absent
2. Vice-Chairman Grundel – Nothing.
3. Director McMahan – Absent
4. Director Jordan – She attended the Red-Light Ball and was proud of Dennis Bertolucci for representing the District in the Honor Guard.
5. Director Stephenson – He has a proposal for retaining paramedics by setting up scholarships to help our employees with paramedic school. Chief Wagner had brought this up previously as an incentive to keep employees. He'd like to establish a fund that is primarily made up of donations from local businesses and groups. Paramedic school costs approximately \$13,000 and if they hire on with the district they only make \$15 per hour. He's proposing that if a scholarship is fully funded the employee would have to commit to employment with the district for at least 5 years and with a ½ scholarship they would have to stay at least 3 ½ years. If for any reason the agreement was not fulfilled by the student, the student would reimburse the District the full amount of the scholarship. He has already been networking with local businesses. It's a win-win for the public as they get knowledgeable employees that stay on at the district, also for the employee who have less debt and hopefully won't leave for the higher-paying jobs in the big cities. He has one business that wants to donate \$1,000 now. Director Jordan who has a philanthropic background with her Rudiger Foundation is very excited about this idea and has anonymous donors she can talk to. Director Stephenson said he's meeting with the Lions Club, PV Chamber, Rotary Club, SIRS and any other groups that have meetings he can attend.

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

(refer to red correspondence book)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hughes
Clerk to the Board