

PENN VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2020

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

PRESENT

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

Absent: Bruce Puphal (excused)

Board Clerk: Debbie Hughes

Others: Fire Chief Wagner, Finance Administrator Thelen, Firefighters, Legal Counsel Jon d Cristina and members of the public

DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS

VI-I Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment

D. Hughes read the new timeline that was created for the Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment. The Wildwood Independent and various service community groups were sent a notice that voluntary members are needed to make up a Citizen's Committee. Chief Wagner said in 2019 we responded to 1652 calls as opposed to 1490 in 2018. Our current benefit assessment is 80.54 per residential home. Harris and Associates draft engineer's report propose 282.82 per residential home. Jon di Cristina Legal Counsel from Colantuono's office was at the meeting for questions and input. His recommendation was not approving the engineer's report tonight but letting his office review it first. He said a citizen's committee could still be established tonight. Joey Jordan, Steve Roddy and Mark Schaeffer were at the board meeting because they're interested on being on that committee. J. Jordan said last year she gave up her position on the district board so she could work on a benefit assessment when it was time. The board agreed that those three would be helpful on the Citizen's Committee. Directors Stephenson and Farrell agreed to be the board members with alternates Chairman Grundel for Stephenson and Director McMahan for Farrell. The Board expressed a concern regarding the Penn Valley School bond on the March ballot. J. Jordan said it doesn't matter as the school bond tax is a completely different entity than the fire district, and if it passes than the momentum will keep moving forward and if it fails it shouldn't affect the district. She also said the Citizen's Committee job is to get our benefit assessment passed.

Chief Wagner stated that currently we are responding to five calls per day and if we go to SNMH there's a turnaround time of approximately two hours, to Rideout Hospital three hours and if to Sutter-Roseville three to four. He feels the best course of action would be to educate the committee and then the public. We've explored consolidation with The Western Nevada

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County Fire Districts, which will be addressed again at a later date but for now the District needs more money. Our firefighter's Local 3800 Union and CAPF have said they'll help out with advertising, flyers and people. The public thinks we are doing a great job but don't know that we need money to keep up the same level of service. This was shown in the public polling for consolidation. Director McMahan thinks it's very important that the fire staff help with this; the public like to see our firefighters.

J. Cristina said to keep this an advisory group (not subject to The Brown Act) is to delegate the Fire Chief to meet with the Citizen's Committee and set up future meetings with them. Harris and Associates Engineer's Report is tabled until next month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director McMahan motioned to approve the consent calendar. Director Farrell seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Chief Wagner attended the meeting this morning and reported:

- Cal Fire – Battalion 2314 Sean Griffiths has retired; his new replacement is Landon Haack who has ties to the area. Fire Protection Planner Matt Furtado has promoted, he'll be Battalion 2305 out of Truckee. Scott from the ECC is promoting to his position.
- Cal Fire has finished with the Ponderosa 300-acre fuel break.
- Cal Fire has implemented fuel reduction crews. They won't fight fires; they'll work on fuel mitigation. There are 10 crews throughout CA and one of those will be stationed in Grass Valley.
- Cal Fire's ECC's dispatch bargaining unit are receiving a 15% wage increase over the next three years, so we'll see an increase in our dispatch costs.
- Kathy Pitts from the ECC organized a critical incident stress management (CISM) that was held here today.
- Two wildland urban interface (WUI) drills are coming up at Cascade Shores and in the Wolf Mountain area.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE AGENCY (NCFA-JPA)

Chairman Grundel reported the last meeting was in November. They still need to discuss the use and/or cost of using the air station.

LAFCO

Chairman Grundel said the next meeting is in 2 weeks.

PENN VALLEY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Captain Pitts said the breakfast continues to do well. They've been receiving donations and at the last breakfast it was \$400. They are exploring options of upgrading meeting room tables and chairs.

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FIRE CHIEFS REPORT

In addition to the written report in packet Chief Wagner said:

- For January we had 132 emergency calls.
- We just conducted 2 intern interviews and 1 other person is coming in next week.

DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

VI-2 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

D. Hughes said the District elects a new chairperson and vice-chairperson in January of each year. Chairman Grundel motioned to nominate Director Stephenson as Chairperson. Director McMahan seconded. Director Stephenson motioned to nominate Chairman Grundel for Vice-Chairperson. Director Farrell seconded. The motions passed unanimously.

VI-3 Approval of Signature Sheet for Nevada County Auditor Controller

D. Hughes reported that annually we are required to provide an authorized signature sheet to the Nevada County Auditor Controller's Office. They require two signatures on most paperwork. The board concurred to keep the same signatures for 2020.

VI-4 Approval of Upgrade to Portable Radios

Captain Pitts reported on the need to upgrade our portable radios. Our radios have always been in line with what cooperating agencies use, more specifically Cal Fire and the USFS Last year it was announced that those radios are being phased out. These radios increase our frequency capabilities from 500 channels to 5,000. The quote includes 15 portable radios and all appropriate accessories to have them run properly. Cal Fire used to write the computer programming but as of 2020 they're not doing that anymore. Director Stephenson highly encouraged inquiries into grants as lots of different agencies will need the new radios. Chief Wagner said Joann Anders is always watching for grants for us. Director Stephenson motioned to approve the purchase of 15 portable radios and appropriate accessories not to exceed \$38,000. Director Farrell seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

VI-5 Declare Medic 98-01 Surplus

Chief Wagner said we'll be taking delivery of our new ambulance soon so it's time to declare Medic 1998 ambulance surplus. It has 117,434 hard miles on it. The plan is once the new ambulance is placed in service that Medic 43 will become Medic 45 reserve ambulance and the current Medic 45 will become the rescue. The rescue contains swift water and rope rescue equipment. Director Stephenson motioned to declare M98-01 as surplus as presented. Director Farrell seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. Director Farrell – He's submitting an article on Colin Gault and the Paramedic Scholarship Program to The Wildwood Independent.

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2. Chairman Grundel – LAFCo is hosting a free AB 1234 Ethics training Wednesday February 5th.
3. Director McMahan – Breakfast was busy as usual.
4. Director Puphal – Absent
5. Director Stephenson – None

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

(refer to red correspondence book)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Wagner reported that:

- The District Christmas party was a success. Lt. Bertolucci was going to be Santa, however he was on an emergency call so Chief filled in.
- Captain Thomas will be teaching training classes here later this month.
- 2019 was a very busy year; Lt. Mathena worked more than 4,000 hours.
- Colin Gault was the first employee to graduate paramedic school through our scholarship program.
- Contract for the Chief and MOU for Finance Administrator need to be renewed by July 1, 2020.
- A Board Member from Smartsville Fire was going to try to make it tonight. We were dispatched to two incidents in December because no resources from Smartsville FPD responded. Cal Fire Station 40 in Smartsville is not fully staffed in the winter.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hughes
Clerk to the Board