



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Foresthill Fire Protection District**

**P.O. Box 1099 Foresthill, CA 95631**  
**Office: (530) 367-2465 Fax: (530) 367-3498**  
[www.foresthillfire.org](http://www.foresthillfire.org)

**DISTRICT BOARD**  
**JOHN MICHELINI**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**CHRIS REAMS**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**VACANT**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**TROY SIMONICK**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**RICHARD HERCULES**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**JARED**  
**MATCHAM**  
**FIRE CHIEF**

Foresthill Fire Protection District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, November 10, 2022  
District Administration Office  
24320 Main St., Foresthill, CA 95631

#### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- a) President Michelini called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

#### **2. FLAG SALUTE**

- a) Led by President Michelini

#### **3. ROLL CALL**

- a) President Michelini, Vice President Reams, Director Simonick, Director Hercules and Director Williams were present
- b) Fire Chief Matcham was present.

#### **4. AGENDA APPROVAL**

- a) Director Hercules moved to approve the agenda, second by Vice President Reams, passes, 5/0.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Community members Paula Bertoncin and Sharon Page congratulated the incumbents on their win in the election. Paula went over some Facebook posts that included comments from a past employee, she asked it be entered into the record. See Attachment 1 to these minutes for her letter.

#### **6. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Motion made by Director Hercules to approve consent items; the minutes of the October 13, 2022 Regular Board meeting, minutes of the October 17, 2022 Long Range Planning Committee meeting and the FM 4 documents, second by Director Simonick, passes, 5/0. President Michelini asked staff to keep track of some items that are already going over or close to budget.

#### **7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

##### **•October 2022**

- Captain Kirk has been chosen as Firefighter of the Year
- 3 resident Firefighters accepted offers- will be coming on in November
- New Holmatro extrication tools arrived (OTS Grant funded \$50,000 of approximately \$65,000 cost) training is being done on this. Will get into service as soon as we receive the mounting brackets.
- Working on quotes for the AFG Hose Maintenance grant award
- Rescue 90 sold as surplus for \$20,950.00
- Currently have 1 line staff member on light duty

- **Incident Responses:** 65, total through 10/31/22: 634, total 2021: 607
- **Transports:** 42, total through 10/31/22: 339, total 2021: 311
- **Training:** 333 hours
- **Community Risk Deduction-** 22 inspections, YTD 124, 25% higher than previous year.
- **Support Services/Fleet-**
  - Brush 88 and 90 are both out of service, major repairs to transfer case on each unit, looking at possible remounts instead of costly repairs
  - Rescue 90 was sold as surplus - \$20,950.00
  - New command vehicle ordered from Carson City (in the budget)
- **Facilities-**
  - Ramp at Station 90 contractor is working on contract and scheduling
  - Porter Garage being used to collect & distribute supplies for Mosquito Fire victims
- **Additional Comments-**
  - FF Palmer did attend a job fair at Sierra College to hand out information, flyers, applications
  - Reached out to Chief Spencer from Auburn Fire for coverage when Chief Matcham is at the Fire Academy back east next week.
  - Current vacancy, one Captain and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic
  - President Michelini asked about defensible space inspections using Cal Fire inspectors to handle those. No discussion with them yet

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Board to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2023. After discussion of dates, they decided to add June 22 and September 28 to have as backup if needed. Vice President Reams made a motion to approve the calendar with the 2 additional dates, second by Director Hercules, passes, 5/0.
- b. Adopt the revised compensation package for Unrepresented Employee: Business Manager and Administrative Assistant 1 cost of living salary enhancement. 2% increase per year over the next 3 years for a total of 6%. This is already built into the budget. Motion made by Director Simonick to adopt the package, second by Director Hercules, roll call vote, passes, 5/0.
- c. Adoption of 2020/2021 Financial Audit. Highlights: reviewed our reserves, addition in assets of the Administration building, long term debt. We have enough cash in reserves to pay off debt if needed. Motion made by Director Hercules to approve the Financial Audit 2020.2021, second by Director Williams, roll call vote, passes 5/0.
- d. Resolution 2022-09 Authorizing Participation in the Employment Risk Management Authority (ERMA). Manager Metz went over our most recent insurance quote with CIRA, that insures other special fire districts. Similar to our previous provider, including the coverage we need, came in under the amount approved by the board in the October meeting, includes membership in Lexipol, pay for our Vector Solution training platform, couple of grants they have on an annual basis for training. This covers the policy through ERMA for professional liability. Property coverage is covered for free for first year and we have a voting member on their board. Motion made by Director Hercules to adopt Resolution 2022-09, second by Vice President Reams, roll call vote, passes, 5/0.
- e. Resolution 2022-10 Mosquito Fire Development Mitigation Fee Suspension. This is to cover the properties that have been damaged in the Mosquito Fire that decide to rebuild, currently approx. Suggested that we reach out to the community and advise of this resolution, Website, social media, etc. Motion made by Director Simonick, second by Vice President Reams, roll call vote, passes 5/0.
- f. Resolution 2022-11 Authorizing application for Federal Excess Personal property (FEPP) Program in accordance with United States Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Assistance (CFAA) of 1978. Program is managed by Cal Fire but for Federal Surplus Equipment. May come in handy for us with our type III engine issue and for some more radios we could use. Doesn't guarantee we will get anything but gives us the opportunity to find something we can use. If this happens, we could surplus one of our vehicles. Motion made by Vice President reams to adopt Resolution 2022-11, second by Director Hercules, rollcall vote, passes, 5/0.
- g. First reading of Ordinance 2022-01 amending and adopting the 2022 California Building Standards Code (Title 24, California Code of Regulations) Part 9 (2022 California Fire Code) and

appendices. This happens every 2 years. Codes are automatic, but with the Ordinance we can modify them to our district's codes. Director Hercules made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2022-01, second by Director Williams, roll call vote, motion passes, 5/0.

- h. Chief Matcham wants direction from the board about a hazardous vegetation citation with the person asking for a hearing. Since Chief Matcham wrote the violation notice we need a hearing officer to listen to the hearing. Directors Simonick and Hercules volunteered to help if we cannot get someone from Cal Fire, the County or another department to act as hearing officer. Motion made by Director Hercules to provide direction to have assistance from Cal Fire or Auburn City and if not available to use our director volunteers, second by Director Simonick, passes 5/0.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **10. REPORTS**

- a. Finance Committee
  - i. Did not meet / no report
- b. Labor Negotiations Committee
  - i. Did not meet / no report
- c. Long Range Plan Committee
  - i. Met October 17 to discuss Blue Ribbon Committee options
- d. Director's Reports
  - i. Per Director Hercules- LAFCO Placer Hills Newcastle Merger Update  
The Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Districts submitted a merger proposal to the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on October 12, 2022. As of 10/25/22, the Placer Hills/Newcastle application was rejected by the LAFCO staff as incomplete. LAFCO has provided official notice to the Placer Hills/Newcastle agency as such, and to other local affected agencies. LAFCO requires extensive information from Placer Hills/ Newcastle regarding historical financials for past five years of both districts separately, five years of financials for the proposed merged operation, and five years of financial projections if the two districts were not merged. Further, the tax roll implications of the proposed merger have to be approved by the Placer County Board of Supervisors before proceeding with the LAFCO process. Placer Hills/Newcastle is required to participate in the new LAFCO 5-year mandatory Municipal Service Review (MSR) program which began September 2022. Other affected agencies in Placer County will undergo the same reviews. Director Reams commented that they (PH/NC) were working on the application.
  - ii. President Michelini would like to compile a list to provide direction to the Fire Chief regarding issues that may cause questions in the community to the board members. Something to give as general notification to the board. Would like it by next meeting.

### **11. NON-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

- a. Foresthill Volunteer Firefighters Association
  - i. Halloween event went well, happy kids.
- b. Foresthill/Iowa Hill FSC
  - i. Did not attend / Report per Chief Matcham, Discussion on work on trailheads. Recent discussion that Cal Fire is putting forth a public education campaign on broad cast burn.

### **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. None

### **13. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) None

### **14. CLOSED SESSION**

- a) Out to closed session at 7:43pm
  - Labor Negotiations (\$54957.6)
- b) Reconvened 9:00pm

- Report out: no action taken with direction given to staff regarding opening contract negotiations with Local 3800.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shonne Epperly-Elgin".

Shonne Epperly-Elgin  
Administrative Assistant

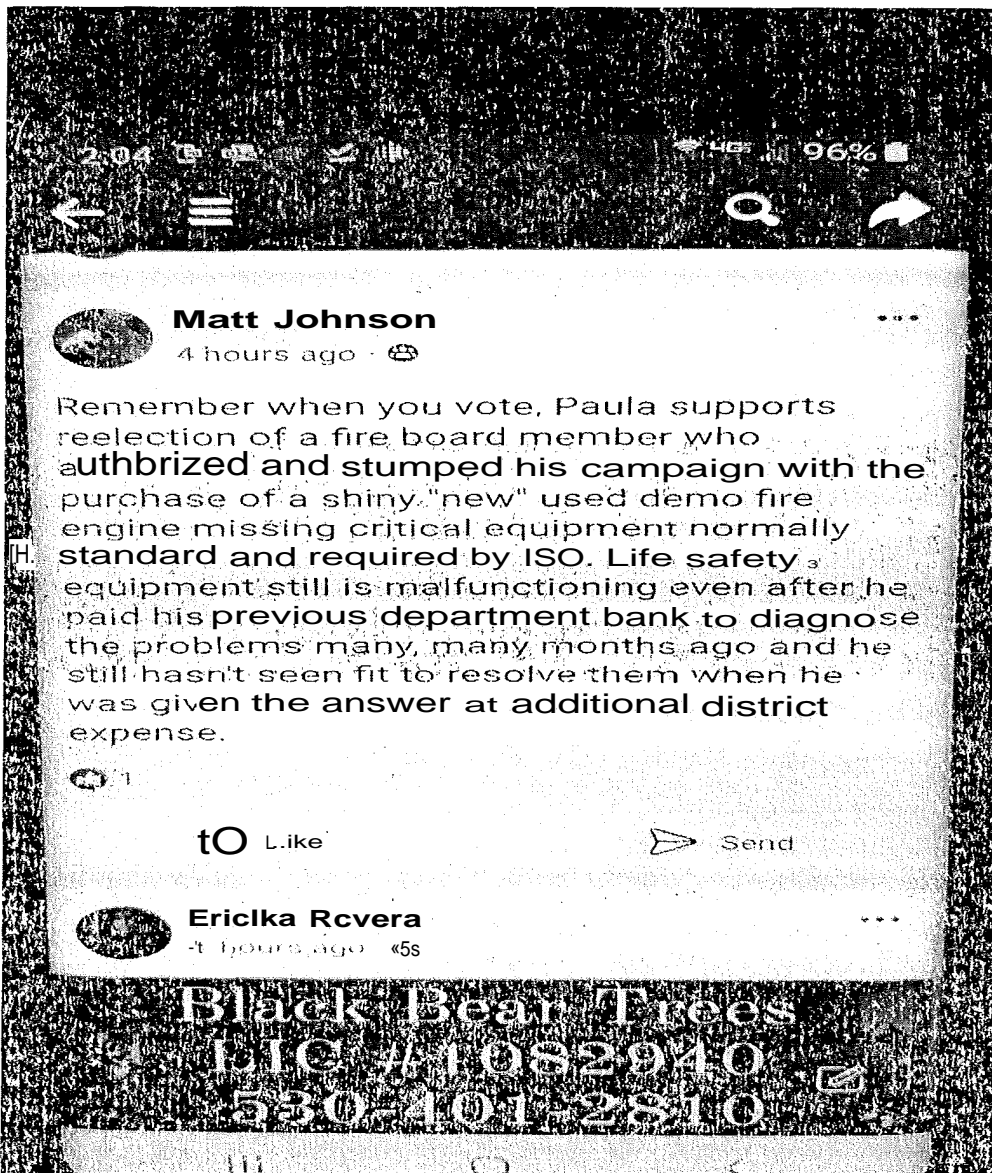
Attachment 1

November 10, 2022

Foresthill Fire Protection District Board Meeting

Public Comment, Paula Bertoncin, FH Resident

On Facebook Matt Johnson, a prior employee who separated from the fire district about a year ago, posted some disparaging information that I believe the fire district may want to address. Mr. Johnson purports that the district has in its fleet a malfunctioning fire engine further implying that a director used questionable methods to attempt a fix and that the equipment is still not operating properly. Allow me to read his post and share what he did next.



This public post was shared with me by another individual on that Facebook page as it had a reference to me. Unexpectedly and unsolicited, I then received a message from Mr. Johnson citing issues with an engine indicating a fire board member was at fault. Based on his implications and reference to "John" in his message to me we will assume he was pointing to Director Michelini. Let me share the message thread so all can better grasp his dissatisfaction and implications.

**Matt Johnson**

Ask your buddy if the passenger airbags in the "new" (rofl) engine will deploy as needed or if the electrical fault warning that has occurred since day one is accurate. It's common knowledge the scene safety lights to this day still don't work. You go girl

**My response**

As I recall staff make recommendations to the Board. I'll ask Michelini about this and who made the recommendation

**Matt Johnson**

Ask him how much it cost to send it to his old department who gave him a definitive answer which has been ignored to this day. It's not "staff's" fault Matt

Then there was the thousands wasted at other diagnostic facilities.....

**My response**

Per Michelini, Chief Kushen and staff from Placer Hills made the selection using parameters by the Board with staff making the final recommendation. I was there at that meeting. Board only saw the truck after purchase.

**Matt Johnson**

Umkay.... Bye Felicia.

**My response**

Matt, please check facts. I will go pull the Board meeting packet as the facts are wrong.

**Matt Johnson**

Facts? I have all the emails. You do you.... Matt

Have a super night

When you talk to John, ask him the annual mileage requirement for the grant was he signed off on. Oh... It's someone else's fault they lied on the application

Tue 5:00 PM

**My response**

please share the emails; thx

**Matt Johnson**

When it's time. I'm not a public entity.

Tue 5:49 PM

**My Response**

Thanks; will await when you are ready. I located the Board meeting agenda and related video where decision was made by the board based on staff presentation / recommendation. It seems many participated in the decision so not sure what else to think / say. Have a nice evening.

Tue 6:13 PM

**Matt Johnson**

Cool beans

**FOR BOARD'S CONSIDERATION**

- 1) Do nothing with this information.
- 2) Inquire of the Chief or current staff of any ongoing safety issues. I have been attending Board meetings and do not recall Chief Kushner or other JOA staff from Placer Hills or Foresthill Fire Chief or staff bringing forth any.
- 3) The decision on the selection of the fire engine(s) was made in 2019 by JOA staff with the Board indicating they are responsible for approving the budget and expenditure but that staff was to make any and all recommendation for the board to approve. Staff presented their recommendations and there was ample discussion with the Board at large endorsing purchase(s). Watch the replay videos.
- 4) Matt Johnson appears to be a separated employee (left as rank of Captain) implying some sort of "reveal" with his emails.
- 5) Consider meeting with staff to learn about issues and why a separated employee appears to believe there is still an issue. I would like to think that staff are raising the flag internally to their Captain and/or Chief to correct any issues and not sharing with terminated staff since it only creates confusion and distrust.
- 6) On a go forward basis, request the Fire Chief document and share at all future Board meetings any complaints or safety concerns of staff so they can be addressed timely.
- 7) Video record Board meetings as done in past because it was very helpful to review meetings to see what discussion occurred.

As an interested member of the general public, I prefer not to be dragged into equipment issues by current or former employees. We elect a Board to appoint a Fire Chief to manage these issues.