



Foresthill Fire Protection District

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DISTRICT BOARD
CHRIS REAMS
PRESIDENT
KEVIN GREENE
VICE PRESIDENT
WALTER REED
DIRECTOR
RICHARD ARTHUR
DIRECTOR
TYLER HARKNESS
DIRECTOR

Minutes of **Special** Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Foresthill Fire Protection District Administration Office

24320 Main St.

Foresthill, CA 95631

President Chris Reams called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Directors in Attendance: Chris Reams, Richard Arthur, Kevin Greene and Tyler Harkness.

Directors Absent: Walt Reed

Staff in Attendance: Secretary Metz.

Public Comment:

VP Greene apologized for his "emotional outburst" at the regular meeting. He doesn't agree with throwing the Board into "emergency" decision making positions. This forces the Board to make "uneducated" decisions. Clayton at Penn Valley has the same amount of Stations and is able to run without an Administrative Captain. Mr. Greene is also concerned about morale. The District just promoted people to jobs. We may have to demote staff or eliminate positions in 6 months.

John Michelini stated that he believes the position needed to be filled. However, maybe it could have been filled with a contract employee for \$20k/year instead of a higher paid full time employee.

Action Items:

1. Review and modify proposed public survey provided by SCI Consulting pertaining to a proposed tax measure.
 - a. General discussion took place.
 - b. Director Arthur made a motion to incorporate all of the changes that were discussed into the Fact Sheet and the Survey Form. VP Greene seconds the motion.
 - c. Motion carries.

2. Discuss and establish a preliminary dollar amount(s) to test with the survey by SCI Consulting.
 - a. General discussion took place.
 - b. VP Greene made a motion that the FFPD will ask for \$180 per taxable parcel on the upcoming survey. Director Arthur seconds the motion.
 - c. Motion carries.
3. A copy of the Fact Sheet and Survey as mailed to each registered voter of the FFPD is attached to these minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Board Secretary



Foresthill Fire Protection District

Information Fact Sheet

Why did you receive this survey?

You received this survey because you are a registered voter within the Foresthill Fire Protection District. The Fire District is seeking your opinion to help decide how to continue to provide local fire and emergency medical services within its boundaries.

Please read this information sheet, and complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your responses will help the Fire District make important decisions about how to maintain fire and rescue services in your community.

About the Fire District

The Foresthill Fire Protection District is an independent special district. It is governed by a five member elected Board of Directors.

The Fire District has two fire stations, each staffed with two fire fighters and serves a population of just over 6,900 residents, covering 500 square miles.

The Fire District responds to approximately 800 calls per year including the following:

- Emergency medical aid with advanced life support, including ambulance transportation
- Building, wildland, and vehicle fires
- Traffic collisions and entrapments, including cliff and river rescues
- Extreme weather response
- Hazardous materials response



Foresthill

Why is the Fire District seeking additional revenue?

Public funding for local fire protection and emergency response services has not kept pace with the high cost of operations and maintenance. In recent years, emergency reserves have been used to supplement day-to-day expenditures for the Fire District.

The Fire District has already made major cuts to services, personnel, and salaries. The Fire District's fire fighters and paramedics are the lowest paid in the area. They receive a minimal hourly wage (which is less than what the mandated minimum wage will soon be), and receive only \$475 per month to purchase health care, and no pension.

The Fire District lacks funding for the replacement of aging fire engines, ambulances, and equipment, as well as needed maintenance on its fire stations. The current fire engines, some of which are 22 years old, have exceeded the limit of their service life. They have become unreliable and costly to maintain.

Despite all these cost saving measures, the Fire District's current revenue is still not adequate to provide services at a level that maintains an appropriate measure of safety for the community.

What about CAL FIRE and the State Fee?

The Foresthill Fire District does not receive any revenue from the Fire Prevention Fee, locally known as the SRA Fee.

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Information Fact Sheet (continued)

Our primary goals are to maintain the current level of service, meet the upcoming minimum wage requirements and replace fire engines and ambulances.

	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Projected annual deficit	-\$320,921	-\$340,907	-\$361,651	-\$383,518	-\$406,560
Reserve fund balance	\$191,958	-\$148,949	-\$510,600	-\$894,118	-\$1,300,679

Source: County of Placer Treasurer's Office

What are the primary reasons for the budget imbalance?

The primary reasons why revenues have not kept up with expenses include the following:

- Property tax revenue is locked in at 1977 rates
- Population and building have increased demand for emergency services
- Fire apparatus and equipment replacement costs have increased significantly. The average cost of a new fire engine is \$500,000
- The minimum wage in California is mandated to increase every year over the next several years. Many department positions are currently being paid less than the rate that will be required in the near future
- Personnel training requirements and associated costs have increased significantly
- Increased training and other requirements have resulted in an inability to sustain a volunteer program



What will happen if the Fire District does not receive additional revenue?

The Fire District is committed to its mission, however, if it does not receive additional revenue, the Fire District's Board of Directors will face some hard choices about how to proceed, which may include closing one of two fire stations.

Below are some of the likely impacts if the level of fire protection and life safety services needs to be decreased further:

Public Safety

Decreased levels of service may lead to increases in injuries and loss of life. This has happened in the past.

Property Protection

Decreased levels of service will lead to increases in property damage and destruction. A house fire doubles in size every 56 seconds. Increasing response times will only make it worse.

Economic Stability

Decreased levels of service will lead to some or all of the following:

- Increased property insurance premiums
- Difficulty in renewing and obtaining insurance
- Reduction in property values and increase in difficulty selling uninsurable property

What has the Fire District done to save money?

- Reduced staffing to one full time and one part time fire fighter on each engine
- Operate daily with four employees to staff two fire engines and two ambulances
- Cost share the Fire Chief with Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Districts
- Delayed replacement of fire engines and ambulances
- Deferred maintenance on fire stations and emergency equipment
- Reduced employee salaries and eliminated benefits

