



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 **Regular** Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 6, 2015
Foresthill Fire Protection District Administration Office
24320 Main St.
Foresthill, CA 95631

President Chris Reams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Directors Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Chief Gow, EMS Captain Drone, and Secretary Metz.

Approval of Agenda: President Reams stated that the Firefighter's Burn Institute was in attendance to present an award to the FFPD. It would be nice to move public comment to the beginning so the presentation can be made. President asked the other Board members if they objected to modifying the agenda, all acknowledged that they agreed with the change.

Public Comment:

- a. Jim Doucette and "Aaron" presented a plaque to Chief Gow for FFPD's participation in the Fill the Boot Drive this year.

Approval of previous Regular Meeting Minutes:

VP Greene made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 2nd regular meeting as presented. Director Reed seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Fire Chief Operations Report:

Chief Gow reported the following items:

- FFPD has been a part of strike team 4126C for the past 14 days. Crew rotation is being worked on.
- Two brush rigs were at the Lowell fire for 4 days. This was due to a call for "Immediate Need" and the re-assignment of 4126C from Kyburz to Lowell.
- The garage sale appeared to be a success. It was a busy weekend for FFPD with the sale and the Tevis Cup on the same weekend.
- We will try to have a draft Policy and Procedure Manual available for the next Board Meeting.

Action Items:

1. Board to consider limiting responses into the USFS area.
 - a. President Reams read a written statement. **ATTACHMENT 1**
 - b. Director Harkness stated that he believes we have an agreement with SSV that requires us to send the ambulance when requested.
 - i. President Reams acknowledged that FFPD is locked in with SSV at this point and we are not attempting to re-negotiate the contract now.
 - c. Chief Gow added that the calls into the USFS area are usually extended calls with rescue involved so sending the ambulance alone is not an option.
 - d. Director Arthur asked how much it will cost to add a third FF to each station.
 - i. Chief Gow estimated the cost at \$100K - \$200k per year.
 - e. Director Harkness stated that a 30 day notice to end the FFPD response into the USFS area would be an impossible timeframe for the County to execute a plan to provide coverage.
 - i. President Reams stated that the County has already had 30 days' notice, but would be given 30 additional days.
 - f. General discussion and conversation continued on the topic. John McEldowney of Placer County OES read a written statement to the Board.
 - g. Director Arthur made a motion to "Limit Responses into the USFS Area." VP Greene seconds the motion.

President Reams:	Nay
VP Greene:	Nay
Director Reed:	Nay
Director Harkness:	Nay
Director Arthur:	Aye

Motion NOT carried.

President Reams directed the Secretary to place this item as an action on the September agenda.

2. Establish a temporary committee to develop and present an updated version of Board Vacancy Bylaws.
 - a. Director Harkness made a motion to appoint Director Reed and Director Arthur to the committee. VP Greene seconds the motion.

Motion Carries.

3. Consider Adoption of Board Bylaws, Section 6.
 - a. VP Greene made a motion to adopt Board Bylaw, Section 6 as presented. Director Reed seconds the motion.

President Reams:	Aye
VP Greene:	Aye
Director Reed:	Aye
Director Harkness:	Aye
Director Arthur:	Aye

Bylaw is adopted.

4. Approval of Contract for New EMS Training Program.
 - a. Chief Gow explained to the Board that the District has an opportunity to bring in some additional revenue by hosting EMS classes. Paramedic Patrick Dickinson

is qualified as an instructor and has approached the District about working together on this project.

- b. The Board was given a copy of the contract between the FFPD and Paramedic Dickinson for consideration.
- c. Director Reed made a motion to accept the contract as presented. VP Greene seconds the motion.

Motion carries.

Discussion Items:

1. Potential/Fire District Funding Sources.
 - a. No additional discussion.
2. 2015/2016 Final Budget Discussion
 - a. The Secretary has been directed to schedule a Board Workshop to finish up the budget. The final budget will be presented at the September meeting for Board approval.
3. Election Committee Report.
 - a. No report.
4. Job Description Package:
 - a. The Secretary has been directed to place this item on the September agenda as a discussion item.
5. Maintenance Proposal
 - a. Chief Gow stated that the Maintenance Proposal has been vetted through the Officer's. He also met with President Reams and VP Greene to discuss the proposal.
 - i. The incidence of "breakdowns" has been significantly reduced at Placer Hills.
 - ii. The Secretary has been directed to place this item on the September agenda as an action item.
6. State Sick Leave Law and Part Time Staff.
 - a. This item was not ready for discussion. Place on September agenda.
7. Board Consideration of Consolidation with Water District – Director Harkness
 - a. Place this item on the September agenda as a discussion item.

Reports:

1. Labor Negotiations Report
 - a. No Report
2. Firefighter Association:
 - a. The Garage Sale made around \$37k.
 - b. FVFA received \$6800 from the Fabric Frenzy.
 - c. A name change for the Assn. is being worked on.
3. New Construction Fees Collected:
 - a. No report.
4. EMS Operations Report
 - a. July Call Volume:
 - i. 65 Calls
 1. 48 Medical
 2. 8 Fire
 3. 1 Unauthorized Burning

4. 3 MVA
 5. 1 Haz Mat
 6. 1 Alarm Sounding
 7. 1 Assist PCSO
 8. 2 Public Assist
- ii. Two medical calls from Tevis Ride. Billed \$1440 for event standby.
 - iii. American Health Education did a site inspection on 7/28 and approved our facility as a satellite training site.
5. Deputy Fire Marshal:
- a. Hazardous Vegetation Abatement
 - i. The last fiscal year we had 8 complaints of hazardous vegetation. We were able mitigate hazardous fire fuels on 7 properties, 1 property has been sent to the Placer County Code Enforcement for mitigation.
 - b. Firewise
 - i. Monte Verde Est. has been recognized by NFPA as a Firewise Community. Since then 4 more communities in Foresthill are working to become Firewise Communities. They are Trailhead Subdivision, Eaglecrest Subdivision, Little Oak Subdivision, and Eagle Ridge Subdivision.
 - c. 24690 Main St. house
 - i. The bank is receiving bids to demolish the residence.
 - d. Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10 Foresthill & Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrice Metz, Board Secretary

Issues

We only have 2 firefighters on duty at a time in each of 2 stations. That is below the minimum standard of 3, but because of a small budget that is all we afford. We use 2 stations to provide the fastest response possible, especially with the ambulance.

We have in the past sent both the ambulance and an engine to calls way up in the national forest. We are no longer going to respond "up country" with the engine. These calls usually take many hours to resolve leaving our district uncovered. In this fire year especially we just can't do that anymore.

A typical call may be an auto crash where someone needs to be extricated with Jaws of Life. Or sometimes the patient has to be carried out of a canyon to the ambulance or a helicopter. So you can see the time it may take to complete call up there. The need is obvious.

We do not want to stop serving the national forest but someone has to pay for it. It is our belief that the federal government gives this county \$760,000. That number is in dispute by the county at \$600,000. We don't care where the money comes from, but if they want us to service the National Forest we have to have the money to pay 2 people 7/24/365. That will leave the district with 2 to cover.

The OES director John McEldowney has stated 2 different failed concepts. He said in essence: 1. We don't run enough calls up there so we wouldn't get but a few dollars per call. He doesn't get it that it isn't the number of calls we run its having the staff to run the calls 7/24/365. 2. Then he told channel 13 that we should do a tax unitive in the district to pay for it. Why should the people in the district pay to serve the national forest outside the district? This mantra is where the

county retreats when they know the system is broken and don't want to pay for it.

3. In addition his backup plan is to have Cal Fire engines respond from the Foresthill station. They are often out of the station on other fires. I do not believe they have the equipment like Jaws of Life and the training to operate them. Then he said that the Cal Fire would respond from Auburn. Do they have the correct equipment? It seems that they are a little tied up right now. His last suggestion was to have the sheriff respond. They do respond when available but are they trained in auto extraction and do they have the tools, obviously not. This plan is obviously flawed.

The solution is obvious. Simply pay us to staff 2 firefighters. In a \$803 million dollar county budget there must be enough in there to handle this problem.