



## *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**  
**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 4, 2016

Foresthill Fire Protection District Administration Office

24320 Main St.

Foresthill, CA 95631

Video Available at: <https://vimeo.com/177791876>

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

**Directors in Attendance:** Richard Arthur, Kevin Greene, Tyler Harkness, and Walt Reed

**Directors Absent:** None

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

**Approval of Agenda:** VP Greene made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Director Reed seconds the motion.

Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Tamra West read a written statement which is attached (attachment 1).

Sherry Wicks stated that according to the Brown Act, the board package of documents must be distributed to the public at least 72 hours before the meeting. Mrs. Wicks further stated that she has only been receiving the agenda by email, not the documents. She will speak to the Board Secretary directly about this. Mrs. Wicks also stated that the Board will have a hard time passing a tax measure. She suggested going back to volunteers as an option.

**Approval of previous Meeting Minutes:**

VP Greene made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 7th regular meeting the July 9th emergency meeting and the July 15<sup>th</sup> special meeting as presented. Director Reed seconds the motion.

Motion carries.

**Approval of Expenses:**

Chief Gow reported that we came out \$1800 in the black for FY Ended 6/30/2016.

VP Greene stated that he likes the new overtime reports that have been added to the financial package, but would like more detail in the wages and salaries area. Chief Gow and the Secretary Metz said they would look at it and come up with some additional reporting.

Director Reed made a motion to accept the July financial report as presented. Director Arthur seconds the motion.

Motion carries.

**Fire Chief Operations Report:**

Chief Gow reported the following items:

- Placer Hills has started the process to hire a consultant to recruit a new Fire Chief.
- Had coffee with Chief Ruffcorn from Auburn City. He suggested that FFPD might want to consider doing thorough background checks prior to hiring. Right now they are running approximately \$600 each, but the price may go up to \$800 each soon.
- Newcastle Fire has requested Chief services from Placer Hills. The initial reaction of the PH Board is to decline, however they agreed to meet with the Newcastle committee. Chief will keep FFPD Board in the loop.
- Placer Hills talked about changes to the contract with FFPD. President Hills will be in touch with President Reams about it.

**Action Items:**

1. Adopt Resolution #2016-04 Establish the Foresthill Fire Protection District Appropriation (GANN) Limit for FY 2016/2017 at \$853,358.34.
    - a. Director Harkness made a motion to adopt resolution #2016-04 as presented. Director Reed seconds the motion.
      - i. Reams                      Aye
      - ii. Greene                     Aye
      - iii. Reed                        Aye
      - iv. Harkness                  Aye
      - v. Arthur                      Aye
- Resolution is adopted.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Placer County Consolidation Study
  - a. President Reams reported the following:
    - i. The consolidation study was not presented at the Board of Supervisor's meeting.
    - ii. LAFCO is responsible for looking into the efficiency of tax receiving agencies.
    - iii. Meeting with County Supervisor's Duran & Weygandt and County CEO Bosch.

- If FFPD fails, the County does not have to take over fire protection.
  - Weygandt could not find any holes in the FFPD budget where any obvious cuts could be made.
  - Duran was very positive and understood the District's position.
  - Bosch may be starting to come around. He knows that FFPD has the largest district (even without the forest land). FFPD covers 500 sq. mi. with the ambulance.
- b. Discuss Possible Tax Measure with help from Placer County (March, 2017).
- i. Supervisor Montgomery wants FFPD to go back to the voters with a tax measure. She will support us in this, but has not provided any specifics on the types of support we could expect.
2. Review Section III of Policies and Procedures
3. Review Section V of Policies and Procedures, *Employee Manual*.
4. Review Safety Policy
- a. After general discussion about some edits, it was decided to have President Reams and VP Greene meet with Chief Gow to go over each policy and make the necessary changes. The edited policies will be recommended to the full Board for approval at the September meeting.

#### **Reports:**

1. Firefighter's Association:
  - a. Fogel reported that the Garage Sale is this coming weekend, Saturday and Sunday.
2. EMS Operations Report/Deputy Fire Marshal Duties
  - a. August Call Volume:
    - I. 59 Calls
      - 35 Medical
        - a. 28 Transports
        - b. 7 Non-Transports
      - 3 MVA
      - 2 Vegetation Fire
      - 2 Structure Fire
      - 2 Fire Investigation
      - 1 Power Line Down

- 4 Smoke Checks
  - 1 Smoke Alarm
  - 1 Public Assist
  - 4 No Medical Need
  - 2 Cancelled En Route
  - 1 to AMR
  - 1 Vehicle Fire
- II. 4 Mutual Aid to USFS
- III. 2 Mutual Aid to CalFire
- IV. 2 Billed Back Country Calls
- V. 6 Minute 5 Second Response Time

3. Foresthill & Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council Report:

- a. Chief Gow reported that the FSC is working on the “tree kill” issue.

Closed Session: (6:57 p.m.)

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

§54957(b) (1) Complaint against Public Employee

In attendance: Chief Gow, President Reams, VP Greene, Director Reed, Director Harkness, and Director Arthur.

President Reams reconvened the open session at 8:00 p.m. and reported that no action had been taken by the Board during closed session.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted:



---

Patrice Metz, Board Secretary

I heard a rumor a week after your last board meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> that Keith Drone and Ian Gow were being accused of malfeasance.

My son started filming the Fire Board meetings in May of 2009. I attended all the board meetings with him and here is what I have observed:

Kurt Snyder was ran out of his Fire Chief position

The board hired Luana Dowling as Fire Chief

Reams and Arthur were elected to the board and then

Reams and Arthur (on the board) Green and Fogel (in the audience) were extremely vocal in trying to get rid of Luana by criticizing her certifications.

Kathy Wing quit

Luana quit and went to work for Placer County as a grant writer. She was paid \$60,000 per year for full time work as Fire Chief/Business Manager. She wrote grants for the district and paid for ½ her position with the administrative fees from the grants.

# Attachment 1

(Kurt and Luanna both knew budgets.)

The board hired Ian Gow part-time as Fire Chief. Ian has been an asset to the district. He has been a Fire Chief for a long time, he is politically saavy, he is intelligent and articulates himself very well.

Joan Elliot quit the board and Kevin Green was appointed.

It seemed to me that this board immediately paid Gerald Fogel back for his help in railroading Luana out - by hiring him at Captains position. Even though there were people who had been with the district longer and knew the area and the community better.

This board then cut the Fire Marshall's hours to part-time and then cut the position completely this year.

Keith Drone has been doing his job, the Fire Marshall's job and helping out at community meetings by attending when the Fire Chief is not available. I have seen his district vehicle at the Administrative Office A LOT over the last 7 months. I understand that he has been paid a lot of overtime and rightfully so as far as I am concerned. He should be paid for all the hours he has been putting in.

Keith has lived in this community all his life, he is well liked and loved. He is and has been extremely dedicated to this fire district for years.

I had a conversation with Gerald Fogel yesterday because he wanted me to know his side. I listened, went home and thought about what he had said. I still believe the man who I have known for 45+ years is innocent of what he has been accused of, I do not believe a new-comer who has only been here a couple of years.

I want you to know that I am watching very carefully what this board does, IF this board kicks Ian and/or Keith to the curb, (I will NOT be supporting your tax increase next March and I will strongly encourage others NOT to do so)

# Attachment 1