



Nevada County Consolidated Fire District

"Excellence in Emergency Service"

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 15, 2010
7:00 p.m. - Open Session

PRESENT:

Directors

David Hanson, Chairman
Robert Rhodes, Vice Chairman
Mark Bass, Treasurer
Ralph Hitchcock
John Leonard

Staff

Tim Fike, Chief
Darlene Bennett, Board Secretary
Spike Newby, B. C./Operations
Terry McMahan, FPO

ABSENT:

Directors

Warren Knox
Ron McRoberts

Staff

Vern Canon, B. C./Fire Marshal
David Ray, B. C./Training & Support
Helen Henthorn, Finance/Office Manager
Lisa LaBarbera, HR Administrator
Nicole Long, Operations Support Specialist
Jim Curtis, District Counsel

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., at Station 84, 10135 Coyote Street, Nevada City, which was the time and place scheduled for the Regular Meeting. Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone in attendance and then moved the meeting to the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of Minutes – 06/24/10
2. Fund Balances and Check History Reports
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Fire Marshal's Report
5. Chief's Recommendation for Employee Merit Increases:
 - Three Firefighters – From Level 9B, 3-Years to Level 9B, 4-Years, with an annual salary of \$43,874, effective and retroactive to July 1, 2010

Director Hitchcock asked to pull Item 1 from the Consent Calendar. Director Bass moved to accept Items 2 through 5 of the Consent Calendar as presented. Director Rhodes seconded. **MOTION** unanimously carried.

Director Hitchcock stated that , on page 1-4 of the June 24, 2010 Minutes, in the second paragraph, that the correct wording of the point he was making in the last sentence was that the "...increase was needed to reverse the loss of revenue of the Fire District." Board Secretary Bennett so noted and would make the change to the minutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)

Director Rhodes moved to accept Item 1 of the Consent Calendar as corrected. Director Hitchcock seconded. **MOTION** unanimously carried.

***PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA**

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committees

Finance – Mark Bass, Chair
Operations – Dave Hanson, Chair
Personnel – Bob Rhodes, Chair
Public Relations – Warren Knox, Chair

Ad Hoc Committees

Board Policy and Procedures –
Ralph Hitchcock, Chair

There were no Committee Reports.

OLD BUSINESS

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING UPDATE ON JPA PROGRESS.

Chief Fike reported that everything was on hold due to vacations and other scheduling conflicts.

Chairman Hanson reported that he had written a letter to each member of the two city councils and the two city managers to inform them of the approval by the NCCFD Board to move to the next step in the JPA process. He included an invitation to sit down with them on an individual basis to answer questions and had received some positive feedback from a couple, including Gene Albaugh. Chairman Hanson stated that he would be sure to ensure that those meetings took place and would report back to the Board on their outcome. He finished by asking the Board Secretary to email a copy of the letter to the Board members. **NO FURTHER ACTION** was taken on this item.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Fike gave an oral Chief's Monthly Report. He reported that not much had happened in the few weeks since the last Board Meeting. His main focus has been what will be discussed in Closed Session.

Chief Fike did report on attending the county Board of Supervisors meeting regarding driveway standards. There were no surprises. After negotiating for a year with the Contractors' Association to come up with something acceptable to both the fire services and contractors to get to 25% sloped driveways, the fire service approved, in concept, an elaborate set-up where driveway stretches that do not exceed 200 feet can go to 25%; those stretches have to be wider (12 feet) than a normal driveway; they have to have more fuels management clearance on both sides; must have a concrete-rake surface (not just steel-broomed) there has to be an angle of departure and approach that gives a running start; and they must have turnouts both top and bottom of the driveway; and so forth. It is pretty extensive.

CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT (cont.)

Chairman Hanson asked how many lots this might apply to. Chief Fike replied that the county fire planner was estimating possibly three per year. They anticipate a possible rush in the first few years for lots that have been waiting for these changes.

Chief Fike continued by saying that, although the Board of Supervisors had approved it and the fire service representatives had come up with a proposed process to do this, it still has to go to the State Board of Foresters and, odds are, they will reject it as being too steep.

Director Rhodes asked about the current process. Chief Fike replied that anything up to 16% has to meet State 4290 Driveway Standards, a compacted, 40,000 pound gravel driveway; anything from 16 to 20% has to have an engineered, hardened surface; while anything 20-25% has to be an engineered, hardened surface and have an Exception Review by the respective fire jurisdiction.

Chief Fike also reported that he had initiated the process to research what step can be taken to fill the hole in the rock in the South Yuba River, at the Highway 49 Bridge, where repeat fatalities have taken place this year. Liz Keller of The Union newspaper is intrigued and researching the number of fatalities at that spot only within the last 15-20 years.

Director Rhodes stated that there had been reluctance to fill this spot because of the possibility of law suits and he asked what had changed. Chief Fike replied that this wasn't a continuation of the prior year's conversation. This is something that he, Chief Fike, had personally taken on because he was tired of kids dying at the same swimming hole. A camera had been put in the "tunnel", which is normally a swimmable one, and it showed a collection of debris that had collected further in the tunnel which creates a "fence". Once a swimmer is in the tunnel, they are put up against the "fence" and it is too late to get out of the pressure from the hydraulics. It may not be a problem on low flow days, but it is a problem when it is anywhere above 300 cubic feet per second. Chief Fike finished by saying that he thought he would present it to the Army Corps of Engineers and ask them what could be done. It may go no where, but at least he tried.

***BOARD DISCUSSION**

Director Hitchcock asked about the repaving of the Station 91 parking lot. B.C. Newby replied that bids had closed the prior day with the lowest of the three bids coming in at \$27,000 by Koch out of Penn Valley. Hansen Bros had come in 2nd at \$37,000 while the third bid came in at \$39,000.

Chief Newby and Engineer Entz wanted to get more information from Koch, as they are unfamiliar with Koch's work; because Koch's bid was several thousand dollars lower than the other two; and to ensure he was covering all of the requirements of the project. They would probably request a 100% performance bond as well. If it appears the bid left any part of the job out or if there are any other problems, they would then probably go with Hansen Bros. However, they want to be able to justify taking a bid that is so much larger than the lowest bidder.

There was **NO ACTION** and no further discussion. Chairman Hanson then moved the meeting into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

- 7. Update on Personnel Matter
- Pursuant to CA Government Code Section 54957

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The Board met in Closed Session Pursuant to CA Government Code Section 54957. Chairman Hanson reported out of Closed Session that the Board had discussed and given direction to Chief Fike regarding the Update on a Personnel Matter as provided by the above named Code Section.

There was no more Board Discussion or closed sessions. The next Regular Board Meeting was confirmed for Thursday, August 19, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Station 84, 10135 Coyote Street, Nevada City. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest:

Approved by:

Darlene E. Bennett
District and Board Secretary

David S. Hanson
Chairman of the Board