



NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

20975 Geyserville Avenue • PO Box 217 • Geyserville • California • 95441 • (707) 857-4373 • geyservillefire.com

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

This meeting was held via teleconference, pursuant to the Governor of California's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020.

1. OPENING GREETING:

- a. Meeting Called to Order by President Rob Stewart at 7:00 PM
- b. Pledge of Allegiance (deferred)
- c. Roll Call: Directors Rob Stewart, Fred Peterson, Scott Newman, Tatsuo Okaya and Paul Bernier were participating, along with Fire Chief Marshall Turbeville, Administrative Manager Anneke Turbeville and District Treasurer Michael Pigoni.
- d. Approval of the Agenda: Larry Heiges will speak about the special fire tax during Public Discussion. **A motion was made and seconded (Bernier/Peterson) to approve the agenda with that addition. All ayes.**

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A motion was made and seconded (Newman/Peterson) to move Paul Bernier to President, Tatsuo Okaya to Vice President, Fred Peterson to Treasurer, and Scott Newman to Secretary. All ayes.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Larry Heiges and Walter Keiser provided an update on the fire tax. The fire tax is \$400 for a residential parcel and \$50 for a vacant parcel. A notice of the hearing was sent out to residents to consider and adopt a resolution supporting vegetation management at next Wednesday's meeting. Of the 85 registered voters in the area, 70 support, 5 do not support, and 10 are unknown. The resolution and ordinance will be in draft form, so changes can be made during the meeting.

4. MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Okaya) to approve the December 12, 2020 special meeting minutes and December 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All ayes.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT: Fred Peterson reviewed the financial report. Several accounts are over budget; mid-year budget revisions are needed.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR: In addition to the bills in the agenda packet, Chief Turbeville would like to reimburse John Lilienthal for his travel expenses during his recent assignment, and Anneke Turbeville asked to pay Sonoma County for its grant share of this quarter. **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Newman) to pay the bills. All ayes.**

7. CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Marshall Turbeville reported that staff are getting vaccines, the Knights Valley water tender is getting serviced, other apparatus are going in for winter maintenance, and the fuels crew is completing projects every couple of weeks.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Paul Bernier commended Fred Peterson on his efforts to get Bradford Mountain burned.

9. **GEYSERVILLE FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION REPORT:** A meeting took place recently to discuss the status of becoming Cloverdale employees. The District is waiting to hear from Cloverdale what costs and pay changes would be involved with the transition. In addition, the Board would like to hear from the County if funding will continue for those positions. Directors agreed that it is important to reach out to Supervisor Gore and make sure he knows the importance of that funding to this District.

10. **GEYSERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION REPORT:** Fred Peterson described some of the large and generous donations to the GVFA, as well as recent purchases made by the GVFA. The blood drive is tomorrow.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

12. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Consolidation and Annexation: Fred Peterson reported that the draft MSR is complete. It will be on the February agenda but will not be voted on. Now is the time to talk to people in the Geysers area. Hopefully the County will give us tax money, as was the case with Mountain Fire.
- b. Alexander Valley Fire Station: The station building will be looked at by engineering and architecture experts for site repair recommendations.
- c. Fuel Reduction Fee Schedule: Chief Turbeville would like to keep the current fee schedule, which references the OES salary survey. Current fuel crew rates would be included on the OES salary survey. This item can be removed from the agenda.
- d. Social Media Policy: The District will be using the Lexipol policy. A Lexipol committee with Cloverdale will be meeting to discuss policies.
- e. Knights Valley Update: Fred Peterson received a letter from the Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Department board regarding use of the Knights Valley fire station for response. This will be a topic of discussion on next month's agenda. Scott Newman thanked the board for taking stewardship of the water tender.
- f. Strategic Planning meeting: The strategic planning meeting will be held next week at 4:00 PM, followed by the public hearing at 7:00 PM.
- g. Chalk Hill Property Update: Rob Stewart reported that the owner is still interested in selling the triangle property.

13. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. JPA Side Letter: **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Peterson) to approve the JPA side letter which changes the agreement between Cloverdale Fire and Northern Sonoma County Fire to include a fee of 5% of base payroll costs as a fee for service. All ayes.**
- b. Solar Panels: The original solar panels are inoperable. **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Stewart) to get the solar system back online. All ayes.**
- c. Wildland Firefighting Positions SOP: The Board supports the positions. This SOP will be an action item next month.
- d. Fuels Manual: **A motion was made and seconded (Okaya/Newman) to approve the expenses associated with the legal review of the Fuels Manual. All ayes.**

14. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Rob Stewart announced that Kathleen Young passed away.

15. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:** D motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Newman) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. All ayes.

Minutes approved as written- Motion/Second:

Okaya/ Stewart

Clerk of the Board:

Amelia Turbeville

Date:

2/18/2021

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