

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

March 14, 2022 Minutes

Tony Marcaccio-Board Chair, Tina Holum-Vice Chair, Judy Hobson-Secretary, Randy Rossi-Director, Candance Flaming-Director

Mission Statement

To provide a professional and compassionate level of community fire protection, emergency medical and rescue services to the citizens and property owners within the Fire District, in order to prevent or minimize the loss of life, pain, suffering and property damage as a result of fire or other types of emergency.

The regularly scheduled March 14th, 2023 6:00 PM Board Meeting was conducted in person at 7061 Mt. Aukum Rd. Somerset, CA 95684

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM 18:00 hours 6:00p.m.

1.1 Roll Call-Present: Director Marcaccio, Director Rossi, Director Hobson, Director Flaming
Director Holum,
Administration: Chief Whitt, Admin. Assistant Joy Vierra, Captain Schwitalla FF Carlson LTFE
Running, LTFE Aemisegeo

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance led by Director Holum

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board may make any necessary additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the agenda and the Consent Calendar with one single vote. A Board member may request an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion and separate Board action

2.1 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Minutes from February 14 2023 Board Meeting.

2.2 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Payment of bills – green sheets for February 2023
Motion to adopt agenda and accept consent calendar
(M/S) Rossi/Hobson
Passed 5/0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Open Forum)

No Public Comment

4. MONTHLY/STANDING ACTIVITY REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 **Administrative/Chief's Report** – Chief Whitt reviewed Chief's report as printed in the Board Packet.

TO: Pioneer Fire Protection District Board of Directors

FROM: David Whitt, Fire Chief

REVIEWED BY:

PREPARED BY: David Whitt, Fire Chief

DATE: March 14, 2023

ITEM: March Board of Director's Meeting Chief's Report for the Month of February

RECOMMENDATION: Receive information about the District

Calls For Service in September:

Call Type
EMS

January
37

Year to Date
78

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Fire	4	5
MVA	10	15
Hazmat	3	5
Assist	13	20
Other	13	39
TOTAL	80	169
Fire Loss Total	\$ 0	\$000,000

Apparatus

Repairing the fleet continues to progress. Possible grant opportunity was submitted for Type VI Engine that may require some matching funds. This will hopefully be a brand new Engine. More to follow.

E-38 (Type 1 – Frontline Structure Engine)

- Is back in a shop to repair some damage and for servicing. Propriety of parts is the delay (only available through the manufacturer – KME). Vendor is very responsive though.

Reserve Engine (El Dorado Hills)

- Replacing plumbing for front discharge

E-338 (Type 3 – Frontline Wildland Engine)

- E-338 in service, repaired tension pulley (part was \$700). Was able to connect with at mobile mechanic that is very interested in having a relationship with us moving forward (reasonable price, too!) All previous issues will be looked at here at Station 38 if we can agree that this agreement moves forward.

Type 6 Engine (Known currently as Patrol 38)

- Pump repair is next to make sure it meets ICS Typing Standards (pump capacity and testing)

Type 6 Engine (Known currently as Patrol 35)

- Is at the shop for pump start and check engine light.
- Shop is looking to coordinate electric control modules to have said light go out. DMV will be notified to have the apparatus “adjudicated” and approved for use in the State of California.

WT-38 (Frontline Water Tender)

- Repairs started on Tender. May or may not be headed to White Freightliner for repairs.

Type 7 Engine (known as Patrol 35)

- Has been sold to an allied agency for \$5000.00

Facilities

Station 38 including the living quarters:

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- Gym has been completed.
- Water filtration system went out to bid and is closed. Bids being opened and will be awarded commensurate to District policy.
- Still waiting for Subject Matter Expert to assist with bid for Electrical supply drop and associated repairs (Scope of Work).
- Roof prop is nearly finished on top of the Conex box.
- Plan is moving forward for re-arranging the apparatus bay and interior of Administration including possibly removing the kitchen area.
- Air compressor Grant has been awarded to Pioneer with official notification from FEMA. Bid to go out the week of February 20, 2023.

Personnel

- Firefighter Walsh has been acting as “B” Shift Captain.
- We still have 4-5 shift volunteers/limited term, All-risk Firefighters that have been working on a fairly regular basis bringing our staffing up to 4 at times.
- We will be advertising for a full-time Firefighter and going through the process of establishing an eligibility list.

Administration

- Staff will be reviewing previously set Wildly Important Goals (WIG’s) that keep us focused and effective. Apparatus will be our top priority even though we are making great progress with fleet.
- Information for the Annual Report being gathered.
- Beginning the process for training and implementation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Several meetings including JPA, Chiefs, County Operations, El Dorado County Fire District Finance Committee.
- Meeting with various community and business organizations to assist with grants for fire mitigation projects.
- Meet with Standing Finance Committee members to begin FEMA reimbursements, budget for FY 2023/24, grant opportunity, and budget process moving forward.

OPTIONS: The Chief’s Report is for informational purposes. The Board of Directors may take one or more of the following actions:

- 1) Provide Staff with comment.
- 2) Provide Staff with additional direction.

FISCAL IMPACT: As noted in the report

ACTION PLAN: None.

RELATED ACTION(S): None.

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4.2 Local #4586

FF Carlson represented the Local and stated they have no report.

4.3 PVFA

The Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday April 8th at Pioneer Park Breakfast will be served from 9-10:30a.m., and the Easter Egg Hunt will start at 11a.m.

4.4 Financial

Chief Whitt reviewed financials as provided in the board packet and reported that there is approximately 14% left of revenues to be received for the FY. Expenses are at 65% of our budgeted amounts and we are hoping to come in under budget 5-10% for the FY.

4.5 Standing Financial Committee Report

Director Holum gave an update for the Financial Standing Committee held on March 10 2023.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Board of Directors Policy Manual Review

(Marcaccio)

Director Marcaccio provided background information related to the Board Policy Manual and the need for review on a scheduled basis. Director Marcaccio opened it up to the board asking for volunteers to sit on the Ad Hoc committee. Directors Rossi and Hobson volunteered to sit on that committee.

Motion made to appoint Director Rossi and Director Hobson to sit on the Ad Hoc committee to review and update Pioneer Fire Board Policy Manual.

(M/S) Holum/Flaming

Passed 5/0

5.2 Charters for Standing Committees

(Whitt)

Chief Whitt reviewed the Charters for Standing Committees, this item is to be carried over to Old Business to address at the April board meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Fechter & Company Audit Engagement Letter

(Vierra)

Admin Vierra reported it is time again for annual audit and presented engagement letter from Fechter & Company for the board to approve.

Motion to accept engagement letter from Fechter & Company to perform PFPD's annual audit.

(M/S) Holum/ Rossi

Passed 5/0

6.2 Use of Station 35 Replacement funds

(Whitt)

Chief Whitt outlined two proposed options for the use of Station 35 rebuild funds. The two options for rebuild of a 30 X 40 foot building would be:

1. To rebuild an apparatus building at Station 35 located at 4837 Sciaroni Rd, Grizzly Flats CA

If a new building is placed back at Station 35, it would serve as a garage type only building to house a piece of apparatus and not as a staffed station. Station 35 has been unstaffed for many years, only housing a piece of apparatus usually a utility vehicle only. Station 35 was staffed part-time for a brief period from June of 2020 through June of 2021 with a Firefighter who was living in the rented home next door to the Station. If he was in the area he would respond from that location. At the time of the Caldor Fire, Station 35 was an unstaffed Station. Current

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response models for Grizzly Flats include volunteers responding from their homes with District provided apparatus.

2. To build new apparatus building at Station 31 located at 7960 Grizzly Flat Rd, Somerset CA.

If a new building is placed at Station 31, it would serve as a garage type only building to house a piece of apparatus in conjunction with the existing Station 35 structure which has living quarters and a very small area for apparatus to be housed. With living quarters available, the forest service has been occupying Station 31 a minimum of 40 hours a week, even through the winter months. Plans for the future would be to have “Resident” Fire fighters who are fully trained in all risk operation to utilize that station when the Forest Service is not occupying it.

Admin Vierra read into record a letter from the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council:

March 11, 2023

Board of Directors

Pioneer Fire Protection District

7061 Mount Aukum Road

Somerset, CA 95684

Re: Board of Directors Agenda Item #6.2, Use of Station #35 Replacement Funds

Dear Board of Directors:

The Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council wholeheartedly supports the Pioneer Fire Protection District using the FEMA Station #35 replacement funds as recommended by Chief Whitt. We agree that it will make more sense realistically and logistically for the District to have a station that is within nationally recognized response time standards and has the ability to routinely house firefighters and equipment. We also recognize the Board of Directors’ and our Fire Chief’s judgement regarding the necessary consideration of the long-term fiscally prudent decision whether to replace the structure that was lost in the 2021 Caldor Fire.

We understand that having a “garage” (a like-for-like replacement of the previous structure that FEMA will fund) within the Grizzly Park subdivision may not necessarily have equipment housed in it. The “garage” would also be void of living quarters and may not be a situation that will ultimately benefit the community of Grizzly Flats.

In addition, the retention and recruitment of first-responder volunteers who live and respond within the community (with District equipment) from their own residences is paramount.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Mark Almer
Chairperson

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Director Marcaccio opened up the meeting to the board members to provide comment and ask questions.

Director Holum asked about existing structure at Station 31 and renovations and where the funds would be coming from. Chief Whitt replied that the district would be responsible for refurbishing the current structure at Station 31.

Director Rossi asked for Chief to clarify for the public the exact location information for station 31, and Station 35. Chief Whitt provided location information as listed above. Chief added that Station 31 Willow School Station currently houses a Tool House loan program through the West Slope Foundation which is being used for individuals in the process of rebuilding in Grizzly Flats, and clarified that the PVFA, Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association currently owns and is leasing Station 31 to the Forest Service.

Director Hobson asked how long it will take to build the building. Chief Whitt stated we are hoping once a bid is awarded it would take 4-6 months to complete the building installation.

Director Flaming asked about ownership of Willow School and Station 35. Clarification was made that both are currently owned by the PVFA.

Director Marcaccio opened up the topic to the public for questions and comments.

Grizzly Flat resident Keith Cunningham asked for clarification about how funds can be used from Station 35 to Station 31. Chief Whitt clarified that we are requesting that the funds for Station 35 rebuild would be used at Station 31.

Grizzly Flat resident shared she is very sad that Station 35 won't go back and asked about district member taxes. Chief Whitt shared about Prop 13 and how it effects the Fire Service.

Grizzly Flat resident Kelly Howard asked what happens to Pioneer Fire if fiscal solvency is reached by the district. Chief Whitt stated it could become necessary for proposals to be made for increasing taxes within the district.

Grizzly Flat resident asked about response time differences to Grizzly Flats. Chief Whitt Shared that currently the district has 3 Volunteer Firefighters that are responding from their homes in Grizzly Flats with district provided apparatus, and we are in the process of training more to serve as first on Scene for calls in Grizzly Flats.

Grizzly Flat resident Susan asked how many volunteer Firefighters are in Grizzly Flats. Chief Whitt stated there are currently 3 Volunteers with district provided apparatus.

Grizzly Flat resident Kelly Howard shared that she does not disagree with the plan, and understands fiscal responsibility, but also shared that public perception of not putting the building back adds to the idea that it is not worth putting it back as it was, and that the community is not worth rebuilding as it was with the school and church and the fire station and the Post Office.

Grizzly Flat resident wants to know what else they are going to lose, will they lose the Post Office, school and the fire department.

Grizzly Flat resident Felicia Moffat clarification about what exactly the Board would be voting for. Clarification was provided that the Board would be making a decision on fire station placement.

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Grizzly Flat resident Maria wanted clarification that Pioneer Fire will respond if called. Chief Whitt assured her yes they will continue to respond all calls in Grizzly Flats.

Grizzly Flat resident asked about getting volunteers, remembering how many they used to have in Grizzly Flats many years ago. Chief Whitt explained that it is harder today to get volunteers that meet all the standards that are not required, that years ago it was much easier to meet qualifications than it is now.

Paul Schaffer provided some information about the Omo Ranch and Grizzly Flats volunteers, and also suggested people become involved and support the PVFA, Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Director Flaming, Grizzly Flat resident expressed how hard it is to see the station not be returned, but also understands the district needs to be fiscally responsible.

Director Rossi thanked the community members for their participation at the meeting and for all the comments that were shared.

Director Marcaccio closed the public comment portion of the meeting and entertained a motion. Motion made to use Station 35 replacement funds to build new apparatus building at Station 31 located at 7960 Grizzly Flat Rd, Somerset CA.

(M/S) Flaming/ Holum

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Rossi, Marcaccio, Hobson, Holum, Flaming

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Passed 5/0

6.3 FY 23-24 Budget (Vierra)

Chief Whitt shared he will be seeking input from the Finance Committee and District Staff.

6.4 Resolution 2023-01 Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Fire Risk Management Services (formerly Fire Agencies Self Insurance Systems (FASIS)) (Whitt)

Chief Whitt explained that the JPA for our Workman's Compensation provider is consolidating and changing and for us to continue to participate we need to approve the new JPA. Motion made to approve Resolution 2023-01 Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Fire Risk Management Services (formerly Fire Agencies Self Insurance Systems (FASIS))

(M/S)

Rossi/Holum

Passed 5/0

6.5 Review of Statement of Facts (Vierra)

Admin Vierra provided the Board with the Statement of Facts from El Dorado County Elections for their review. Director Flaming provided updated email, Director Hobson provided updated phone and Director Rossi provided correction in the spelling of his name. Director Hobson signed document as the District Secretary.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS/BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS (GOOD OF THE ORDER)

7.1 NONE

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8. AGENDA ITEMS (For Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting)

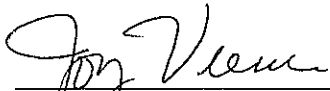
- 8.1 Old Business – FY 23-24 Budget
- 8.2 Old Business - 5.2 Charters for Standing Committees
- 8.3 New Business FY 23-34 Preliminary Budget,
- 8.4 New Business Use of Station 35 replacement funds

ADJOURNMENT– Motion to Adjourn


(M/S) Hobson/Flaming Passed 4/0 Meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday April 11, 2022 at 6pm

Prepared by:



Joy Vierra, Administrative Assistant



Chair BOD

4-11-2023

Date