

PENN VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PENN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Penn Valley Fire Protection District was called to order by Chairman Grundel at 6:30 P.M. at Station 43. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken.

PRESENT

Directors: Larry Bailey, Bill Neville, Kurt Grundel, Bob Webster and Randy Casto

Absent: None

Others: Chief Vander Plaats and public

Secretary-Clerk: Debbie Hughes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Marie Pecoraro thanked the Association for the luncheon they gave the Auxiliary. The ladies enjoyed it very much. They learned quite a bit about the equipment firefighters have to wear. It was then mentioned that this would be a good service program (to show the public how much the gear weighs, how fast it needs to be put on, and how much it actually costs.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The ambulance financial section was pulled so D. Hughes could explain it to the board. B. Neville motioned to approve the consent calendar as presented. B. Webster seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Chief Vander Plaats reported that:

- The Board of Supervisors are reviewing the Nevada County fire plan.
- Sierra College says that Nevada County Fire Departments are going to receive money for the training project, and that the plans for that are on Tier 1 now.

NEVADA COUNTY FIRE AGENCY

Sierra Nevada Ambulance is dispatched from the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center. The Cities are billed for the dispatch; however Sierra Nevada Ambulance is not. The JPA is going to discuss this to see how much they should be billed. In the end it could be less expensive for the other users, if the cost is disbursed.

PENN VALLEY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Breakfast is this Sunday.

CHIEF'S REPORT

In addition to the report in the packet Chief Vander Plaats said:

- Siteline Architecture has estimated the addition at Station 43 at approximately \$271,000. When we started this project the estimation was \$180,000. Some of this is due to changes requested by Nevada County Planning.
- Grants – the board thought we may have some success in receiving grants if we advertised in The Wildwood Independent for an experienced volunteer grant writer.

ORDINANCE 01-1 FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW

Chief Vander Plaats reported that the District is allowed to charge a fee to recover the cost of any service we provide. The current Ordinance 01-01 is outdated. Presented in the board packet was a current rate schedule including Federal, State and Local government for reimbursement for mutual aid responses. The board requested this be updated and brought back to the next meeting for approval. (This is an ordinance so it will take a few meetings to pass).

CONSIDERATION OF FORMAL APPROVAL TO START MAIL BALLOT PROCEEDINGS

Chief Vander Plaats stated that the Board of Directors through negotiations over the past several years has made a commitment to safety career staff to adjust their work schedule from the current 72 hours per week to the traditional 56 hours. The board and staff were aware this financial commitment would be difficult to meet in future years, but was important due to recruitment and retention problems. The board agreed it was in the best interests of the citizens of the District to reduce the work week hours. The current annual rescue tax of \$47.00 was passed in 1991; with no inflation factor attached. Discussion ensued, with many ideas, views and thoughts brought up. In the end the general consensus of the board is that the District must show the public that all other options to raise revenue have been exhausted; and to have a special rescue tax on a mail-in ballot in Spring of 2009. K. Grundel applauded B. Neville and B. Webster for their work on the strategic ad-hoc committee thus far.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. Director Bailey – Nothing to report at this time.
2. Director Neville – He attended a technical conference put on by the NFPA for rural and forested areas regarding evacuation. They are studying the brush fires in Southern CA for their data.
3. Director Webster – Nothing to report at this time.

4. Vice-Chair Casto – The Chief, R. Casto and B. Neville met with Nevada County Consolidated FPD for an informal get together for discussion of ours and their long-term strategic plan. This was to see if services could be improved by sharing of any resources. This didn't go too far as logistics are a problem, and NCCFPD has the most to offer in the way of personnel, funds, stations, etc. However, they did say they're here to help and if requested they would be willing to do contracts for service.
5. Chair Grundel – Nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT The board adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hughes
Secretary to the Board

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