



# Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

Post Office Box 189  
Tahoma, CA 96142  
Lake Tahoe  
PHONE 530-525-7548  
FAX 530-525-4502  
Steve Leighton, CHIEF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
Edward I. Miller  
Korie Kromydas  
Jennifer Lemke  
Louie Fielding

## Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

**Minutes**  
May 19, 2021

**Directors Present:** Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, Director Lemke and President Miller

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors, for the month of May was called to order at 3:30pm by President Miller.

**2. Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**3. Approval of Past Minutes**

It was moved by Director Lemke and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to approve the Board Minutes dated April 21, 2021, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**4. Financial**

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to accept the financial reports, items 4.A-E, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**5. Public Input**

There was none.

**6. Business Requiring Action**

**A. Review of Candidate Application and Possible Selection to Fill Board Vacancy**

There were no candidate applications submitted.

**B. Long-term Planning with North Tahoe Fire**

Director Fielding in an effort to glean more input from the community, he has spoken with several of his neighbors and received the following insights:

- People are happy with the service they are receiving;
- They like having the identity of Meeks Bay Fire and the pancake breakfast, but their main concern is that emergency apparatus shows up;
- Deficit spending is a concern but they do not support paying additional tax dollars to retain that identity
- They appreciate that Meeks Bay Fire is the only entity that specifically supports this part of El Dorado County, however, there does not appear to be a lot of willingness to pay extra for it;

The questions he has are:

- Where is the deficit coming from?
- Would consolidation help?



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- If the district depletes all of its reserves and have not assets left, then doesn't that leave the district in a disadvantageous position?
- What is the difference between what the costs are now and what they would be as a separate district?
- What are the next steps?

President Miller:

- Historically, the district has never lost an election when going for either a special tax or benefit assessment;
- The variance of what consolidation could save, or additional cost with or without consolidation, should be taken into consideration based on the economy;

Chief Leighton:

- Confirmed that staff will do what the board instructs them to do;
- The report from South Fork Consulting correctly shows that the district's expenses exceed its revenue;
- There is revenue that North Tahoe receives that is not available to Meeks Bay;
- Recommended a fiscal impact study

Chief McNamara:

- North Tahoe has used Bay Area Economics (BAE) for numerous studies over the years and they are one of the best consultants in the state for this type of environment;
- BAE would require a scope of services to understand what they would need to do;
- They could give information as to what the two districts' situations are now and what a single district would look like after consolidation;
- They could determine if a benefit assessment would be required;
- The document could be used as part of a LAFCo document in the future

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to have staff create a Request For Proposal (RFP) to Bay Area Economics (BAE), at their earliest opportunity, to analyze consolidation, impact to taxpayers, services, which can be used by LAFCo for plan for services, determination for the need of a benefit assessment, and evaluate the fiscal wellness now and in five years. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### **C. Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Special District Election Memo**

Director Lemke gave an update to the directors of her findings of the candidates.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to rank the nominees: 1) Palmer 2) Saunders 3) White 4) Scobey 5) Veerkamp, and authorize President Miller, as presiding officer, to sign the ballot. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### **D. Spring/Summer Newsletter**

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to consolidate a newsletter with North Tahoe Fire (each agency would provide content for one side), authorize President Miller to update appropriate articles from past newsletters, utilize North Tahoe Fire's article regarding Chief Leighton's appointment to Fire Chief, receive a current bio from Director Fielding, include information regarding possible consolidation, allow Office Manager Crawford to prepare the Meeks Bay side of the newsletter, and utilize the Direct Mail Drop option to keep costs at a minimum. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.



## E. Next Board Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the Board of Directors will be June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 7. Chief's Reports

Chief Leighton updated the board on activities since the last meeting. Items of particular interest included:

- S Fire danger message to public
- S Will begin a SWOT analysis with staff in the next 30-60 days (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- S Change of command ceremony on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00pm.
- S The track chipper was obtained through an air quality grant several years ago. Unfortunately, the district has not had the opportunity to use it on fuel reduction projects in the last several years. Currently, there are some area agencies interested in using the equipment, and staff is in the process of determining how and when it can be used, according to the grant documents.
- S Staff is working on the transition for the district to take on fire sprinklers and propane plan review and inspections from El Dorado County. The district's codes are much more stringent than the county's. This will also provide an opportunity to include addressing (house numbers) as part of the plan review process.
- S Defensible space inspectors will be staying in our districts and not assisting other districts with inspections as was done last year.

## 8. Information Items

- S Former Director Hyde sent his regards to everyone through President Miller
- S President Miller attended Implicit Bias seminar as a requirement of sitting on the Civil Service Commission
- S President Miller apologized for confusion of duplication of articles in Tahoe Daily Tribune and Sierra Sun
- S Report from Sustainable Community Advocates

## 9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn R. Crawford  
Clerk of the Board

### Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Steve Leighton  
Division Chief Steve McNamara  
Director of Finance Kim Eason  
Clerk of the Board Shawn Crawford  
Captain Naman Beatie  
Captain Jeremiah Meadows

### Additional Attendees:

Ellie Beals