



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Edward I. Miller

Korie Kromydas

Louie Fielding

Bob Millslagle

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

April 27, 2022

Directors Present: Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, President Miller, and Director Millslagle

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors for the month of April was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by President Miller.

2. Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. There was no public comment.

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

3. Approval of Past Minutes

There were no additions or changes to the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to approve the Board Minutes dated March 16, 2022, as submitted and posted. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Financial

Chief Leighton explained that Director Eason is on vacation this week, but she provided her reports before she left. The Chief and Director Eason specifically went over the reports, so if the Directors have any questions, the Chief is able to provide answers.

There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

President Miller pointed out that the invoice from Network Solutions, the internet provider needs to be paid by May or service will be terminated. Chief Leighton said he would talk to Kim about it.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Millslagle 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. Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency Issued on March 4, 2020, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District for the Period of April 27-May 26, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

This resolution allows the Board the option to hold meetings virtually. The law enacted to implement the proclamation remains in effect until January 1, 2024. The ability to hold virtual meetings like this is allowed while the proclamation is active. If, in the future the Board decides to meet in person and then the need arises to meet virtually again, it's a good idea to pass this resolution. Each resolution is good for 30 days.

There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas, seconded by Director Fielding to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-07, allowing the District the option of holding the April meeting in a virtual setting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Resolution 2022-08 Declaring a Consolidated Election be Held in our Jurisdiction with Other Districts Requesting Election Services

There are two Board seats up for election (Kromydas and Vacant). The necessary forms for the upcoming Consolidated District Election to be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022, were included in the Board packet. In order for El Dorado County to include the election of Meeks Bay Fire Board members on their ballot, this resolution must be adopted.

It was moved by Director Fielding, seconded by Director Millslagle to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-08, declaring a consolidated election be held in our jurisdiction with other districts requesting election services. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

C. Liberty Energy's Tree Trimming Project

President Miller stated this topic arose because he received an email from a couple who live in Tahoma who are concerned about the logs being left on neighborhood properties when Liberty Utility cuts down trees around power lines and poles. President Miller spoke with Curt Althoff, who is now handling community relations from Liberty Energy. Mr. Althoff said that logs under four inches are chipped. Any larger logs are left for the homeowner to use or dispose of. Mr. Althoff will contact the concerned homeowner. Chief Leighton stated that Liberty Utilities had not notified the District. A letter went out to notify residents of trees to be trimmed. The District Clerk was instructed to strike the sentence on the cover letter regarding clearing debris.

Director Fielding stated that because the timber is on the landowner's property, Liberty Utilities cannot remove it; however, they were cooperative with the wood on his property.

President Miller stated that Mr. Althoff's letter invited homeowners to call Liberty Utilities and request the wood be taken away.

This item was for informational purposes only. No action by the Board was required.



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D. Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Chief Leighton updated the Board regarding the progress of the LAFCO process, and he thanked Director Eason, who is on vacation this week, for her participation in the process.

Nothing much has changed since last meeting. The minutes from last month were comprehensive. El Dorado County LAFCO is expected to adopt the MSR document at its meeting tomorrow night. AP Triton, who is also conducting the ambulance study expects to complete their fiscal impact study in 60-90 days. Placer LAFCO is paying for the entire study, which will cost less than \$10,000. Lastly, Chief Leighton stated that he wants to make sure that neither district is hurt in the process, which also aligns with Placer LAFCO's goals. He also stated that staff is taking their time to make sure they acquire the needed information for the Board to make an informed decision.

President Miller updated Supervisor Novasel as to the status of the annexation, and she stated that she is happy the process is moving forward.

There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

E. Pancake Breakfast Update – July 3, 2022

President Miller and Chief Leighton provided updates to the 2022 pancake breakfast scheduled for Sunday, July 3. Since California is open without masks, Chief Leighton expects the event will be held. President Miller said the State Parks Foundation is looking for volunteers.

F. MBFPD Logo items for Directors

Some Directors have asked about availability of MBF logo items such as hats and shirts. Having this logo wear (as NTF Directors have) would be appropriate for both official functions, like the pancake breakfast, as well as around town to "show the flag". The MBF logo is on file with a local silk screen printer and an embroiderer, but it will need updating in order for it to be used. No inventory is currently at Station 67 or other locations.

The Board decided to use Account No. 4300 to fund this project. Account 4300 has \$1,000 budgeted in the 2021/2022 for Board expenditures, which also includes education. The Board members were directed to send the District Clerk their choice of golf-style polo shirt or full button-down shirt and color preferences (blue, black, or white). Once the Clerk receives information from all Directors, the shirts can be ordered.

G. Resolution 2022-09 opposing Initiative #21-0042A1

This Resolution is being requested by California Special Districts Association ("CSDA"). It calls for special districts to oppose Initiative #21-0042A1 which limits the ability of voters and state and local governments to raise revenues for government services (the "Initiative"). Adopting this Resolution would allow us the ability to raise revenues for government services by way of election.

There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Millslagle to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-09 opposing Initiative #21-0042A1. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.



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H. Next Board Meeting Dates

The May 18, 2022 Board meeting is canceled, and the next regular meetings of the Board of Directors are scheduled for June 29 and July 20, 2022.

President Miller suggested the June meeting could be in person, and whenever the joint meeting is held, it should also be in person.

The District Clerk was instructed to send an email to all Directors on or about June 1 as to their preference of holding the June meeting, scheduled for June 29, virtually or in person.

There was no public comment.

7. Chief's Report

In addition to the report included in the Board packet, Chief Leighton reported that El Dorado County awarded us \$403,000 from TOT funds to purchase a rescue-type apparatus. He thanked PIO Holland for putting us in the position to receive the money. We didn't know about it last year, however, this year we were part of the process. They do not award funding for staffing costs, but the money may be used for equipment and apparatus.

Director Millslagle asked if Meeks Bay Fire will be able to access the TOT funds from El Dorado County after the merger. Chief Leighton received confirmation from El Dorado County, that a newly-formed district would still be eligible to receive those funds.

A second item in addition to the Chief's report was regarding the water supply in the Tahoma area. He met with Sean Barclay, General Manager of the TCPUD. In 2018, TCPUD purchased three independent water companies in Homewood, Tahoe Cedars, and Tahoma. There are 15 miles of pipeline, and many need to be replaced. It will take \$60 million to repair and about ten years to complete. TCPUD requested the Fire District not test the hydrants in the above areas because it could break the pipes. Chief Leighton wants to make sure the hydrants work, so he is meeting again with the TCPUD on May 9 to continue the discussions and come up with an acceptable testing method. In the meantime, the District has added a water tender to respond on all structure fire calls.

Other items of particular interest mentioned in Chief Leighton's report included:

- Three new Firefighter/Paramedic recruits completed the two-week, in-house mini academy.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Sarah Kertesz is now in TAP Phase 4 which allows her to work independently with complete control of patient care.
- CERT is meeting in person again, and Engineer Sacchi is leading them since Fire Marshal Armstrong was promoted.
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) received a 2022 National Wildfire Mitigation Award for innovation and leadership and wildfire mitigation. Chief Leighton was nominated and selected as the 2022-2023 Co-chair of the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC).
- SB 1012 passed unopposed through the Senate Appropriations on April 4, 2022. This bill requires that the California State Parks follow and enforce the local fire restrictions.
- HR 6903 also known as the "Put The Fire Out" bill calls for all available resources to carry out wildfire suppression activities on National Forest Service lands within 24 hours after a wildfire is detected.
- The LAFCO process is moving forward. AP Triton expects to complete the fiscal impact analysis in 60-90 days.



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8. Information Items

The report from Sustainable Community Advocates was included in the Board packet. There was no Board or public comment on the report.

Other informational items discussed were:

- Caldor Fire Evacuation Method – Director Fielding discussed the evacuation boundaries, which were unenforceable and confusing. It was confusing because of the County line, which split evacuation. Also, the road blocks on Hwy. 89 staffed by PCSO were in Placer County. Chief Leighton let the Board know that the District doesn't have the authority to evacuate. The Incident Commander has to get approval from the Sheriff to evacuate. The District provided input regarding the evacuation zones. Most of the El Dorado County Sheriffs were on the Hwy. 50 side, and there was not a lot of presence in the Tahoma/Homewood area. CHP and other city/county agencies were there, but they weren't familiar with our area.

Chief Whisler stated that it's not possible to make an evacuation plan for every fire. The main thing is to minimize the impact on roads, and we don't have a lot of control. Even in Christmas Valley, they evacuated one side of the road first. If everyone was evacuated at one time, there would be too much congestion. Also, the Cascade Fire would have had different evacuations compared to Caldor Fire.

President Miller stated that he didn't think a letter to the sheriffs would work because there are two sheriffs in two different jurisdictions. The evacuation response would most likely be different every time.

Regarding an evacuation checklist, the TFFT "Fire PIT" is working on an updated evacuation checklist, and it is anticipated it will be sent out before fire season. PIO Holland will have more details as they become available.

Regarding turning off the gas during evacuation, President Miller stated that if the fire district responded, they would turn off the gas for the whole street. If individuals turn theirs off, the pilot lights would have to be re-lit.

Chief Leighton also mentioned that the makeshift sprinklers that homeowners made in Christmas Valley decreased the pressure for fire hoses. The best thing to do is make sure your defensible space work is done and your "go" bag is ready, among other things.

President Miller added that the Truckee Tahoe Humane Society received a donation from the Duffield Foundation to provide go bags for animals, complete with a leash, collar, food, etc.

- President Miller said the Civil Service Commission moved their meetings to the fourth Wednesday, so that will no longer be a conflict for him.
- President Miller, North Tahoe Fire Board President Mike Baffone, and Chief Leighton will meet with Tony Karwowski, Chief Executive Officer at North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, to discuss how our response call volume is affected by their marketing. They'll also discuss the denied requests for TOT funds. The NLTRA is controlled more by local entities now, and there is a local committee deciding how those funds are spent.
- President Miller discussed SB1012 and the fiscal analysis on the District. State Parks told him it would cost \$1 million for the first year and \$70,000 to align their rules with ours. In a meeting with State Parks, Senator Glazer's office asked State Parks how they currently inform the community of a fire. If they



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already have a system in place, then it shouldn't cost them \$1 million. President Miller would like to see them bring the bill out of the appropriations committee and go straight to the Governor's office. Senator Glazer's office will be present at the local Kiwanis Club meeting.

- Lastly, today is Administrative Assistants' day. President Miller said thank you to the District Clerk and other staff members in that category.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Millslagle to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Martin
Clerk of the Board

Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Steve Leighton
Division Chief Alan Whisler
Battalion Chief Naman Beatie
Captain Jeremiah Meadows
PIO Erin Holland
Clerk of the Board Kelly Martin

Additional Attendees:

Ellie Beals