



South Coast Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 334 Gualala, California 95445 (707)884-4700

Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on July 16, 2020

Location: 39215 Church Street, Gualala, California

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Pete Slunaker.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Pete Slunaker; Directors Kevin Callanan, Rick O' Neil and Flavia de Oliveira

Absent: Director Chuckie Sorensen

3. Public Expression – 3-minute limit

None.

4. Financial Report

Maureen Carr said that we are under budget this year. One reason is that our accounting budget was higher to cover being audited. But the audit will be taking place next year. The audit will subtract \$10,000 from next years budget. Also, we received a check for \$29,000 from the Fire Fund Agency that was unexpected. However, we did not get any funds from Prop 172 this year. The balance on the account is approximately \$357,000. We do have an engine payment coming up for \$50,000. But we did get more income from special assessments this year.

We didn't get as much reimbursable income this year because we didn't go out on as many fires as in 2019. And our expenditures are down for the year.

5. Announcements

None.

6. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Rick O'Neil motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Kevin Callanan seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

7. New Business—New seats for 7562, Order New 7530 Approval, buy water tender from Timber Cove

The firefighters that have been taking 7562 out on strike teams have inquired about replacing the front seats on 7562 with reclining seats. Gregg said the cost would be about \$4,000. The current seats in the engine are not comfortable and do not recline.

Kevin motioned to replace the seats in 7562 with reclining seats. Rick seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

Gregg has looked into financing for the new rescue truck that will replace 7530. There is a 3, 5, and 7-year plan for financing. The interest ranges from 3.35% to 3.12%. The cost of the rescue is \$167,000.

Kevin motioned to approve the purchase of the new rescue truck. Flavia seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

Gregg said that Timber Cove might be interested in selling their water truck, however Erich Lynn, their Fire Chief, hasn't run it by the board yet. Gregg is interested in making an offer on it if they do decide to sell it. Flavia objected to purchasing another water truck, especially an older one with over 900,000 miles on it. The main reason that they want to sell it is because no one in their department was interested in learning how to drive it. Gregg countered that it might be a valuable asset for the district, and said it also has a better turning radius than the water truck we just purchased.

Pete inquired how much they wanted for the truck, but Gregg said that Erich had suggested that we just make an offer. Gregg was thinking about offering \$20,000. Pete asked what year the truck was, but Gregg said that he wasn't sure because he had heard different years from different people that he spoke with about it. Pete suggested that we table the discussion until the next meeting.

8. Old Business—Update on Web Site (Flavia), New Elections, Oath for Pete

Web Site: Flavia said she had done some investigation on setting up a website for the district. Since the district is already doing business with MCN (Mendocino Community Network) she called them to ask about web hosting. Their web hosting packages start at \$5.00 per month, plus an additional \$20 to register your domain name. They do not have any website building apps, for that you would have to choose among several sources on line.

The two web designing sites Flavia investigated is Wordpress.org, an open source web design site that offers thousands of "themes" or templates, and Wix.com which is a very user-friendly web design company that also offers web hosting. Flavia said that Wordpress offered more variety, but the downside that some users complained about is that some of the themes are outdated and don't work as well across different platforms. In comparison, Wix offers a lot of variety and is very easy to use for a novice web designer.

Flavia also looked at a few local fire departments' websites to see what they were posting. Some posted more information than others, but what they all had in common was posting their agendas and minutes from their board of directors meetings. North Sonoma Coast also posted their audits and annual budgets. Gregg said that fire districts are required to have websites, and that he and Chris had looked into it over a year ago. But he wasn't sure where Flavia could find out what the basic requirements were for the content of the website. Flavia said that she would pursue getting a website up and running. She said that she wanted to check out Wordpress and Wix further, and as well as finding out what needed to be posted. Pete said that viewing our finances should be easily accessible to the public.

New Elections: Gregg said he gave the information to Rick and Kevin regarding the elections, and they have the paperwork to fill out.

Oath for Pete: Pete said that he thought that he had already taken care of this item at the last meeting. Gregg said that he remembered this coming up at the last meeting and had given the paperwork to Pete for him to sign. Flavia also remembered signing the documents as well. Gregg said that he didn't know why Chris had put this on the agenda.

9. Chiefs Report

1. Call volume: 137 calls to date, over 60 calls behind when compared to last year.
2. The water rescue team has been doing some Zoom training that has gone well. Gregg said he might be interested in doing Zoom training for our department since our department has suspended training during the pandemic.
3. Gregg ordered a new garage door for the addition which cost a little over \$800.
4. 7571 has been sold and the check deposited.
5. Jason Warner, our new Assistant Chief is driving the old Chief's rig which has been re-designated as 7501.

6. Cost of COVID related medical supplies and PPE has gone up substantially. Availability of some items will be scarce, but Gregg and Chris have been working on finding sources for these vital materials.
7. The impact of COVID on the local, county and state budget has been severe and the impact will be felt locally according to Gregg. The Prop 172 money is not coming in, so the services that those funds covered will now have to be shared by the fire agencies. Dispatching services, which were paid with the Prop 172 funds, are about half a million dollars. Now that service fee will be shared by all the Mendocino county fire agencies.
8. Gregg worked with a team putting together a disaster preparedness guide. The guide will include information for local residents as well as tourists visiting the area in the event of a widespread emergency. Gregg found out that PG&E is going to supply the Gualala community center with a generator for being an evacuation site.
9. There is a County health order going out on July 10th requiring fire department and EMS personnel to wear masks at all times including training, and on all calls.
10. Gregg has been talking to Jason about pouring the concrete for the apron. Gregg would like to dig the whole thing out and do it in one pour. Gregg thinks it would take digging it out to accommodate a 12-inch base, rebar 12 inches on center, and then eight inches of concrete. Gregg thinks it could cost around \$50,000. The apron would be 70' long by 30' wide. Pete would like to see a proposal of what we are dealing with. Gregg said he would talk to Jason, because he has talked with a lot of engineers about the concrete driveway project at Redwood Coast Fire and he will come up with a project description and more details.

10. Closed Session

None.

11. Open Session after Closed Session

None.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm, next meeting is on September 17, 2020