



Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

100 Pike City Road
Pike City, CA 95960

plioceneridge.org

plioceneridge@gmail.com

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday February 14, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location: Pike City Firehouse, 100 Pike City Road

VIA Phone Conference available for non-board members call 978-990-5144 Access code 6919768#

ALL MEETING DOCUMENTS ARE POSTED ONLINE plioceneridge.org

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approval of Agenda b) Approve Minutes for regular meeting held January 18, 2024 c) Ratify Treasurer's report & bill payments for January 2024 d) ratify Form RD 442-7 submitted as part of USDA Vehicle Reimbursement Grant.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Complaints about individuals are to be submitted in writing per Article II section 15 of the bylaws. The public may be heard before or during the consideration of any agenda item to be considered by the board, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Members of the public may address matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, and not on the posted agenda, provided that no action shall be taken by the board unless the matter is deemed urgent by a 2/3 vote.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS, STAFF &/OR COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Correspondence since last meeting –
b) Committee/Member/Business Reports:
1. District Chief's report
2. Assistant Chiefs' reports
3. AVFD non-profit corp.
4. Pike Community Support Foundation
5. Board Member/Staff Reports ~ Discussion about eventual replacement of 7145 (agenda item requested by a board member in November, got skipped last month)
6. Firewise Communities –
7. Firehouse Projects & ADA Compliance ~ Both Departments
8. Pending Grants – USDA Vehicle Reimbursement Grant

5. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Unfinished business:
1. Appoint Risk Manager per policy #1030
b) New business
1. Consider Pike Firehouse Planning Committee recommendation regarding hiring an architect for the cost analysis of the two options shared last month (if recommendation is ready).
2. If item #1 above is executed allocate funds to pay the architect.
3. Approve letter to Public Utilities Commission regarding AT&T's request to get out of the landline business.
4. Approve 2023 Summary report to be sent to district residents and property owners and for submittal to the Mountain Messenger.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA ITEMS ~ The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024 in Alleghany.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please make your request to District Secretary, 100 Pike City Rd, Pike CA 95960 or plioceneridge@gmail.com specifying your disability and the format in which you would like to receive this agenda and future agendas. SEND AN EMAIL TO plioceneridge@gmail.com to be added to the email list for meeting notices.



**MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the
Pliocene Ridge CSD Board of Directors
Date: Thursday January 18, 2024 Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Alleghany Station 2.**

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Larry Allen. **Flag Salute.** Present: Board members, Larry Allen, Bruce Coons, Grace Lundeen and Chris Mills. Pam Davis was absent. Also in attendance: Chief Dorn and Alleghany Assistant Chiefs David Arbogast and Ned Cusato, Station 67 Fire Captain Cameron Shay, Pike Community Support Foundation President Roland Robertson and Treasurer Denise Ruane. Public present: Burns & Vicky Tenney. Pliocene Ridge CSD Secretary Rae Bell Arbogast was present and took the minutes.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Approval of current Agenda, Minutes for regular meeting held Nov. 16, 2023 plus the Treasurer's reports for November and December 2023. **A motion was made to approve the consent calendar by Chris Mills, seconded by Bruce Coons Ayes: Allen, Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Vicky Tenney stated that Larry Vieira had passed away recently. It was noted that he was a volunteer fire fighter with the Alleghany Fire Department for many years. A card will be sent. A celebration of life is being planned for the spring and hopefully the fire departments can participate.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) *Correspondence:* **Incoming** Donation of \$3,000 for the Pike City Fire Dept. from the AK and CM Jennings foundation, Special Districts Financial Transactions report letter from the California State Controller's office scanned and emailed to Blain Boden, Holiday cards from several agencies, vendors and the insurance company **Outgoing** Thank you letter and receipt for tax purposes sent to the AK and CM Jennings Foundation. **Email topics (in & out):** Sierra County disaster preparedness committee re: meetings, Joyce White of DVFPD re: runs, Firewise USA re: community updates, Pike FH Planning Committee re: meeting, USDA Rural Development re: vehicle reimbursement grant

b) Committee/Member/Business Reports:

1. Chief's Report ~ Chief Dorn reported that it has been quiet with only one medical call since the last board meeting. Cameron Shay has been appointed Fire Caption for Station 67. He has been doing a lot to help us step up our game, he is almost done with an EMT course, just needs to take the test.

At the first training for 2024 the fire department crew (both depts) discussed goals for the year and came up with the following list:

- Annual Evaluations of all firefighters
- A building for the new water tender (Pike)
- Training at both stations (not just Pike)
- More frequent vehicle inspections
- Changing all small tools to using AV Gas
- Possible Engine bay (Pike)
- Community outreach
- Recruitment and retention
- Gear rack for Station 67
- Radio training

2. *Assistant Chief's Report*: Ned Cusato reported that they have been doing Ropes Training and Cameron Shay has been teaching it.

3. *AVFD non-profit corp*: ~ Rae Bell reported that a membership letter was recently sent out to property owners and residents of Alleghany and Forest City per the non-profits bylaws.

4. *Pike Community Support Foundation* ~ Roland reported that they had their Christmas party and the turnout was good. Everyone had a good time.

5. *Board Member/Staff Reports* ~ None

6. *Firewise Community Projects* ~ Report provided in writing.

7. *Firehouse Projects & ADA Compliance*:~ The Pike City Firehouse committee reported that they met on January 5th. The architect came back with a quote that was over \$6,000 to do the cost comparison and suggested narrowing the scope (five options submitted). The scope of the analysis was narrowed down to two options: 1. Add a 40' x 40' two-bay metal building and fix the existing firehouse. 2. Tear down existing firehouse and build new 40' x 100' metal building. Denise is taking the narrowed down option back to the architect for a new estimate, then we need to determine how to pay for it.

Regarding the Alleghany Firehouse Station 1, Rae Bell reminded everyone that the metal to repair the west side of the building has been sitting in the County Yard for over a year now. Dan Guyer has offered to help with the work. We need to order two new man doors and reframe it. If food is provided it should be easy to get a volunteer crew together. Ned to look at the doors so that they can be ordered.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a) Unfinished Business

1. *Appoint Risk Manager*. No volunteers, no action taken.

2. *Status of Pike City FD Rescue Truck*. Rae Bell reported that she had been working on the grant application and that our USDA Rural Development Representative said that it would be best to submit a single application for both vehicles. USDA won't be allocating this year's money until June but the application needs to be in by the end of March to make the first round. This creates a dilemma because the district needs to put the Brush Truck 7150 back in Alleghany before fire season starts. [It is currently being housed in Pike as a rescue truck.] After a lengthy discussion it was suggested that three applications be submitted, one for each truck individually and one for both together, so that if USDA won't fund one perhaps they will fund the other. Rae Bell will check with USDA to see if that is a good option. Staff will have to figure out what to do about the rescue truck while we wait to hear from USDA for approval or denial.

A motion was made to authorize staff to move forward with the USDA grant application for both the water tender and a newer rescue truck, by Chris Mills, seconded by Bruce Coons, Ayes: Allen, Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.

3. *Status of conversion of 7145 to alternative transport vehicle*. There are a few more stickers to remove and new decals need to be put on, but it can be used, and it responded to the run in December.

4. *Appoint Project Manager for Second Siren in Alleghany* After a discussion a motion was made to appoint Ned Cusato as the project manager by Bruce Coons, Seconded by Chris Mills. **Ayes: Allen, Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

b) New Business

1. *Temporary Housing for new Water Tender:* Chief Dorn reported that Station 2 in Alleghany is being used to house it for the winter.

2. *Appoint Officers* A motion was made to keep the current slate of officers: Larry Allen President, Bruce Coons, Vice President, Rae Bell Arbogast Secretary/Treasurer, (Chris Mills is Deputy Secretary) **Motion made by Chris Mills, Seconded by Bruce Coons Ayes: Allen, Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

3. *Closed session for employee review and personnel issue per gov. code 54957 (two items).* The board went into closed session at 7:04 and came out at 7:25. No board action was taken. All members of the public had vacated the premises.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA ITEMS: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024 in Pike. Agenda items: status of future replacement for 7145 [missed on Jan Agenda]

8. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Bell Arbogast, Secretary



Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Serving the Communities of Allegheny, Forest City and Pike City
 100 Pike City Road
 Pike City, CA 95960
 plioceneridge.org

Treasurer's Report for January 2024

Beginning Checking Account Balance \$ 4,389.55

DEPOSITS

Date	From:	For:	Amount
1/8	CAL OES	Kilham Fire mutual aid	\$ 907.50
1/25	Savings	Transfer to cover 2023 Payroll taxes	\$ 5,000.00
1/31	Reliable Forest Inventory	Nov. 14th rescue billed per ordinance #1	\$ 800.00
Deposits Total			\$ 6,707.50

EXPENDITURES

Ck #	Date	To:	For:	Amount
EFT	1/2	PG&E	details below	\$ 518.75
			Allegheny Firehouse	\$ 68.01
			Pike Firehouse	\$ 144.39
			Allegheny Streetlights	\$ 286.70
			Forest City Streetlights	\$ 19.65
EFT	1/1	West America Bank CC Card	details below	\$ 558.94
			Auto repairs and Maint Allegheny	\$ 344.26
			Auto repairs and Maint Pike	\$ 58.79
			Supplies Allegheny	\$ 32.73
			Supplies Pike	\$ 40.88
			Fuel Pike	\$ 82.28
802	1/12	Rae Bell Reimburse	1/5 cost of Quickbooks Desktop 2024 annual subscription	\$ 123.06
803	1/18	Chris Mills	Mileage reimbursement for BOD meeting	\$ 20.10
2693	1/12	AT&T	Phones	\$ 66.81
2694	1/12	Rae Bell Arbogast	3 mos admin for quarter ending 12/31/2023	\$ 600.00
2695	1/25	IRS	Payroll withholding and taxes for standby assignment paid in 2023	\$ 4,434.34
Expenditures/transfers Total				\$ 6,322.00

Reserve Account Detail		
Contingency	\$	24,500.00
Allegheny Fire Unallocated	\$	8,000.00
Pike City Fire Unallocated	\$	12,950.00
Allegheny Firehouses	\$	11,409.37
Pike City Firehouse	\$	3,064.76
Allegheny Fleet	\$	4,588.78
Pike City Fleet	\$	1,202.95
Allegheny Dispatch Office	\$	700.00
Streetlights	\$	8,213.38
EMS Vehicle Fund	\$	250.00
Interest Earned	\$	13.13
Reserve Account Total	\$	74,892.37

Ending Checking Account Balance	\$	4,775.05
Starting Savings account balance	\$	25,938.35
transfer to checking	\$	(5,000.00)
interest earned		
Ending Savings Account Balance	\$	20,938.35
General Fire Fund (accounts listed above) * see note below.	Total	\$ 25,713.40
All Fire Funds (including reserves)	\$	92,392.39

Reserve account Starting Balance	\$	74,892.37
Interest earned		
deposits		
Reserve account Ending Balance	\$	74,892.37

Report prepared by Rae Bell, Treasurer

Total All Funds \$ 100,605.77

Verified against bank statement and QB balances by: X

Name Printed _____

Note: Savings and Reserve account reconciled quarterly.

title _____



Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Serving the communities of Alleghany, Forest City and Pike City

2023 Fire Department Activity Summary

Emergency Response The district had a total of 31 “tone-outs” in 2023. Thankfully summer was cooler and damper than usual, with very little fire activity in our area.

Tone-outs by category:

Fire	2 calls (6%)	1 structure fire escaped to wildland in Pike and 1 mutual aid call.
Medical	13 calls (42%)	1 mutual aid call.
Hazards	1 call (3%)	Smell of propane.
Service Calls	1 call (3%)	Assist Sheriff’s office.
Good Intent	14 calls (45%)	This category includes public assistance, smoke checks and cancellations. Eleven in this category were for mutual aid requests outside of the district.

By response area: 18 calls (58%) within the district boundaries and 13 outside (42%).

By Fire Dept. Both Depts: 10 calls, Alleghany Fire Dept only: 2 calls, Pike City Fire Dept only: 19 calls.

Note: All mutual aid calls were for the Pike City FD for the N. San Juan and Camptonville response areas.

Training highlights: Training is an essential part of fire department operations. District personnel logged over 1,000 hours of training in 2023. This included 47 “in-house” weekly 2-hour trainings, a Basic 32 (wildland fire) skills day with the Forest Service and neighboring local agencies, plus a First Responder Medical Skills Day held at the Pike Firehouse and hosted in partnership with the Sierra County Health Dept. and Golden State Risk Management Authority. First responders from the following fire departments participated: Alleghany, Calpine, Downieville, Pike City, and Sierra City, plus four residents from Alleghany.

Water tender upgrade: The Pike Fire Dept. water tender is requested by surrounding agencies more than any other piece of equipment. It drafts water from ponds and other sources bringing it directly to fire engines on scene. This greatly enhances the firefighting ability of our local engine crews. The old water tender is almost 50 years old! A much newer (used) water tender was purchased last November for \$32,000. It is in excellent condition, with a shorter wheelbase, making it more maneuverable on dirt roads. It was paid for with a combination of General Fire Fund Money, Donations, and proceeds from past excess vehicle sales.



Thank you. The district wishes to acknowledge and thank the AK & CM Jennings Foundation for their generous contributions that helped tremendously with the Water Tender Upgrade!

You too can contribute! The district lacks an engine bay in Pike large enough to house the new water tender, or a large fire truck. Two different options for adding two large engine bays in Pike are being analyzed (cost and feasibility). Adding the bays and replacing Pike’s Rescue Truck are the district’s highest priorities. The Pike City Fire Dept. rescue truck had to be taken out of service due to mechanical issues last October. Alleghany’s Brush truck is on loan as a rescue truck but must be returned to Alleghany before wildfire season starts. Donations in any amount will help with these needs. Donations can be earmarked for a specific department or project. Donations without a specific designation are deposited in the General Fire Fund. Send checks to PRCSD, 100 Pike City Road, Pike CA 95960.

Other activities

- ❖ The district was awarded a little over \$5,000 from the CDF Rural Capacity Grant to cover 50% of the cost to build 10 wildland hose packs. These packs are used to quickly create hose-lays during a wildfire and are often swapped between agencies.
- ❖ NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System): On March 10th the district entered its first run in NFIRS. NFIRS entry is a legal requirement for fire calls and participation will help the district qualify for certain Federal Grants.



Firewise communities Both the Pike and Alleghany Firewise communities are in good standing for another year (through 2024). The new certificates are available on the district website. Follow the link below and click on the Firewise Community Document link for your community on the righthand side.

Some residents have been able to get fire insurance discounts by submitting the certificate to their carrier! Firewise resources can be found at the following link <https://www.plioceneridge.org/firewise> if you do not have internet access you can leave a message at 530-288-0624 to have information mailed to you. Email plioceneridge@gmail.com

Know your evacuation zone:

Pike - SIE083

Forest City - SIE EO85

Alleghany - SIE E087

<http://protect.genasys.com>

Fire Safe Sierra County is working on planning for grant funded clearance projects. They have assured us that those of you who responded to Pliocene Ridge CSD's interest inquiry last spring are being included, but it might be a good idea to double check with them. [Hazardous Fuel Reduction | Fire Safe Sierra Co. \(firesafesierracounty.org\)](#)



May 15, 2023. Pike City and Alleghany Fire Department First Responders

Back Row Left to Right: Cameron Shay, Rae Bell Arbogast, "C" Kissinger, Sandie Buckbee, Bob Hale, Christian Gersmehl, Chief Dorn, David Arbogast, Chris King, Ned Cusato, Tim Standley, Jim Buckbee
Front Row kneeling: Chris Buckbee, RJ Deacon, Ethan Esch, Tristan Grew, Zac Kostik absent: Chris Gibbs & Aaron Wallace, plus Jamie Johnson who has since joined the force and who took the photo.