



Staff report for meeting date 2/16/2023 (No written report was provided in January)
Prepared by Secretary/Treasurer Rae Bell Arbogast– *disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not represent the official stance of the district.*

Agenda item 4. a) Correspondence

Incoming: Donation of \$950 from the Peters Family for the Pike Fire Department,

Outgoing: Larry Allen's oath of Office papers mailed to the Sierra County Clerk Records Office. 2022 Activity Summary and firewise info. mailed to district property owners, residents, recent donors and posted on website, Letters explaining that the Alleghany Firehouse Improvement Project has been abandoned and thanking them for supporting the effort mailed to: Jason White, Joshua Gwiazda, Kip Lybarger, Dave Jeffrey, plus one person who wished to remain anonymous (a copy of the letter that was sent to the USDA last September to terminate the funding agreement was included with each letter), thank you letter and receipt for tax purposes sent to the Peters Family., State Controller's Office annual report cover sheet signed and sent to the State Controller's office, State Controllers' report submitted electronically by Blain Boden, copy of Audit report for Fiscal year ending 6/30/2022 sent to Sierra County Auditor Van Maddox and posted on district website.

Agenda item 4. b) 5 Board member/Staff reports

- The Replacement Propane heater at station 1 was installed in December and is working, thank you Assistant Chief Arbogast.
- NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System): The County-wide communications grant application required coding three year's worth of emergency calls with the NFIRS coding system. This forced me to start learning the codes and I used them for the broad categories in the 2022 call summary that I prepared. I also logged into NFIRS and am hoping to get it set up for this year. One of the firefighters has also expressed an interest in helping with this.
- Pike Community Support Foundation, the name of the non-profit was updated with the district's insurance company (from Pike City Volunteer Fire Department).

Agenda item 4. b) 7 Firehouse Projects and ADA compliance

PG&E Audit for energy savings retrofits: As reported over the last year or more: The district was approached by the Sierra Business Council regarding a program for public entities to get assistance with improvements designed to lower their energy usage. PRCSO participated in this program in the past and got the lights at both the Pike Firehouse and Alleghany Station 1 upgraded for free (over 10 years ago). This is the 3rd time that the district has been approached about this program which does change slightly over time (what is offered and how it is funded).

Long-story short: This was NOT worthwhile for us! I had a final meeting with the contractor on February 3rd and he provided the following two proposals. He reported that the energy usage at the Pike Firehouse was not substantial enough to justify installing a mini-split pump heater as we had hoped (this was one of the main reasons that we pursued this program) He provided a proposal to insulate the roof and trusses with a total project cost of \$22,142! The 100% grant funding source only covers a maximum of \$3,134 leaving approx. \$19,000 to be funded over 7 years by adding \$293 per month to the PG&E bill!

For the Alleghany Firehouse the proposal was to switch out the 7 lights in the meeting room space to LEDs and upgrade insulation for a total project cost of \$16,621 with a 100% grant available to cover \$4,987 leaving \$11,634 to be funded by adding \$179 per month to the power bill for 7 years!

Needless to say, I was disappointed and felt that I spent a lot of time for nothing on this, including Dan Guyer's time to meet them at the Pike Firehouse in November. Moving forward I will simply explain that this program doesn't work for us unless something new comes along.

Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants

- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 22/23 – The order for the hosepacks was placed on November 18th and the order was completed in early February. The invoice for 50% reimbursement was sent to CDF on February 6th.
- ❖ Additional siren for Alleghany. This “fell off the radar” for a while. I sent a follow-up email to Lee Brown on December 26th to check the status. Quite a bit of time and effort has been put into this application by both PRCSD staff and Sierra County OES staff. Lee Brown replied that he has another “pot of money” that he is looking at for this. He stated that he will get back to me soon.
- ❖ County-Wide Communications Grant: As reported in January, PRCSD sent all requested information to Sierra County Fire District #1. It will probably be at least 6 months before we hear if the application has been approved or not. Our portion of the application is for all new handheld radios and pagers for the first responders, plus mobile radio upgrades as needed (vehicles) and an upgrade to the base station at the Pike City Firehouse. Note: The grant provides for one base station upgrade per district and the one in Alleghany was upgraded in 2021 with a grant from Sierra County OES. The base-station upgrade in Alleghany belongs to the County but is insured by the District for 5 years. After 5 years ownership transfers to the district. This is how all the OES-Homeland Security Grants are handled. The items are carried on the inventory sheets for insurance purposes but are not necessarily booked as donations after 5 years, because the value is negligible at that point in time and difficult to nail-down.

Agenda item 5. b) 1. Proposed change to Ordinance #1: Chief Dorn suggested that PRCSD should mimic other districts such as NJS and base our billing to non-residents for emergency response on the annual salary survey that is submitted to CAL OES. A corresponding agreement with the first responders needs to be adopted, providing them with an opportunity to be paid when the insurance companies pay. This does create more paperwork for admin. and admin. should be paid also (as in the terms of the Secretary/Treasurer’s current contract).

Agenda item 5. b) 2. Ambulance Committee The time has come to revisit the Board of Supervisors mandate adopted in the year 2000, stating that DVFPD had to house an ambulance in Alleghany as a condition of receiving funding for a new ambulance. NORCAL EMS the medical director for Sierra County’s Emergency Services wants to weigh-in on this. Supervisor Lee Adams will also be invited to the table. Pliocene Ridge CSD needs to appoint at least one committee member. I suggest that the appointments be confined to either First Responders or Board members.

Pending items not addressed on this month’s agenda:

(Staff needs more time to work on them before presenting to the board, or more info needed)

- Water Tender Upgrade (defined as highest fleet priority first by the Chief(s) then the board in Sept. 2022 with letter to USDA Rural Development). Rae Bell to talk to USDA rep. plus Chris Dorn has some leads that he is working.
- Fund Policy revision including simplified tracking sheet
- MOU with non-profits (name changes)
- Engine Bay conversion to ADA friendly space Pike firehouse (need cost estimate).
- Signage for firehouses (Need signs with update department names and updated logo)
- Long-term plan for adding two larger engine bays in Pike (defined as highest capital improvement priority first by the Chief(s) then the board in Sept. 2022 with letter to USDA Rural Development)