

**MINUTES of the Emergency Meeting of the Pliocene Ridge CSD
Board of Directors and Downieville Fire Protection District Board of Directors.
Date: Thursday March 30, 2023 5:00 pm
Held by Zoom and conference call.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: It was decided that PRCSD President Larry Allen would Chair the meeting and DFPD President Frank Lang, would provide a summary of the issue and answer questions. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm by President Allen. PRCSD Board members present Larry Allen, Bruce Coons, Pam Davis, Grace Lundeen and Chris Mills. PRCSD Staff present: District Fire Chief Chris Dorn, Assistant Chiefs David Arbogast and Ned Cusato and Secretary/Treasurer Rae Bell Arbogast who took the minutes. DFPD Directors Present: Frank Lang, Liz Fisher, Greg Johnson and Diane Wharff. DFPD Staff present: Bookkeeper/dispatcher Loryce Ashbee and Captain/AEMT Steve Folsom. Sierra County OES coordinator Lee Brown was also present along with members of the public Denise Ruane and Vicky Tenney.

Frank Lang explained that a committee had been formed to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DFPD and PRCSD regarding the DFPD ambulance housed in Alleghany and staffed by PRCSD personnel. The committee had met, two days prior, on March 28th. In the process of examining all the agreements between DFPD and Sierra County Service areas one and two dating back to 1989 for the provision of ambulance service in the Pliocene Ridge area it was apparent that the agreements all pre-dated the formation of PRCSD, with no subsequent amendment to include PRCSD.

Additionally, the original agreement had been amended over the years with different provisions and each amendment supposedly voided the previous versions of the agreement leaving substantial gaps. It is also apparent that hardly any of the terms of any of the agreements had been complied with by any of the parties. This is the first issue, the agreements between DFPD and the County Service areas 1 and 2 with pieces that either did not fit or that were all together missing, complicated by the fact that the agreements were executed before the formation of PRCSD. PRCSD's charter provided for Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, Parks and Recreation and Streetlighting but ambulance service was not included. At that time, ambulance service was being provided by DFPD. [After Tuesday's committee meeting, this was verified with Van Maddox who looked at the formulas used for the PRCSD tax allocation].

There was a question about why the MOU that was executed in 2018 between PRCSD and DFPD for the provision of an ambulance is not adequate. Frank explained that there are a few main reasons: 1. NORCAL EMS was not involved in that MOU and did not approve it. 2. It isn't clear what structure is needed for the districts to work together. (More research is needed regarding the provision of services between special districts within each other's boundaries). 3. The agreement assumes that the agreement between the County and DFPD was still in place. This is yet to be determined by County Council, but seems doubtful because of the changes that have occurred since the last amendment in 2000.

As such, the 2018 MOU is not applicable, but Frank had spoken to NORCAL EMS that day and they stated that the two districts were being granted 60 days to sort it out, essentially honoring the existing MOU until a long-term solution is worked-out. County Counsel is expected to weigh in on the service area agreements.

A few people spoke to the fact that what is currently in place does work for medical response in the Pliocene Ridge area. It was stressed that all parties wish to continue what has been working, and the desire is to find a way to continue to make it work. There are valid questions about how the costs should be covered.

It was decided by consensus to form a committee with members of both districts to begin work on the fundamental basis of the agreement between the two districts.

Committee members selected: PRCSD Larry Allen, Rae Bell Arbogast and Chris Mills. DFPD Frank Lang, Steve Folsom and Diane Wharff.

It was decided to meet on April 18th at 10 am at the Masonic Lodge in Downieville.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the boards, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Bell Arbogast
Secretary