



Staff report for meeting date 2/17/2022

Prepared by Rae Bell – *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: Letter from State Controller re: 2021 Government Compensation report, audit report for FY 20/21 and corresponding letter of findings, proposal from Boden Klein & Sneesby for audit of Fiscal year ending 6/30/2022 est \$2,950. Revised agreement to replace 2021-125 from Sierra County. Registered letter from Sierra County with a list of tax defaulted properties informing us that the district as a public agency has the option to purchase any properties listed for public use prior to the auction.

Outgoing: Letter to Sierra County BOS re agreement 2021-125 to see if they would consider allowing PG&E resource center funds to be used for either firehouse in Alleghany, State Controllers Financial Transaction report and cover sheet submitted timely for fiscal year 20/21, No attorney and no irregular circumstances representation letters sent to Boden, Klein and Sneesby for FY 20/21, thank you card to Jim and Sandy Buckbee for help with the Public Safety First Aid class held on Saturday February 12th.,

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

- Regarding the concern raised by the Pike Community Support Foundation board at last month's meeting about the fact that google searches for the Pike City Volunteer Fire Department bring up the district's website. The day after last month's meeting I contacted Streamline the website host about what could be done, and this is their response:
Hi Rae!

Thanks for reaching out and this is a great question. There isn't a way for you to directly edit your meta tags, although I am not sure it would help in this case. I would be wary of setting the expectation that you have any control over what comes up when someone googles the old name; you don't have any direct control over that.

The algorithm that Google uses is what's going to determine that, and it's looking mostly at keywords that are being used in publicly viewable parts of your site. Further Google personalizes search results so what you see when you google something isn't necessarily what I see. If you have removed mention of the old name from your site, then you have done everything you can.

Does that help at all

Streamline Support
support.getstreamline.com

I also went on google maps and did notice that the names of the firehouses in Pike and Alleghany include the word "volunteer". I sent an edit request to google maps to remove the word "volunteer" from both locations. I received an email verification on February 15th that the changes were made.

In my opinion if an individual is searching online for the fire department for either Pike or Alleghany the district website IS where they need to be directed, regardless of the actual

search terms that they use. At any rate, I have done everything that I can to address the problem.

- At the January meeting a question was raised about the PG&E community resource center in Pike. I followed up with Sarah Marlowe to find out what happened with the payment, she assured me that she was looking into it, but I haven't heard anything since.
- NFIRS (National FIRE Incident Reporting System) NO PROGRESS since last meeting.
- We got a registered letter from Sierra County with a list of tax defaulted properties informing us that the district as a public agency has the option to purchase any properties listed for public use prior to the auction. This is listed under correspondence, but I wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of this. Not that the district is in a position to purchase anything, but to be aware of it for future reference.

Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise Communities –

I did send for an updated property owner address list this week. My goal is to have the mailing done (as reported last month) by the first week of March.

I talked to one of the firefighters from Pike who does administrative type work professionally to see if he might be interested in helping the district pursue grants and set up projects for wildfire safety. He is interested. Hopefully there will be something about this on next month's agenda. The idea would be to pay him from the firewise title III money that the County has allocated to Alleghany and Pike.

So far, we have not billed anything to that "pot of money". We can bill up to \$2,500 for administration for each firewise community and there is a time-limit. When we originally asked the county for this money, we did not realize that there was a time-constraint on it. I have a little bit of time and expenses to bill, but not much. After I do the mail-out, I will bill what I have, and we can talk about the best way to use up the remainder. The ideal scenario would be for the firewise committees for each community to weigh in on this.

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

As mentioned last month: The PRCSD Board did approve moving forward with the plan for the Pike firehouse developed by ADA architect Bruce Boyd quite awhile ago. It would be nice if somebody besides me would take charge of this project and push it forward.

We need to continue thinking about the best "long-term" plan for the Pike Firehouse.

Alleghany Firehouse Project: Separate report provided.

Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants

- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 21/22 – Kevin Trent did do the fitting for the turn-outs on Feb 7th. He has not provided a quote as of this writing, I need to follow-up.
- ❖ Homeland Security Grants
 - SIREN FOR STATION 2 IN ALLEGHANY nothing to report
 - LIFT KITS & THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FOR PIKE FIRE nothing to report

Agenda item 5. a) 7 Title III projects

Here is Van Maddox's response to our inquiry if the money could be used to buy a truck or install the water tanks. Lee Adams said that he did not think so and Van said:

Lee is correct. You can use title III for: **(a) Authorized uses**

A participating county, including any applicable agencies of the participating county, shall use county funds, in accordance with this subchapter, only—

(1) to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program to provide to homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems education on, and assistance with implementing, techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires;

(2) to reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols, that are—

(A) performed on Federal land after the date on which the use was approved under subsection (b); and

(B) paid for by the participating county;

(3) to cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency services described in paragraph (2); and

(4) to develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary concerned.

Number four is the wild card; you can do anything in the community wildfire protection plan. **The Plan has been signed off on by the forest services.** This is why the pond could have been worked on with these funds since it is in the County Wide plan.

The ridge needs to develop a plan specific to the ridge and then the funds can be spent outside of 1 thru 3 above.

END OF QUOTE: Here, I would point out that we do have plans for the firewise communities. This was required for getting certification, it sounds like we need to have the Forest Service sign off on those plans, then we could request money for any projects that fall under the plans.

Agenda item 5. b) 4 Authorization to purchase fire truck for Alleghany

Chris Dorn has had his eye on this four-wheel drive structure truck for some time. Last December, the Chicago Park Fire Department told him that the price was \$30,000. Last week Chris paid them a visit and drove the truck. It sounds like we could get it for \$17,500 but the Graniteville Fire Department might have first dibbs. He doesn't think they have the \$ for it. It will be available in April. It has a little over 40,000 miles on it, tank size 750 gallons (need to confirm) and 1,000 gpm pump capacity. Plus, it comes with a lot of other equipment including the radios and a portable monitor. It will need new tires. I thought that the board should consider allowing Chris to offer more if we need

to out-bid Graniteville. Funds would come out of the Alleghany vehicle fund (current balance \$14,879.35) and the remainder could come out of savings and/or Alleghany Fire "unallocated" (balance \$3,000). This truck would replace two engines (7180 & 7181) in Alleghany. Alleghany does not have the manpower to operate more than two fire trucks.

