



**MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the  
Pliocene Ridge CSD Board of Directors  
Date: Thursday November 16, 2023 Time: 6:30 pm  
Location: Pike City Firehouse.**

**1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Vice President Bruce Coons. **Flag Salute.** Present: Board members, Bruce Coons, Grace Lundeen and Chris Mills. Both Larry Allen & Pam Davis notified the Secretary in advance that they could not attend. Also in attendance: Chief Dorn and Alleghany Assistant Chiefs David Arbogast and Ned Cusato, Pike Community Support Foundation President Roland Robertson and Treasurer Denise Ruane. Public present: Vicky Tenney. Also present Dane Walde of the Calif. Special District's Association [public by phone all others in person]. 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 Sept. 21, 2023 the special meeting held on October 29, 2023 plus the Treasurer's reports for September and October 2023. **A motion was made to approve the consent calendar by Grace Lundeen, seconded by Chris Mills Ayes: Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Allen and Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dane Walde, Field Coordinator for the Calif. Special District's Association made a presentation about their legislative efforts and accomplishments in 2023. They are working with Washington DC to protect the finances of Special Districts, to extend Brown Act Rules allowing for remote meetings and to get the definition of a Special District into Federal Law to make it easier to get federal funding. They also provide resources such as sample Policies and Procedures, a member forum, and other value added member benefits with select vendors.

**4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*a) Correspondence:* **Incoming** Donation of \$250 from Lee Adams for the rescue vehicle maintenance fund. **Outgoing** Thank you letter to Lee Adams. **Email topics (in & out):** with Frank Lang of DVFP re alternate transport vehicle and CSDA contact, Golden State RMA (insurance carrier) re: insurance changes (removed 6770 added 7145) and re: alternate transport vehicle, Firewise USA re: upcoming deadlines, Audit report emailed to Van Maddox and posted on website, gov.deals checking in on us, Robin Yasso & Mike Vukas of USDA Rural Development re: vehicle reimbursement grants, Justing Hartman of Cal fire re: Salary Survey in MARS, Lauren Faulkenberry USFS re: prescribed burns in our area, Jeff Peach of Nevada County firewise coalition, PG&E and PUC re: letter of support for undergrounding the power lines, Jim Buckbee and Cal-fire about returning engine 6770, Camptonville Fire re: Title 22 Public Safety First Aid Class taught in October, Judi Kline of Cal Fire re: payment on the Kilham Fire, Mick Connolly of Sierra County Fire District #1 re firescope radio frequency updated, NORCAL EMS re alternate transport vehicle and a few other things, Blain Boden CPA re FY 22-23 audit, Sierra County Firesafe counsel re: list of residents who are interesting in participating in a grant AND the trailer, Streamline re: suggested improvement to the backside of the website interface, Graham Rice of USFS re: mutual aid agreement

***b) Committee/Member/Business Reports:***

*1. Chief's Report* ~ Chief Dorn reported that there was a call a couple of days prior for a medical rescue out in the wilderness off Henness Pass Rd. 7145 did not roll because it hasn't been fully converted to a rescue vehicle yet and there were no EMT's available. Downieville Fire responded with an ambulance and the call went well. The person was air-lifted out by H20. There was also a structure

fire on Glory Hole Road on Sept. 21st that had escaped into wildland. The call went well and the fire was contained to ¼ to ½ acre. Multiple agencies responded.

He also reported that Sheriff Mike Fisher has promised to donate one of his surplus vehicles to the district. Chief Dorn said that it is going to include radios and some other equipment and that it would be appropriate for use as another command rig, but not as a rescue.

2. *Assistant Chief's Report:* Ned Cusato reported that they bought new batteries for engine 7150 last week. Need to get a battery tender for 7180.

3. *AVFD non-profit corp:* ~ Rae Bell reported that she had a correction to her September report when she stated that the Board of Equalization (BOE) had only requested financial statements. They also had requested a copy of the non-profit's articles of incorporation and bylaws. A letter from the BOE dated September 29<sup>th</sup> was received stating that the non-profit does have organizational clearance for a welfare exemption. (This means that the organization doesn't have to pay property taxes). AVFD plans on doing a membership drive in December and will address the name change issue after that via a vote of the membership as required.

4. *Pike Community Support Foundation* ~ Roland reported that they are going to have a Christmas Potluck and Raffle on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will be selling tickets for gift certificates for the Briar Patch Food Co-op.

5. *Board Member/Staff Reports* ~ Streetlight manager Bruce Coons reported there has been further contact with PG&E regarding the light in Forest City. Hopefully they will fix it this time.

6. *Firewise Community Projects* ~ Rae Bell reported that the annual reporting for 2023 is due by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

7. *Firehouse Projects & ADA Compliance:*~ Nothing new to report.

8. *Pending Grants:* Vicky Tenney asked about the additional siren for Alleghany. Rae Bell reported that she had not had time to work on it and asked if Vicky might be interested in being the project manager for the siren. She declined. Everyone agreed that this is important to pursue.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a) Unfinished Business**

1. *Appoint Risk Manager.* Chris Dorn will ask at training to see if anyone might be willing to do it.

2. *Status of Pike City FD Rescue Truck.* Chief Dorn reported that he has been looking around but it is going to be challenging to find a used truck of the type that is needed from another department because they are sought by the public as well. Searching online he found that trucks in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range have high mileage (approx. 200,000) not something that we want. On the used market trucks like the one that is needed go for \$30,000 to \$35,000 and up.

As a stop-gap measure Brush Engine 7150 has been moved from Alleghany to Pike and has been outfitted as a rescue truck. This is only a short-term solution as it must be back in Alleghany before fire season starts.

He thinks that the best scenario would be if the district applies to the USDA for the vehicle reimbursement grant for the new water tender and if we get that, put the money back into a new rescue truck (go for something newer in the \$30,000 price range. He still doesn't think trying to fix the old

truck is worthwhile. Feelers for a used vehicle have been extended to other agencies and everyone he and others can think of.

3. *Status of conversion of 7145 to alternative transport vehicle.* The insurance has been switched over to Pliocene Ridge CSD, the decals still need to be changed. Downieville Fire doesn't have the paper title, so will have to go to DMV to get a copy to sign off on. In the meantime, if we really need it, we can roll it, but Ned will work on the decals tomorrow. [Forgot to mention that no additional agreement is needed with NORCAL EMS, they said that PRCSD is listed as an EMS agency already and that is all that we need.]

**b) New Business**

1. *Decide which funds to use for the new Water Tender:* It was noted that PRCSD's bid on the water tender was accepted by the Peardale-Chicago Park FPD. The bid amount was \$30,022. It was decided to pull \$10,000 from the Pike Fire Dept. Fleet Fund, \$10,000 from the Pike City FD Unallocated Fund and the remainder including the DMV fees and taxes will be pulled from the General Fire Fund. It is estimated that taxes will be in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range. **A motion was made to approve the above by Chris Mills, seconded by Grace Lundeen Ayes: Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Allen and Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

2. *Authorize Treasurer to apply for USDA Vehicle reimbursement grant.* Rae Bell explained that after the agenda was posted she emailed the USDA for more information and was told that applications are accepted all year round, but if we want to get funding in this fiscal year which ends Sept. 30, 2024 the application must be in by April of 2024. **A motion was made to authorize the Treasurer to apply for the water tender first then the other truck when(if) it is purchased by Chris Mills, seconded by Grace Lundeen Ayes: Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Allen and Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

3. *Adopt meeting calendar for 2024.* **A motion was made to by Chris Mills to keep the meeting schedule "as is" (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6:30 PM with July and Dec. off and alternate between Alleghany and Pike), seconded by Grace Lundeen Ayes: Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Allen and Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

4. *Accept audit results for fiscal year 2022/2023* **A motion was made to by Chris Mills to accept the audit results, seconded by Grace Lundeen Ayes: Coons, Lundeen, Mills Noes: none Absent: Allen and Davis Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA ITEMS:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 18th in Alleghany. Agenda items: second siren for Alleghany, status of future replacement for 7145

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rae Bell Arbogast, Secretary