



MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Pliocene Ridge CSD

Board of Directors

Date: Thursday September 17, 2020

Location: Pike City Firehouse outside for social distancing due to COVID-19 concerns.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Guyer. All board members were present: Daniel Guyer, Bruce Coons (arrived late), Gracie Knowles and Chris Mills. Also present were District Chief Chris Dorn, Alleghany Assistant Chiefs David Arbogast and Ned Cusato, AVFD non-profit President Jan Sticha, PCVFD non-profit President Roland Robertson & Treasurer Denise Ruane, Downieville Fire Protection District Commissioners Frank Lang and Mike Galan, public present: Vicky Tenney. Secretary Rae Bell Arbogast was present and took the minutes.

President Guyer thanked everybody for attending.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR: A motion was made to approve the consent calendar by Chris Mills 2nd by Daniel Guyer 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Frank Lang made a presentation about Measure E which will be on this November's ballot. The measure is county-wide and proposes adding 2.5% to the transient occupancy tax specifically to support the Fire Districts in Sierra County. It was noted that even though there are no B&B's or hotels within the Pliocene Ridge CSD boundaries the district does benefit from the EMS services provided by DVFPD which would benefit from the tax measure. PRCSD benefits specifically via the ongoing medical training offered by DVFPD and the fact that they provide the ambulance that is housed in Alleghany.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Correspondence

Incoming: Letter from Sierra County Auditor Van Maddox with the Streetlight income calculation for fiscal year 20-21, National Fire Dept. Registry update request from FEMA

Outgoing: Status report on Alleghany Firehouse Project sent to USDA rep. Mike Vukas

b) Committee/Member/Business Reports:

1. Station 71 Chief's report: ~ Everything has been pretty quiet, there were two medical calls since the last meeting, one standby and one transfer to SNMH ambulance. There was a Yuba Chief's Meeting (N. San Juan, Camptonville, Downieville, Sierra City, Alleghany, Pike and Forest Service) at the N. Yuba station the previous Sunday. The fire situation is very bad and the available outside resources in the event of a fire in our area are non-existent.

2. Station 67 Chief's report ~ Chief Dorn reported that he has been out on fires (he is on a strike team) over the last month or so. Pike had two mutual aid calls recently, they were cancelled on one and the other was a small vegetation fire. The Tahoe NF is working on a contingency plan regarding the currently active North Complex Fire to create a fire line on the Southern edge of the fire with their limited resources. If a North wind event happens the fire will be pushed in the direction of Pliocene Ridge.

3. *AVFD Inc. Non-Profit Corp: report* ~ President Jan Sticha reported that they recently started meeting again outside due to Covid concerns. They filled their vacant board seats and now have a full board consisting of: Jan Sticha, Robbin DeWeese, Nathalie Fearon, Wayne Babros, and Lyn Russell. They got their signature card updated with the bank earlier in the week.

4. *PCVFD Non-Profit Corp: report* ~ Nothing new to report.

5. *Risk Manager Report*: No report.

6. *Board Member/Staff reports*: Rae Bell reported that she wanted to provide an update on the firewise effort. The risk assessment for Pike is in draft form and was forwarded to several people for input in June, but none of them had provided any feedback as of the meeting date. Rae did review the document and provided feedback to Jo Ann Fites the forester in August, also a map of possible boundaries for the Alleghany Firewise Community to coincide with the boundaries of the Alleghany County Water District was provided to the forester and Jo Ann thought that would make a good boundary.

The committees for each community still need to be formed. Rae has a list of interested parties but has not had a chance to follow-up with everybody. Only a few people responded to the mail-out.

Vicky Tenney voiced concern over the late date that the weedeating was done at Station 1 in Alleghany (mid-July). Chief Dorn pointed out that the few fire dept. volunteers that Alleghany does have are very busy with trainings, vehicle inspections, etc. Chris Mills offered to help in the future if nobody can be found to do the weedeating in a timely manner as happened this year. He already does all of the vegetation management at the Pike Firehouse on a volunteer basis.

Jan Sticha wanted to know if there is any way to force landowners to clean-up their property. Chief Dorn explained that his understanding is that the firewise program is strictly voluntary. Rae Bell stated that her understanding is that there are state laws regarding fire safe clearings around residences but somebody has to be willing to do the inspections and enforce the State Laws including follow-through which can be very contentious. A voluntary approach such as the firewise program is preferred.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a) Unfinished Business

1. *Bylaws-Policies* A draft new Reserve Fund Policy # 2010 and a proposed revision to Budget Policy # 2020 were included in the meeting packets.

A motion to adopt Reserve Fund Policy with a few additional minor changes explained by Rae Bell was made by **Bruce Coons 2nd by Chris Mills 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.**

A motion to adopt the changes to Budget Policy # 2020 as presented with a couple additional minor changes as explained by Rae Bell was made by Daniel Guyer 2nd by Chris Mills **4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.**

2. *Alleghany Firehouse project*: Nothing new to report, except that an update was sent to the USDA in August.

3. *Pike Firehouse Projects*: No report.

4. *Pending grants*: Roland reported that they are working on making the purchases for the current Fireman's Assistance grant.

Rae Bell reported that she has been trying to follow-up with Lee Brown about the status of the additional Siren for Alleghany which was approved on the same homeland security grant cycle as the dispatch office equipment, but as of the meeting date she had not heard back.

Also, no word on the \$15,000 application with the California Fire Foundation (CFF), they said that we should hear back in September.

5. *Wayman Dam* Nothing new to report. Chief Dorn stated that he was going to see if he could encourage the Forest Service to get the ball rolling.

b) New Business

1. *Adopt final budget for fiscal year 20/21*: Public Hearing started at 7:15 pm– there was no input - public hearing closed at 7:16 pm. A motion was made by Bruce Coons 2nd by Chris Mills to adopt the final budget as presented. **4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.**

2. *Consideration of making the confidential attorney opinion regarding the non-profit/special district issue available to all involved parties (not public)*: After a discussion, a motion was made by Bruce Coons to approve providing confidential copies of the attorney's opinion to all parties 2nd by Daniel Guyer. **4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.**

3. *Appointment of ad-hoc committee to work on a draft MOU between PRCSD and both non-profit corporations AVFD and PCVFD*: After a discussion, all interested parties were asked to raise their hands, and it was asked if anybody knew of anyone else who wanted to be on the committee. Based on the input provided the following individuals were selected: Rae Bell, Daniel Guyer, Roland Robertson, Denise Ruane, Lyn Russell, Jan Sticha and Vicky Tenney. A motion was made to appoint the above individuals to the ad hoc committee by Chris Mills, 2nd by Gracie Knowles **4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain, 1 Vacant, Motion carried.**

6. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 15th location TBD. Next meeting agenda items – add firewise effort to agenda

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Bell Arbogast
Secretary