

January 17, 2023 Tuesday @ 6:00 PM **MINUTES**
SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 1
DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
FIRE STATION 82, SIERRAVILLE CA

This meeting will be conducted in person and via conference call. Those wishing to attend the meeting by telephone should dial 1-650-479-3208 and enter the meeting number below. Those who wish to attend via video conferencing should use the following link:

<https://sierracountyfireprotectiondistrictno1-771.my.webex.com/sierracountyfireprotectiondistrictno1-771.my/j.php?MTID=mddde8b46ce168ff8ac4b69f6ae37718d>

Meeting No. 2554 452 4695, Passcode: Sierra

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01

Roll Call of Directors

{X} Jeff McCollum, Chairperson {X} Tom Archer {X} Tom Rowson {X} Richard Maddalena
{X} Candy Hunter {X} Victoria Fisher {X} Tony Commendatore
Quorum **Yes/No**

Tony Commendatore was introduced as our new Director. Tony is a resident of Sierraville and COE of a business in Truckee. He has been involved with local government for most of his adult life including time on the Truckee Town Council. He was appointed by the Board of Supervisors for a 4 year term earlier in the day.

PUBLIC INTRODUCTION: Volunteer Ben Edwards, Chief Connolly, Clerk Kelly Champion

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: CalFire sent a letter soliciting responses regarding proposed changes to Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Areas and holding a hearing in Downieville on 1/27/23 at 10am, Calpine Firewise Committee inquired about the District's intended use of the siren in Calpine. Dir. Maddalena to respond. Clerk Kelly received liability insurance renewal quote paperwork.

- 1. MINUTES APPROVAL: Approval of the Minutes: 12/20/22 Dir. Rowson moved to approve the minutes, Dir. Maddalena seconded. Roll call vote- 4 Ayes (McCollum, Maddalena, Rowson, Hunter), 3 Abstain (Archer, Fisher, Commendatore) motion passed.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

- 1. Review P&L, Balance Sheet, Report of Funds as of December 31, 2022 H Clerk reported receiving first payment for FY 22/23 of property tax and transient occupancy EMS along with preposition payment from Cal OES. Payment to Loyalton Fire for the service area agreement and final payment to volunteers for prepositioning have been prepared. Insurance likely to go over budget about \$13,300, Dir. Maddalena commented that insurance costs have increased but also the District recently updated the values on assets. Clerk pointed out that operating supplies budget has been reached. Dir. Maddalena reported that Sierraville Fire & Rescue Services has offered to pay for about 50% of the Brush 83 repair. Plumas Bank accounts have been opened and working to close Wells Fargo in the future. Dir. Maddalena reported that the county administration fee deducted from the tax disbursement is currently 13.7% for the District and is derived from how much time is spent across the county in various positions collecting the taxes and then charged out to the beneficiaries, including all the special districts. He mentioned that the county and the school system are exempt from being charged the percentage and that SCFPD#1 is the largest special district in the county. It was agreed to seek clarity regarding the cash investment held by the county regarding earnings and fees.**
- 2. Approve Bill Payments H Dir. Maddalena moved to approve the financials and bill payments with the addition of a volunteer reimbursement of \$498 for EMT certification, Dir. Fisher seconded. Roll call vote- 7 Ayes (Hunter, Commendatore, Fisher, McCollum, Archer, Maddalena, Rowson) motion passed.**
- 3. Fire Mitigation Fee & Banking Updates H Received \$10,587 mitigation fee on home construction project in Sierraville.**

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM DISTRICT CHIEF, BATTALION CHIEFS AND EMS COORDINATOR:

1. Chief's Report (Response Summary, Fleet, Communications System, Facilities) **Chief Connolly reported 5 medical calls, 1 vehicle accident into a ditch in a rising water situation. A battery disconnect was installed on the command vehicle because it was not holding a charge in cold temperatures. Still working on communication grant and Tablet Command.**
2. Training / Recruitment/ Retention **Recent trainings have been indoors because of weather, recently working on ropes and rescue. Chief Connolly expressed that the warm jackets recently distributed to volunteers are a plus.**
3. Update on grant applications **Chief Connolly introduced volunteer Ben Edwards who reported that he is working to gather all the information needed by the grant writer to submit timely. Needing Sierra City information still. It was further clarified that the grant would be submitted as a regional grant and that SCFPD#1 is the host agency.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update on Calpine siren project **Chief Connolly reported that the siren sounded accidentally during recent wind storms and the power was disconnected. Project to be continued in the spring.**
2. MOU with Sierra County Water District # 1 **Dir. Rowson moved to approve and authorize Chair McCollum to execute the MOU with Sierra County Water D1 , Dir. Maddalena seconded. Roll call vote- 7 Ayes (Hunter, Commendatore, Fisher, McCollum, Archer, Maddalena, Rowson) motion passed.**
3. Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zone revisions **Dir. Maddalena reviewed the information and the zoning map available online. Discussions ensued regarding various impacts the new classifications may present. Dir. Maddalena pointed out that the Sierra Valley is outside of the SRA and is a local responsibility area. Dir. Archer posed the question of how the District interfaces with the State Responsibility Area. Dir. Archer, Maddalena and Hunter expressed interest in attending the public hearing.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Verdi/Long Valley 2021/2022 tax revenue review **H (Tom R) Dir. Rowson presented an analysis on the fees collected for the area in comparison to the service area costs and suggested holding any excess funds in a reserve for future service area costs. Chair McCollum recalled initial annexation costs to the District of approximately \$20,000. It was further clarified that the contract with Truckee Meadows is a 3 party agreement that included Sierra County and that Tim Beals suggested a meeting between the County and TMFPD.**
2. Discussion/Action: Determine cause of CalOES decision to no longer allow contract dozers to be deployed during pre-position events and develop appeal strategy **H (Tom R/Mick) Chief Connolly received notification that Cal OES will no longer pay for contracted equipment (dozers) on preposition assignments. Reimbursement was not originally included in the contract and will be disallowed in future billings. In order to seek reimbursement going forward, the District would need to own or lease the equipment. Directors felt it important to appeal to OES and it was suggested to engage with other rural emergency response organizations in the approach. Options to lease and/or own the necessary equipment to be discussed further. The Board agrees that access to high quality dozers with skilled operators who know the area are critical resources. Directors Fisher, Rowson and Archer will explore options for either a challenge to the OES decision or other resolutions.**
3. 2023 Tour de Manure- potential partnership with Eastern Sierra Chamber of Commerce (Rick) **Dir. Maddalena has been in communication with the organization having given them a sample contract and the action plan summary from last year. The organization meets in January and will discuss. Mike Blide has offered to attend to answer any questions. It was recognized that planning would be difficult due to time constraints.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS: Dir. Maddalena presented pages from the Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection Formation Feasibility Study & Plan for Services. The proposed plan is a merger of Beckwourth Fire Department, Sierra Valley Fire Department. Portola City Fire and Gold Mountain.

Dir. Maddalena presented a handout to consider for drafting a policy regarding remote meeting guidelines. Dir. Hunter to explore ADA accessible remote meeting locations in her area.

Dir. Fisher reported that CA Fish & Wildlife was working to set another zoom meeting regarding flash grazing fencing in Sierra Brooks.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: February 21, 2023 at 6:00pm in Sierraville

ADJOURNMENT: 8:15 pm

Key: **T** – Tabled from previous meeting **H** –Handout

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER, PLEASE CALL 530.604.4013 AHEAD IF YOU NEED ANY ACCOMODATIONS.