



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Edward I. Miller
Korie Kromydas
Louie Fielding
Bob Millslagle

Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, September 27, 2023 ❖ 3:30 p.m.

Minutes

Directors Present: Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, and Director Millslagle a quorum is established.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors for the month of September was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Vice President Kromydas.

2. **Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Millslagle to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. **Approval of Past Minutes**

There were no additions or changes to the minutes from the August 16, 2023 meeting. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Millslagle to approve the Board Minutes dated August 16, 2023, as submitted and posted. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Financial**

There was a discussion between Board and staff.

It was moved by Director Millslagle and seconded by Director Fielding to accept the financial reports, Items 4.A-F, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Public Input**

There was none.

6. **Business Requiring Action**

A. **Public Hearing: Adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 by Resolution 2023-09**

Vice President Kromydas opened the public hearing at 3:48 p.m.



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Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason gave the Board some highlights from this year's final budget:

- The transfer from reserves went up a little bit to balance the budget. We had budgeted in 2022/2023 \$230,000 and we only had to deficit spend just under \$108,000;
- The salary increases for North Tahoe Fire's approved 2023-2028 MOU were accounted for in the contract amounts;
- The bathroom remodel and the generator project was left in as those are still being worked on;
- One thing that is new in the final budget are funds for a Property Tax Evaluation. It is up to the Board to say whether or not they want to bring in a consultant for this evaluation which would only be on the one assessment that is calculated based off single family equivalent, not the other two assessments that are at fixed rates;
- The salary increase, the actuals for the two projects, and the Property Tax Evaluation are the only significant changes from the preliminary budget.

Vice President Kromydas closed the public hearing at 3:54 p.m.

It was moved by Director Millslagle, seconded by Director Fielding to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2023-09 approving the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 in the amount of \$2,289,408. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire

Chief Leighton presented this item to the Board. On August 24th El Dorado County's official staff members met with President Miller, Vice President Kromydas, Chief Leighton, and Director of Finance and Administration Eason at North Tahoe Fire's Station 51 to discuss the annexation process including the UAL holdup. At this meeting, there was a conversation about a resolution regarding Meeks Bay Fire's 1% ad valorem tax which was going to go to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. Once approved by El Dorado County, this resolution would then go to the Placer County Board of Supervisors for approval. This resolution was pulled from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Two weeks after this meeting, Chief Leighton received a letter from Placer LAFCO stating that the Board will be going to vote to close our LAFCO case at their next Board meeting on September 8th. Placer LAFCO has a policy where if there is not substantial movement on a project within a year the Placer LAFCO Board has the ability to close a case and move on to the next project, and our project has been at the top of the priority list for two years. Upon receiving this letter from Placer LAFCO, Chief Leighton contacted Placer LAFCO Board



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President Cindy Gustafson and expressed to her that progress is being made. Chief Leighton and El Dorado County's Assistant CAO Sue Hennike also asked to see if Placer LAFCO could consider postponing the closing of the case. Assistant CAO Hennike, EDC's District 5 Supervisor Laine, and Chief Leighton were planning to attend the September 8th LAFCO Board meeting in person regarding this item. Come September 8th, the only person who showed up in person to the LAFCO Board meeting was Chief Leighton. The day of the meeting El Dorado County staff asked if they would be able to join the meeting via Zoom. At this meeting, the LAFCO Board agreed to postpone the closing of the case until April 1, 2024. This means that all parties involved will need to conclude this process by that date.

About a week after the LAFCO meeting, President Miller forwarded an email to Chief Leighton from El Dorado County staff writing that they wanted to have a meeting with Meeks Bay Fire's Board at North Tahoe Fire's Station 51 on October 2nd without Chief Leighton in attendance. Chief Leighton did not agree to allow El Dorado County staff to have a meeting at Station 51 without him, so the meeting will be at Station 67 on October 2nd with two Board members present. It is anticipated at this meeting that discussions between El Dorado County and the Meeks Bay Board members will be beneficial as the process moves forward. Chief Leighton added that at North Tahoe Fire's Board meeting the night before, the Board stated that they would not move forward with the LAFCO process if the Meeks Bay Fire UAL is not paid off. Additionally, Placer LAFCO would not allow for North Tahoe Fire to take on Meeks Bay Fire's UAL.

Director Fielding expressed his frustrations with the limited options that the Meeks Bay Fire Board has in the decisions regarding the annexation due to the UAL. He feels that there is not much of a choice that the Board has and feels Meeks Bay Fire is getting the squeeze from every direction.

What needs to happen is the Meeks Bay Fire Board needs to make an agreement with El Dorado County and bring something to Placer County's Board of Supervisors. Then it will go to Placer LAFCO and then it will go to the North Tahoe Fire Board. If nothing happens until April, the North Tahoe Fire Board will be prepared to issue a letter to the Meeks Bay Fire Board stating that they are either going to cancel the Contract of Service or they are going to renegotiate the contract. Director Feilding commented that what he needs to say to the County at their meeting is that their choices are either to pony up for the UAL or come up with alternatives such as re-stand the Fire District and hire the firefighters and chiefs to staff the District, or they need to merge Meeks Bay Fire into something else in El Dorado County. Chief Leighton added that there are other options other than the annexation, they are not great options.

Vice President Kromydas brought up the topic regarding Placer LAFCO having the issue with the UAL and besides the point of having an issue with it, they have



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not said anything else on the matter. She stated that Placer LAFCO did not attend the meeting on August 24th with El Dorado County staff because if El Dorado County is not going to pay the UAL, then they do not want anything to do with it. Vice President Kromydas continued that Placer LAFCO does not have to fix the problem, but they could provide the Directors guidance on the situation at hand if they have any prior knowledge on the subject and what they have seen in the past.

This was information only. No Board action was required. There was no public comment.

C. Next Board Meeting Dates

- October 18, 2023 – regular Board meeting – Canceled
- November 8, 2023 – regular Board meeting

There was a discussion between board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding, seconded by Director Millslagle to cancel the October 18, 2023 Meeks Bay Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Leighton updated the Board on activities since the last meeting. Items of particular interest include:

- Chief Leighton received a letter from Senator Padilla's office stating that he wrote a letter of support to FEMA regarding our SAFER Grant, which we are hoping to get.
- CSDA asked the District if we would do a PSA video shoot for water infrastructure and we agreed to do that. We did a filming and were interviewed at the top of Tahoe Park Blvd where the Washoe Fire burned from the bottom to the top. Chief Leighton's message was that we need water for firefighting, and we also need firefighters to hook up to the fire hydrants to fight the fires. District staff will be doing a presentation regarding this in December at the CSDA Board meeting.
- Chief Whisler added that call volumes went up and there is a controlled burn happening right now in North Lake.

8. Information Items

- The report from Sustainable Community Advocates for the month of August was included in the Board packet.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Director Millslagle and seconded by Director Fielding to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Daniels
Clerk of the Board



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Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Steve Leighton

Division Chief Alan Whisler

Division Chief Brent Armstrong

Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason

Captain/Paramedic John Telfer

Clerk of the Board Melissa Daniels

Additional Attendees:

None