



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Michael Schwartz, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Edward I. Miller
Ellie Beals
Korie Kromydas
Jennifer Lemke

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes
October 21, 2020

Directors Present: Vice President Beals, Director Kromydas, Director Lemke and President Miller

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors, for the month of October was called to order at 3:32pm by President Miller.

2. Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Vice President Beals and seconded by Director Lemke to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Past Minutes

It was moved by Director Lemke and seconded by Director Kromydas to approve the Board Minutes dated September 30, 2020, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial

It was moved by Vice President Beals and seconded by Director Lemke to accept the financial reports, items 4.A-E, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Input

There was none.

6. Business Requiring Action

A. Long-term Planning, including Alternative Governance Between Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire, and El Dorado County Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI)

Chief Schwartz:

North Tahoe Fire has gained as much as Meeks Bay Fire from the relationship and both districts have greatly improved their services to the communities.

External factors affecting the two districts which might be brought out with the MSR/SOI.

- LAFCO is receiving incentive from El Dorado County for smaller agencies to consolidate with larger agencies;
- El Dorado County LAFCO might be able to take the lead with the county's portion of any type of merger/consolidation/unification.
- Expense increases have been outpaced by revenue increases;



- Both districts are having difficulty filling board vacancies, and board compensation issues may become a large factor in filling those vacancies; and
- Believes the two districts are better together.

President Miller:

- All safety staff are trained to the same level;
- Following Office Manager Crawford's retirement, would the position/job duties be filled by Meeks Bay Fire hiring a new employee or would the job duties be absorbed within the North Tahoe Fire organization?
- Concern of LAFCO process being led by Placer County;
- How would El Dorado County work with North Tahoe Fire being predominantly in a separate county?
- Counties have no responsibility to support fire districts (i.e. Placer county refusing to share Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) with fire districts, and El Dorado County not supporting a proposed half cent sales tax to benefit fire agencies);
- Agrees that consolidation/unification is inevitable and should be board-driven as opposed to staff-driven, although would rely heavily on staff input; and
- The county is encouraging consolidations, but Meeks Bay Fire is not in similar condition as those agencies on the west slope.

B. Board of Director Vacancies

Staff will submit notices of vacancy for upcoming meetings. Staff will provide information regarding eligibility to be a board member, specifically, the definition of domicile (this information was provided during the meeting).

C. Next Board Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the Board of Directors will be November 18th and December 9th.

7. Chief's Reports

Chief Schwartz updated the board on activities since the last meeting. Items of particular interest included:

- S We are not out of fire season and are, in fact, in a very vulnerable period;
 - S PIO Holland has been preparing for virtual fire safety week - now is the time to service furnaces, vents, chimneys. . .
 - S October is breast cancer awareness month and Chief Schwartz authorized staff to wear the breast cancer t-shirts throughout month. The shirts must be paid for by the employees; they are not eligible through the district's uniform allowance;
 - S COVID - beginning to see some activity within staff family, but nothing directly connected;
- McNamara:
- S Discussed AmeriGas contacting homeowners about safety measures that need to be made to propane tank installations;
 - S Had another meeting regarding the Meeks Bay restoration project with USFS and TRPA. In order for a USFS-funded pier, there needs to be public access to the pier which would be in conflict to it being a public safety pier. Does not believe there is a correlation between the



restoration project and station location change for station 67. USFS station 43 might be moved up to William Kent Campground located in Sunnyside.

- S President Miller shared that he received positive comments regarding a conversation a resident had with Chief McNamara.

Leighton:

- S There were a total of 37 calls last month in the Meeks Bay response area. Of those, 7 were ordinance complaints;
- S SCBA fit-testing, which is required to be done annually, will be done by the end of the year. Testing was delayed due to COVID;
- S Maintenance on the radio repeaters will be done prior to winter setting in; and
- S Updated the board on his process for moving from Division Chief of Operations to Assistant Chief.

8. Information Items

- S Report from Sustainable Community Advocates
- S Office Mgr. Crawford will be having foot surgery (not major) and will not be able to deliver board packages. President Miller offered to pick up packages and deliver them to directors if needed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Director Kromydas and seconded by Director Lemke to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn R. Crawford
Clerk of the Board

Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Michael Schwartz
Division Chief Steve Leighton
Division Chief Steve McNamara
Director of Finance Kim Eason
Clerk of the Board Shawn Crawford