



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, FIRECHIEF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, August 17, 2022 ❖ 3:30 p.m.

Minutes

Directors Present: Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, President Miller, 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 August was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by President Miller.

2. Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda

There was one additional change to the agenda requested by Chief Leighton regarding clarification on agenda item 6E. Agenda item 6E was brought before the Board at the direction of President Miller, so President Miller will be speaking on the item as it did not come from the office of the Fire Chief. Additionally, Chief Leighton stated that North Tahoe Fire Protection District and the office of the Fire Chief have taken a neutral stance on this topic.

There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Millslagle, and seconded by Director Kromydas, to approve the Board Agenda dated August 17, 2022 with the addition that President Miller will be speaking on the item 6E. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Approval of Past Minutes

There were additions requested be added to the minutes from the June 29, 2022 meeting regarding Superintendent Dan Canfield's comments when he addressed the Board during Public Input at June's Board meeting. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Kromydas to not approve the Board Minutes dated June 29, 2022, until the additions requested are added. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Financial

There was a discussion between board and staff.

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

5. Public Input

There was none

6. **Business Requiring Action**

A. **Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency Issued on March 4, 2020, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District for the Period of August 17 – September 28, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions**

This resolution allows the Board the option to hold meetings virtually. The law enacted to implement the proclamation remains in effect until January 1, 2024. The ability to hold virtual meetings like this is allowed while the proclamation is active. If, in the future the Board decides to meet in person and then the need arises to meet virtually again, it's a good idea to pass this resolution. Each resolution is good for 30 days.

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

It was moved by Director Kromydas, seconded by Director Milllsage, to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-15, allowing the District the option of holding the June meeting in a virtual setting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. **Consider Adopting the Revised Conflict of Interest Code**

This is a housekeeping item. We received a letter from El Dorado County indicating we need to revise our Conflict of Interest Code to: 1) comply to the Fair Political Commission's code; and 2) add/delete appropriate titles. Board Clerk was removed from Meeks Bay Fire's Conflict of Interest code.

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

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Kromydas to adopt the proposed change to the Conflict of Interest Code and authorize President Miller to sign the document; and authorize Fire Chief Steve Leighton to sign the 2022 Local Agency Biennial Notice indicating the appropriate amendments be made. The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

C. **Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire Protection District – LAFCO presentation with AP Triton**

In December of 2021, both North Tahoe Fire Protection District Board and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Board adopted Resolutions requesting that Placer LAFCO initiate a reorganization, which consists of an annexation of Meeks Bay Fire into North Tahoe Fire and the dissolution of Meeks Bay Fire. As part of the application for Placer LAFCO, they needed a current financial analysis which AP Triton was commissioned to do by Placer LAFCO.

Randy Parr from AP Triton presented the findings from the financial analysis. The Meeks Bay Fire's sources of revenues include property taxes, Special Fire Tax, and Special Assessments. The analysis shows the impact on annexation on revenues. These include the following: 1) Meeks Bay's property taxes will continue to be assessed; 2) Meeks Bay's Special Fire Tax will be eliminated and replaced with the North Tahoe Special Tax; 3) Meeks Bay's Special Assessments will be eliminated and replaced with the North Tahoe Special Assessment; and 4) the Service Contract Revenues from Meeks Bay will be eliminated but this will be offset by a reduction of service contract expenses in an identical amount. The analysis also shows the impact of annexation on expenditures. These include the following: 1) Meeks Bay Service assessment cost will be eliminated; 2) The majority of the Meeks Bay 17% cost

share will be eliminated as these costs will not be born by tax revenues; 3) Certain Meeks Bay vehicle maintenance and insurance cost will remain; 4) Funding will be required for two additional Board positions the first two years after the annexation. It is requested that Meeks Bay will have two of their Board members be included on the combined Board; 5) the UAL of the Meeks Bay employees will remain. This is the cost of health insurance for retired Meeks Bay Fire firefighters and their dependents. There was a Q&A session between the Board, Staff, and Mr. Parr.

Chief Leighton wanted to bring attention to the Board to some of the findings from the fiscal analysis that he believes is important to look at. NTFPD has experienced significant growth in property tax, special fire tax, and fire suppression tax revenue streams. NTFPD participates in the CalPERS pension system and has accrued a significant unfunded actuarial liability (UAL), and this UAL is being reduced on an annual basis without significant impact on operations. The District maintains sufficient operating reserves to provide for unanticipated expenditures or unanticipated economic downturns. The service contract with NTFPD represents 80% of the annual revenues of the district. MBFPD has accrued a substantial unfunded actuarial liability for pension costs for prior employees that consumes a sizable portion (13%) of its annual operating revenue. MBFPD revenues do not provide sufficient funding to pay for the delivery of fire protection services to the residents. Growth in expenses outpaces growth in revenues. These are key points we do not want to lose focus on. There is a \$2,300,000 UAL that Meeks Bay currently has, and \$200,000 is taken out of the General Fund to pay down that liability. If we come together, North Tahoe Fire will be assuming that \$2,300,000 UAL. This is something that North Tahoe Fire Board is concerned about.

Michelle McIntyre from Placer LAFCO presented on the LAFCO process for the reorganization of Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire and the timeline for this process. Both North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Boards will have the ability to decide how the future combined Board will look like and they will submit that decision to LAFCO. Also, during this process the Boards together will have the opportunity to change district boundaries and/or make the Board positions at large if that is what is decided. It is important for the Board to let LAFCO know what decisions are made. There are concerns regarding the representation that Meeks Bay will have on the combined Board after the two years and if the Board will drop down to five members. There was a Q&A session between the Board, Staff, and Michelle.

The Fire Chief's point of view is that we are better together. He wants both Boards to feel comfortable with the process and that they know what is going on. This is another step to move forward.

The Board decided to make a motion to continue with LAFCO process.

There was discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to approve the presentation and reports from AP Triton and Placer LAFCO and to continue to move forward with this process.

D. [Resolution 2022-16 Accept the ARPA funding opportunity from EL Dorado County](#)

This is a housekeeping item. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Public Health Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. On March 11, 2021, the President went on to sign the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. ARPA provides aid to state, local and tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal effects resulting from the pandemic. ARPA permits funds to be used for costs obligated by a local

government by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. The County has awarded funds to Meeks Bay Fire for eligible project expenses for Station 67. Attached is Resolution 2022-16, to accept the associated funding agreement with El Dorado County for ARPA funding. The amount awarded is \$22,727 and will be utilized to upgrade the bathroom facilities, including an extractor relocation, at Station 67.

Chief Leighton stated that El Dorado County received \$500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act to be divided up amongst the Fire Agencies in the County. The way they did this was all the Fire Chiefs got together and looked at how many Engine companies there are in El Dorado County, which is 22, and divided that number by \$500,000. Each Engine company received \$22,727 to spend on things that were COVID related.

Staff is asking the Board to adopt Resolution 2022-16 to approve the ARPA funding agreement with EL Dorado County.

There was discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Feilding and seconded by Director Kromydas to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022- 16 approving the ARPA funding agreement with El Dorado County in the amount of \$22,727. The motion was passed unanimously by roll call.

E. **Pancake Breakfast**

President Miller presented this item. About 5 years ago, when we no longer had volunteer firefighters to work at the Annual Meeks Bay Fire (MBF) Pancake Breakfast, there was consideration given to discontinuing the event. Paid staff were far too busy on the holiday weekend to provide time and labor. A decision was made to partner with a local non-profit so this beloved and popular 50+ year event could continue. A relationship was developed with the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF), and they agreed to handle staffing and promotion of the event. MBF provided the location and “historic reputation”. The agreement was for an 80/20 split of profits with the SSPF retaining 80%.

At its June board meeting, the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF), at the request of some MBF Board members, discussed their practice of selling firewood at the State Parks in our community. (This issue was also discussed last summer with no action taken). Considering the high fire danger and specifically the basin wide (and beyond), solid fuel burn ban, some of the SSPF Board members again expressed concern regarding this issue. A committee was formed to give timely attention to the policy. The committee met and at its July board meeting reported to the full SSPF Board. The directors then voted 9 to 2 in favor of continuing firewood sales.

In light of this vote/practice, and public input received, I am asking for discussion and vote on discontinuing our relationship with the SSPF for production of the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Although the SSPF is an excellent organization and contributes greatly to the spectacular parks in our community, partnering with an organization which supports a policy in direct opposition to all Basin (and other local) fire agencies regarding the outdoor burning of solid fuels is counterintuitive to our mission. It not only enables a potential danger to our community; it is a source of embarrassment and a potential public relations nightmare for us and our colleagues at North Tahoe Fire.

As for the future of the Pancake Breakfast, since consolidation may be achieved prior to next

summer, continuation of the event in any manner will be the responsibility of the consolidated board.

There was discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Millslagle and seconded by Director Kormydas that Meeks Bay Fire District sever the relationship with SSPF for the production of the Annual Pancake Breakfast and send them a letter. The motion was passed three to one by roll call.

F. Next Board Meeting Dates

- September 28, 2022- regular Board meeting
- October 19, 2022– regular Board meeting

7. Chief's Report

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

- Chief Leighton had Division Chief Alan Whisler speak on the training updates:
 - We changed run responses in the Meek Bay area to include OES 4611 as a rescue rig.
 - We hired three new Firefighter/Paramedics.
 - We use El Dorado County's Fire Boat to get water to a fire in the Meeks Bay area, which was a huge help for the crews.
 - Call volumes in both Meeks Bay and North Tahoe have been down the last two months.
 - Active Shooter training with PCSO.
- On August 1, the District has implemented a trial basis 9/80 work schedule for our Fire Prevention and Administrative staff. The new work schedule consists of working four nine-hour days and an eight-hour day on the first week followed by four nine-hour days the second week with Friday being off.

8. Information Items

- The search for Kiely Rodni- As of now Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire have not been asked directly to participate in the search for Kiely Rodni, but we would assist if asked. PIO Holland added that our CERT team reached out as a resource to her and asked if there was anything they could do to be of assistance. POI Holland extended that to the Placer County Sherriff's Office, but we have not gotten a response. PIO Holland referred the CERT team to the community meetings and the volunteers that are organizing searches.
- Chipping Door Hangers- Erin Holland updated the Board regarding the door hangers. They are ready and we have them in. They are weather proof tags. They are designed to where you can put them on a chip pile or on a door. We are listing the address when we put a tag on a pile so the chipping crew knows where the piles are, in which Forest Fuels Manger Shackelford is organizing.
- Tahoe Cedars Property Owners Annual Meeting- The meeting was well attended. Good presentations by the Sheriff's Department, the PUD, and an excellent presentation by Fire Marshal Armstrong on behalf of Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire. We were well represented and the community had positive comments. President Miller introduced the Meeks Bay Directors that were there.
- Housekeeping- President Miller requested the minutes be printed double sided.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Director Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:43pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Daniels
Clerk of the Board

Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Leighton
Division Chief Alan Whisler
Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason
Fire Marshal Brent Armstrong
BC Naman Beatie
PIO Erin Holland
Captain Jamie Sheppard
Clerk of the Board Melissa Daniels

Additional Attendees:

Ellie Beals
Heidi Doyle, North Tahoe Board Member
M Heim
Michelle McIntyre, Placer LAFCO
Randy Parr, AP Triton
Erica Sanchez, El Dorado LAFCO
Rick Stephens
Gordana Wood