



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Edward I. Miller

Korie Kromydas

Louie Fielding

Bob Millslagle

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes March 16, 2022

Directors Present: Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, President Miller, and Director Millslagle
(*sworn in at this meeting*)

1. Call to Order

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

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 Vice President Kromydas 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 February 16, 2022 meeting. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to approve the Board Minutes dated February 16, 2022, as submitted and posted. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

4. Financial

Director Fielding requested that Finance Director Eason highlight anything they need to be aware of, if necessary. There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas 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. Consider Selection of Candidate to Fill Board Vacancy

The District received a letter of interest from Bob Millslagle, a candidate wishing to fill the most current Board vacancy. The candidate's information was provided to the Directors under separate cover last month.



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There was no public comment.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to appoint Robert (“Bob”) Millslagle to fill the vacant seat on the board, for the four-year term vacated by Jennifer Lemke (ending December 2024). The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

President Miller requested that the District Clerk provide Director Millslagle with the “Open and Public” handbook regarding the Brown Act. He also stated that this Board uses parliamentary procedure, not Robert’s Rules.

Bob Millslagle was sworn in by the District Clerk. There was no public comment.

[B. Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency Issued on March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District for the Period of March 16-April 14, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions](#)

This is a housekeeping item to allow Board meetings to be held virtually. There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding, seconded by Vice President Kromydas to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-06, allowing the District the option of holding the March meeting in a virtual setting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

It should be noted that “the ... provisions concerning the conduct of public meetings shall apply only during the period in which state or local public health officials have imposed or recommended social distancing measures.” (See Executive Order N-29-30 dated March 4, 2020.)

[C. Draft “Achieving Effective Fire Restrictions Communication”](#)

In response to Director Fielding’s request at the February 16, 2022 Board meeting, Chief Leighton presented the draft report to the Board. He emphasized that it is a draft document. The Regional and Basin Chiefs will be meeting tomorrow, and there will most likely be changes. SB 1012 requires State Parks to uphold the restrictions of the local Fire Districts. Senator Glazer’s office requested a letter of support, which was prepared and signed by the President of the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association (LTRFCA). This bill is a consent item on the agenda at the next Legislature meeting. There has been no opposition at all, so no testimony by the LTRFCA is necessary. Chief Leighton thanked President Miller for getting the ball rolling for us regarding this issue. It will have a big impact on the document regarding fire restrictions, and it will bring a safe and consistent message. President Miller is hoping the Governor signs it. Chief Leighton said this is one of the more important issues that effects the District.

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

[D. Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire Protection District](#)

Chief Leighton updated the Board regarding the progress of the LAFCO process, and he thanked Director Eason for her part. NTF is waiting for El Dorado County to complete the Municipal Services Review (MSR). The deadline to make changes is March 31, and the deadline for adoption is April 27.



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The 2018 ESCI study included the initial fiscal impact analysis. Director Eason ran preliminary numbers as part of the Plan for Services. El Dorado County is conducting an updated fiscal impact analysis. Michelle McIntyre, the Executive officer for Placer LAFCO, reviewed the initial MSR from El Dorado County. She wasn't comfortable with what she saw in the financial part of the review. The MSR has different numbers than what is in our audited/budgeted financials. She recommended using a third party to give us an unbiased look and give a fourth analysis of the finances between Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire. They commissioned AP Triton to do that study. Placer LAFCO will pay for the study, which is less than \$10,000. That study will take anywhere from 60-90 days to complete. Chief Leighton thinks it is essential for us to do it this way for true transparency, but this will delay us from submitting the application. The Chief and Finance Director Eason want to be comfortable before submitting, and they're not there yet. Michelle McIntyre isn't comfortable yet either. They want to ensure that neither jurisdiction will be hurt in the process.

Finance Director Eason agreed with the Chief's summary and didn't have anything to add.

There was a discussion between Board and staff, and the Board thanked Chief Leighton and Finance Director Eason for their hard work in making this happen in a thorough and complete manner. There was no public comment.

E. Secretary/Treasurer Vacancy

With the resignation of Jennifer Lemke, the Board Secretary/Treasurer position(s) are vacant. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5784.7, the District Clerk may perform the duties of Board Secretary, and the County Treasurer may act as the District Treasurer

President Miller stated that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer don't have an active role on the Board. They are titles only, and he feels comfortable handing off the responsibilities to the District Clerk and County Treasurer, respectively, to perform those duties. He also stated that relegating the Treasurer duties to the County in no way gives the County any more influence or power over the Board.

Chief Leighton added that in the past, the Board Treasurer used to run a finance committee meeting 15 minutes before the opening of the monthly Board meetings, but that has transitioned to be the financial review at the beginning of the regular meetings. The Board still has access to the finances, and nothing will change as far as the Board doing business. Unless there is a Board member who wants the title(s), he recommends approving the District Clerk to be named secretary of the Board and the County Treasurer to be named the Board Treasurer.

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

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to appoint the District Clerk to perform the duties of Board Secretary and appointed the County Treasurer to act as the District Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

F. 2022 Pancake Breakfast – July 3 - Update

President Miller asked if there was an update from the County as to the procedure for this type of event. Chief Leighton had not heard from the County and suggested it is waiting to see what develops with COVID. He's hoping COVID will subside enough and that there won't be too much smoke from wildland fires so that the event can be held.



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President Miller added that the State Parks Foundation is still discussing the event and the bulk of the responsibilities are theirs. MBF provides volunteers, handles the publicity, and allows the facilities to be used for the event.

G. Next Board Meeting Dates

The next regular meetings of the Board of Directors are scheduled for April 20 and May 18, 2022.

There was no public or Board comment.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Leighton stated that it's been a very busy week because he and Finance Director Eason are covering for the Operations Chief and Fire Marshal who are out of the office.

Items of particular interest in Chief Leighton's report included:

- The crew responded to 270 calls District wide – 11 of those calls were to assist the residents and visitors of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District.
- On March 8, we updated our COVID directives to allow all District buildings to be open to the public without restriction; however, unvaccinated employees are required to wear a face covering while interacting with the public.
- The fireworks went off without a hitch for Snowfest. Our Fire Prevention staff did an outstanding job ensuring safety before, during, and after the show. The District's 1922 Seagrave was in the parade as it celebrated its 100th birthday this year. Mechanic Joe Parle was at the helm along with his family.
- Updates regarding staffing include: Our new Facilities Coordinator, Bjorn Beckman, is doing a great job. Forest Fuels Manager interviews will be happening on March 21. Three lateral firefighter/paramedics will be joining us on March 21, 2022. The Administrative Assistant II position is posted, and the filing deadline is April 3. We are happy to welcome Firefighter/ Paramedics Jarrett LaShure, Andrew Doe, and Sergio Preciado. Our daily staffing will be 12 Monday through Thursday, increasing to 13 Friday through Sunday. On or around May 7, 2022, we will return to daily staffing of 13 per shift seven days a week for the summer.
- Chief Leighton attended the Placer County Town Hall meeting with Supervisor Gustafson regarding the update to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.
- Some of the projects that staff and Fire Chief are working on that were not included in the Chief's Report are as follows:
 - a. Fire restrictions in Lake Tahoe Basin;
 - b. Potential bi-state dispatch center;
 - c. Lake Tahoe water rescue plan;
 - d. Lake Tahoe evacuation plan;
 - e. Short-term rental and vacation rental plan with both Placer County and El Dorado County;
 - f. Homewood development plan with JMA; and
 - g. Lake Tahoe Basin wildland response coordination plan
 - h. American Rescue Plan (ARP) – El Dorado County received \$37 million and asked the Fire Districts for a Request for Proposals. El Dorado County fire districts requested approximately \$15-\$20 million. In the end, the fire districts received only \$500,000, which was divided equally amongst all (22) of the fire engine companies in El Dorado County. Meeks Bay Fire received \$22,750, which will be used to remodel the bathrooms at Station 67 (including adding a shower to the downstairs bathroom). The Auxiliary is also providing some funds for us to use for the remodel.
 - i. There was TOT money available that we didn't know that we could request last year. El Dorado County distributed several hundreds of thousands of dollars to Lake Valley Fire, El



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Dorado Hills Fire, and El Dorado County for things tied to tourism. On February 21 this year, Don Ashton asked the fire districts for requests for proposal, and the deadline is in 30 days. American Rescue Plan was cumbersome, and we had to submit it several times. PIO Holland is working on a proposal for a rescue apparatus for Station 67. She anticipates submitting it next week. We currently have the engine, medic, and utility at Station 67. We use the pick-up truck for Eagle Falls or to drive to the bottom of Vikingsholm. It has technical rescue equipment, but we need a new rescue apparatus so we can add extrication equipment on it. Lake Valley Fire received one from El Dorado County through TOT funding last year. The rescue apparatus ties into tourism because of all the tourists that park down there creating a tight driving area. The smaller rescue vehicle would be able to maneuver through the area better and could be equipped with a tank and some hoses.

8. Information Items

The report from Sustainable Community Advocates was included in the Board packet. There was no Board or public comment on the report.

Other informational items discussed were:

- a. President Miller asked if Placer County realizes that their marketing is affecting our call volume and putting a burden on us. It would be nice if they would provide us with some TOT funding. He suggested that this is an opportune time to introduce ourselves to the new director at the Resort Association.
- b. President Miller asked if Chief Leighton heard anything about the privatization of Homewood through the Yellowstone Club organization? Chief Leighton had not heard about that. He stated that the District is trying to be good partners. He has directed the Fire Marshal not to sign off on any permits until we have the final development agreement per the lawsuit. Director Fielding added that per the environmental impact study, the public would be allowed to use the facilities. He was not familiar with the ten-year use period. There was a discussion among Board and staff. There was no public comment.
- c. President Miller and Chief Leighton will meet with the NTF Board President (Mike Baffone) at noon on March 29. Directors are invited to send President Miller any questions they may have for President Baffone. He suggested that, when they get more information from the MSR and LAFCO in the future, the Directors should think about having joint meetings with NTF.
- d. Chief Leighton reminded the Board that one topic to be discussed with Michelle McIntyre is the Board makeup and compensation after consolidation with NTF. If we combined the Board now, there would be nine total. Five directors are preferable, but perhaps the compromise is to have seven during the interim transition. The Directors should think about the cost. The Boards are compensated differently. He stated that Placer LAFCO will make the final decision if the Boards can't decide or if they don't agree with the Boards' decision. The Board makeup should be decided before they submit the application.
- e. President Miller spoke regarding the topic of Board compensation. Previous Boards were reticent about giving themselves a raise. Currently, the MBF Directors receive a stipend of \$120.00 per meeting up to three meetings per month. The Legislature has raised the amount of allowable compensation. It will require a public hearing if the Board agrees to increase their meeting stipend.
- f. President Miller welcomed Bob Millslage as the newest Director.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:39 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Martin
Clerk of the Board

Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Steve Leighton
Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason
PIO Erin Holland
Clerk of the Board Kelly Martin

Additional Attendees:

Ellie Beals
Bob Millslagle (sworn in at this meeting)