



# Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, CHIEF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
Edward I. Miller  
Korie Kromydas  
Jennifer Lemke  
Louie Fielding

## Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes  
March 17, 2021

**Directors Present:** Director Louie Fielding (*sworn in at this meeting*), Vice President 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 March was called to order at 3:31pm by President Miller.

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

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

**3. Approval of Past Minutes**

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Lemke to approve the Board Minutes dated February 17, 2021, as amended to include that Director Lemke asked how soon the numbers from the ESCI study should be updated. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**4. Financial**

It was moved by President Miller 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**

Chief Leighton recognized President Miller's years of service with Meeks Bay Fire.

**6. Business Requiring Action**

**A. Review of Candidate Application(s) and Possible Selection to Fill Board Vacancies**

After reviewing candidate information for Louie Fielding, it was moved by Director Lemke and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to appoint Louie Fielding to fill the vacant seat on the board, for the four-year term vacated by Ellie Beals. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**B. Long-term Planning with North Tahoe Fire**

On March 3, El Dorado County LAFCo (EDC-LAFCo) voted unanimously to send a letter to Placer County LAFCo (PC-LAFCo) requesting the transfer of jurisdiction from PC-LAFCo to EDC-LAFCo. On March 10, PC-LAFCo voted unanimously to transfer jurisdiction to EDC-LAFCo.

At the February meeting, President Miller and Vice President Kromydas were curious as to what an additional per parcel dollar amount would need to be for Meeks Bay Fire to remain a separate entity. Chief Leighton explained that, although staff could run some numbers, he could not guarantee the



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accuracy of the numbers. He suggested that, if the board wanted a more accurate figure, a fiscal impact analysis should be done.

President Miller said he was not looking for precise numbers, just a rough idea what the cost per taxable parcel would be. He wouldn't want to spend money on hiring someone just to satisfy curiosity.

Chief Leighton said that he believed that if we were to calculate a rough number, it would probably be in the \$300-\$400 range per parcel.

Director Lemke would like to start putting together a timeline. Possibly have some extra or special meetings to discuss the process. President Miller stated that the current board meetings are the forum for discussions.

Chief Leighton asked the board if they had any direction for staff or anything they want staff to do or accomplish, or anyone to contact regarding long range planning or potential consolidation with North Tahoe Fire before the next meeting. (No direction was given.)

President Miller wants more input from residents and voters before moving forward. He also requested this item be left on the agenda monthly so it can be addressed as we progress.

Director Fielding asked if El Dorado County would be able to fiscally assist the district. After a negative response, President Miller informed Director Fielding about the various assessments currently on property tax bills and that the public has been very good about passing those assessments (even during the recession in 2009); and how Prop 13 has limited property tax increases.

Director Lemke asked for additional clarification regarding a timeline. Is the district waiting for LAFCo to proceed or does the district need to do something? President Miller explained that the decision does fall on the district to inform LAFCo what the district wants to do once a decision has been made on behalf of the constituents. Director Lemke then confirmed that President Miller wants more input from constituents before taking action.

Director Lemke requested staff forward the South Fork Consulting data, which was provided at the February meeting, to Director Fielding. President Miller asked that an updated contact list also be sent to the directors.

Chief McNamara explained his past experience to the board, as the Graeagle Fire Protection District Fire Chief in Plumas County. He further explained that this experience may not be applicable to Meeks Bay Fire, but it is representative of a successful LAFCo annexation process. His experience includes developing the LAFCo Plan for Services and the fiscal impact analysis which objectively determines what an agency and its taxpayers may or may not need to pay through taxes, based upon a logical metric of past, present and future needs.

- Past: assess what the current value of each agency is;
- Present: current operating budget; and
- Future: capital improvement plan which each agency has in place.



The above is the process that may be used to discover what the equitable amount that taxpayers would pay in the future.

In answer to Director Lemke's timeline question; Chief McNamara explained that the process would be more accurately described by LAFCo Executive Officer Jose Henriquez, but his experience included that the consolidation process begins with a board resolution which would in turn trigger an application to LAFCo (including associated fees). During the LAFCo process, if there is a need for a benefit assessment it would be discovered after development of the fiscal impact analysis/Plan for Services, which would entail additional public hearings beyond what is typically done. (If a benefit assessment is needed, this is when it would be voted on by the constituents.)

Moving forward, the process would then continue with LAFCo, then the county(ies), followed by State Board of Equalization (re-mapping of the district).

No action was taken.

### C. Future Board Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the Board of Directors will be April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

It was then moved by Director Lemke and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to reschedule the September board meeting to Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> in order to accommodate staff for the adoption of the final budget for fiscal year 2021/2022. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

## 7. Chief's Reports

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

- S Hired Sarah Gley as a full time inspector;
- S There were 211 calls for service for month of February, 41 transports;
- S One medical call turned out to be carbon monoxide poisoning, staff handled appropriately and both patients made full recoveries.
- S Grants submissions included:
  - S SAFER grant for additional staffing - \$1.3M for three years;
  - S Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for thermal imaging cameras - \$26-27K;
  - S Community Risk Assessment for fuels and fire prevention
- S Staffing will now be allowed to attend outside training;
- S Staff is no longer required to wear masks when in the fire station with other staff members. These changes are based on CDC guidelines;
- S Received 50% funding for SNPLMA grant and are working toward receiving 100% funding and will request a letter of recommendation from Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association.
- S North Lake Tahoe Fire will again be providing chipping services through a regional grant.
- S The track chipper is in operational condition and being stored in Mound House, NV. Will be looking at options to sub-contract it to other agencies;
- S President Miller requested that the community be informed of the registration requirements for chipping services;
- S Updating station 67's dispatch alerting system which was included in the capital improvement budget for this year.



McNamara:

- S Thanked President Miller for his years of service and welcomed Director Fielding.
- S Online building plan application process is working well and eliminating a lot of the need for re-submittals;
- S Placer County had an STR town hall meeting and they will be reducing their fees for short term rentals that are near town centers to encourage transportation use;
- S Seeing an increase in development: JMA (Homewood Mountain Resort) is attempting to move forward with phase 1 of their project which is a seven-unit, single-family development; several workforce housing, residential developments and multi-use projects are also being proposed;
- S North Tahoe Fire is completing a Memorandum of Understanding with Placer County to act as their fireworks inspection agent.

## 8. Information Items

- S Report from Sustainable Community Advocates
- S Ellie Beals informed attendees that Tahoe Cedars water system does require a full rebuild, which will allow for additional fire hydrants. The cost will be approximately \$50M over 9 years.

## 9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Lemke to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn R. Crawford  
Clerk of the Board

### Staff Attendees:

Fire Chief Steve Leighton  
Fire Chief Michael Schwartz  
Division Chief Steve McNamara  
Director of Finance Kim Eason  
Clerk of the Board Shawn Crawford  
Battalion Chief Alan Whisler  
Captain Jamie Sheppard  
Captain Brent Armstrong  
Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt

### Additional Attendees:

Ellie Beals