



# 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, February 15, 2023 ❖ 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 February was called to order at 3:31 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 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 January 18, 2023 meeting. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Director Kromydas to approve the Board Minutes dated January 18, 2022, 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-E, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

#### 5. Public Input

There was none.

#### 6. Business Requiring Action

##### A. Consider authorizing the Fire Chief to execute the universal resolution Cal EOS 130 Delegation of Applicant's Agent Resolution for Non-State Agencies for all open and future disasters up to three years following approval

Chief Leighton presented this housekeeping item. In 2020, the Board authorized the Fire Chief to execute the Cal OES 130 form which is a universal resolution and is effective for all open



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and future Disasters/Grants up to three (3) years following the date of approval. Three years have passed, and it is time to submit the application and file it with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Service. This will be used for the purpose of obtaining certain federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-288 as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, and/or state financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

Chief Leighton asked the District Clerk to add Division Chief as an authorized signer to the form.

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

It was moved by Director Fielding, seconded by Director Millslagle to designate the Fire Chief, Director of Finance & Administration, and Division Chief, as agents, to provide assurances required to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, as required to implement the project; and further authorize the Fire Chief to execute and file Cal OES 130 with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### **B. El Dorado LAFCO Special District Election Representative Nomination**

Chief Leighton presented this item. The El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has opened the nomination period for a regular Special District representative seat to serve a four-year term, beginning no sooner than May 2023, and ending May 2027. Nominations and a statement of qualifications must be submitted in writing to El Dorado County LAFCO by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Upon the closing of the nomination period, LAFCO staff will prepare and mail a ballot to each Special District with voting instructions. Ballots will be due thirty (30) days after mailing.

There was a discussion regarding if a Director from Meeks Bay Fire's Board of Directors was nominated for a seat on the El Dorado LAFCO Special District Board, would they be able to retain their seat once Meeks Bay FPD is annexed into North Tahoe FPD.

The Directors chose not to nominate a representative to the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission.

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

### **C. Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire Protection District**

Chief Leighton and President Miller updated the Board on the LAFCO process. President Miller stated that on Friday, he and Chief Leighton met with El Dorado County's District 5 Supervisor Brook Laine, CAO Don Ashton, and Deputy CAO Sue Hennike. President Miller informed the Board of several take-away points from the meeting regarding the status of the consolidation from El Dorado County's standpoint. These include:

- They are on track as best as they can be, it is taking longer, but they wanted the



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Board to know that in no way does the length of time that it is taking represent anything but support on El Dorado County's part for the consolidation;

- One of the reasons why El Dorado County is concerned about the UAL and why our LAFCO process is taking longer is the fact that many fire districts in El Dorado County are looking at consolidation and what the funding into perpetuity would look like if done so. Meeks Bay FPD is at the top of the list, so whatever they do with Meeks Bay FPD could set a precedent for what they do with the other districts;
- El Dorado County and North Tahoe FPD have a contract to provide ambulance service to Meek Bay Fire's district. In the contract, El Dorado County is billing the recipients in the district who received EMS services and they charge 7%. One thing that can be done once annexation is accomplished, North Tahoe FPD could bill directly for ambulance services instead of El Dorado County billing the recipient. This means that North Tahoe Fire would be receiving that 7% charge for billing. If North Tahoe Fire bills directly for ambulance service, they could raise the rate which would be an additional revenue source for North Tahoe Fire;
- El Dorado County is looking into whether or not there needs to be a tax equalization between the two counties.

Chief Leighton stated that he is optimistic after the conversations that were had at the meetings with El Dorado County staff and with Placer County District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson.

On Monday, both Supervisors and the chief negotiators from EL Dorado County and Placer County met. Supervisor Gustafson communicated to Chief Leighton that in two months we should have a good idea of where we are at in the negotiation process. They are waiting for Goodwin Consulting to finish the fiscal impact analysis.

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

### D. Next Board Meeting Dates

- March 15, 2023 – regular Board meeting
- April 19, 2023 – regular Board meeting

The Meeks Bay Fire Board meetings will now be held in person at the Meeks Bay Fire Station.

North Tahoe FPD moved their Board meeting up a week for the month of April due to staff scheduling.

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

## 7. Chief's Report

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



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- Chief Leighton attended the Placer TOT/TBID meeting regarding TOT/TBID funding. Three things that are affecting the District are housing, transportation, and evacuations. Chief Leighton has been discerning where the fire districts fit into these three areas.
  - o Housing: Workforce housing is needed so North Tahoe Fire employees can live in the district.
  - o Transportation: Busy ski traffic makes it difficult for our engines and ambulances to return to the district once they drop patients off at the hospital or when they come back to from a call not requiring lights or sirens.
  - o Evacuations: There needs to be one system with the same message that alerts the public of a threat instead of each county having its own messaging that is different from the neighboring counties. We cannot confuse our residents and we cannot confuse the public. The District also needs to continue to relay the message of being prepared if there were to be an evacuation order. One other thing that needs to be done is to start removing the dead and dying fuel from our evacuation corridors;
- Last Thursday, the District applied for the AFG grants. We applied for a Type 3 fire engine, a SCBA compressor for Station 51, and rescue air bags for our Type 1 engines. We are also applying for the SAFER grant for a third time to hire three more firefighters;
- Chief Leighton filled the Board in regarding the call that was in Chief Beatie's email in his report. He stated that the crew did a great job regarding this call and he is very proud of the hard work and training that they do;
- Snowfest is March 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and the District will be involved in the parade, the fireworks, and North Tahoe Firefighters Association will be hosting the pancake breakfast at Station 51 on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Chief Leighton invited the Board to come and take a tour of the Station and check out the apparatus.
  - o President Miller requested that the District send him the names of the personnel and the apparatus that will be in the parade as he will be announcing and he would like to feature our firefighters and our apparatus;
- President Miller commented on the TOT/TBID. A couple of months ago, he and Chief Leighton met with Tony Karwowski who is the CEO of the North Tahoe Community Alliance and one of the things they recommended was that some sort of public safety representative be on the North Tahoe Community Alliance Board. Mr. Karwowski thought that was a great idea, but nothing has come to fruition since that meeting. It was decided that a formal letter be drafted and approved at the next Board meeting which will be sent to the North Tahoe Community Alliance Board on behalf of the Meeks Bay Fire District to have of public safety representative be considered for their Board;

### Chief Whisler

- This morning the District responded to a gas leak down by Emerald Bay;
- Next two weekends will be extremely busy and to expect big crowds due to Presidents Day weekend and the World Cup ski race that will be held at Palisades Tahoe- expected to see over 25,000 additional people for that event.

## 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.



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- President Miller received a note from Supervisor Laine regarding the Homeowners Insurance Moratorium stating that her office is continuing to make contact with CAL FIRE and the Insurance Commissioner's Office to get a resolution for their decision to leave out the 96142 zip code and South Lake from the Moratorium.
- Supervisor Laine is putting together a group that includes representatives from all the different communities in District 5. She asked President Miller if he would represent the Tahoma region. President Miller called her and explained that the Tahoma region is a very large region for just one representative. Supervisor Laine asked if President Miller knew anyone who could represent the Meeks Bay area and he thought of Gay Thomas.

### **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Director Kromydas and seconded by Director Millslagle to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Daniels  
Clerk of the Board

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Fire Chief Steve Leighton  
Division Chief Alan Whisler  
Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason  
Battalion Chief Naman Beatie  
Administrative Assistant II Gordana Wood  
Clerk of the Board Melissa Daniels

#### **Additional Attendees:**

Ellie Beals