

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

September 14, 2021 Minutes

Randi Rossi – Board Chair, Tony Marcaccio – Vice Chair, Judy Hobson – Secretary, Christina Holum – Director, Joe Ruder – Director

Mission Statement

To provide a professional and compassionate level of community fire protection, emergency medical and rescue services to the citizens and property owners within the Fire District, in order to prevent or minimize the loss of life, pain, suffering and property damage as a result of fire or other types of emergency.

The regularly scheduled September 14, 2021 6:00 PM meeting was conducted in person as well as teleconference.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER and DETERMINATION OF QUORUM 18:04 hours 6:04p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Present: Ruder, Holum, Hobson, Marcaccio, Rossi

Administration: Chief Matthews, Administrative Assistant Joy Vierra, Captain Ramsey, Captain Schwitalla

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

2. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT / PRESENTATIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

2.1 Oath of Office Director Ruder

Director Rossi gave Director Ruder his oath of office.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Administration recommends the BOD approve the Minutes from August 10, 2021 Board Meeting

3.2 Administration recommends the BOD approve the Minutes from August 18, 2021 Special/Emergency meeting

3.3 Administration recommends the BOD approve: Payment of bills – green sheets

3.4 Administration recommends the formal approval: \$100,000 expenditure increase for Caldor Fire
Director Holum asked several questions to clarify the greensheets related to PG&E, FFRP, Klein Electric and Veercamp Inc.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda and approve the Consent Calendar items 3.1- 3.4 and minutes.

(M/S) Hobson/ Marciaccio

Passed 5/0

PUBLIC COMMENT (Open Forum)

Any person may address the District Board on any subject pertaining to District business, which is not listed on the agenda. This comment is provided by the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act (Government Code § 54950 et. seq) and may be limited to three (3) minutes for any person addressing the Board. "The public may address the Board on any subject listed on the Regular Agenda. Each speaker may address the Board **once** for a limit of three (3) minutes. The filing of speaker cards is not mandatory, but is helpful in creating an accurate record. Each speaker will be called upon to speak by the Chair when the item is heard"

Instructions for public comment listed above were read by Director Rossi.

Chief Matthews provided responses to a letter of concern the board of directors received from another board member that was posted on Facebook by Phillip Dayton.

Citizen Joshua Feis asked about when the Battalion Chief at Station 35 left the residence in GF. Asked about evacuation warnings and orders, and how they were made. Expressed his concerns that evacuations were not made earlier in Grizzly Flats, and expressed his concerns for the personal safety of the Grizzly Flats residents.

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

September 14, 2021 Minutes

Dan Dwyer made statements explaining the role of Pioneer Fire with the relation to the Caldor Fire. During Mr. Dwyer's comments another citizen asked why we did not get more assistance when the fire started. Director Rossi made some statements about how the water was utilized from his property to fight the fire.

Citizen Grant Ingram made a statement and asked questions related to The Grizzly Fire Safe Counsel and the cleanup related to what the Forest Service was going to do. What did the forest service do to prevent the potential of Fires starting in the area related to mitigation? Which agency took the incident command of the incident? He acknowledged that the Forest service took command of the event, wanted to know what was ordered for the fire. How many resources were ordered and when they were ordered? When was the type 3 Sacramento team ordered? He made comments related to the fire mapping process and errors that were made. Also asked how many structure protection type engines ordered for the Town of Grizzly Flats? Chief Matthews responded and stated that there were no type 1 or 2 teams available for 6 days. Chief stated that he ordered 10 engines for home protection. This request was unable to be filled due to lack of resources. Grant also requested that the board put together some sort of ad hoc committee to find out the facts related to the Caldor Fire.

Philip Dayton made a statement about the statements that were put out on Facebook. Phillip clarified that his questions were not put to the Pioneer Fire Board, but put out to Facebook. Director Rossi stated that all the questions would be looked into

An unidentified citizen asked about what to do about vacant lots that surround his property that are overgrown. Director Rossi replied letting them know that there are grants available to get clearing done.

"Will form the Hill" asked about the amount of fuel in the forest do to the lack of logging? Also asked why there were no fire forces on Caldor Road prior to the fire getting out of control. And also asked about campers that are in the forest with warming fires and what could be done.

Dennis Peters Grizzly Flats resident shared his experience with insurance as a renter who has lost everything due to not being able to get renters insurance. He stated that things need to change. He lost everything he owned in the fire. Director Rossi suggested that we as district citizens all need to get involved to make things happen for the future.

4. MONTHLY/STANDING ACTIVITY REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1** Administrative/Chief's Report - Chief Matthews made some brief statements related to the Caldor fire and the citizen concerns raised. The formal monthly Chief's report was not provided this month. The department has spent a lot of money, and had a lot of damaged equipment and vehicle failures during the incident. There were 11 pieces of equipment staffed on the fire for over 2 weeks. And one engine that has been assigned to the fire for over 30 days. He gave a brief overview of the changes from 3 years ago to now. Started 3 years ago with a 1.2 million dollar budget, 9 pieces of equipment, we now have 23 pieces of equipment. Opened Station 35 and 37 as QRT Volunteer Stations. Opened Station 31 and 35 with one paid staff. All has been done with the same operating budget.
- 4.2** Local #4586 - Nothing to report
- 4.3** PVFA - Nothing to report
- 4.4** Financial - Chief Matthews provided an overview of the financials. Director Holum asked if the 2021-2022 Budget needs to be adjusted due to the loss of revenue. Chief and Director Rossi stated that on a monthly basis this will be reviewed and adjusted.
- 4.5** Covid 19 Update - During the Caldor Fire there were 2 employees who tested positive for Covid. There were some major outbreaks at the fire camp. All have made full recoveries.

PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting

September 14, 2021 Minutes

4.6 Succession/Transition - Director Rossi stated that a subcommittee helped develop a new flyer for the Chief's position. Chief's Matthews term is up at the end of the year. No applications have been received yet.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Succession - No applications have been received to date.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Caldor Fire - Director Holum proposed that an ad hoc committee of board members and community members be formed to research the concerns raised by the public and seek answers to the many community questions presented.

Motion made to create an ad-hoc committee made up of 2 board members, and 2 community members, to meet with in the next two weeks to research and fact find information related to the Caldor Fire and report to the board and make further recommendations.

(M/S) Holum/ Marciacco

Passed 5/0

Director Holum volunteered to be the committee chair. Grant Ingram community member offered to assist on the ad hoc committee.

6.2 District damages due to Caldor Fire - Station 35 is a total loss, utility 31 is a total loss, and one type 7 rig was damaged. Thousands of dollars of equipment was destroyed. The building was owned by the PVFA but was insured by the district. We will be able to replace what was lost. It is the Chief's goal and the Fire Districts goal to get Station 35 rebuilt.

6.3 Burn Ban - Chief Matthews gave an overview on the burn ban and ordinances related to its implementation.

Grant Ingram asked about the information related to the educations portion of the burn ban wanting clearer information.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS (GOOD OF THE ORDER)

Chief Matthews thanked the public

8. AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time


ADJURNMENT – Motion made by Director Holum to adjourn, confirmed consensus and adjourned at 7:58pm

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday October 12th, 2021 at 6p.m.

Prepared by:


Joy Vierra, Administrative Assistant


Randi Rossi, Vice Chair BOD


Date