



Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District
Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM
Geyserville Fire Station – 20975 Geyserville Ave, Geyserville, CA

1. Opening Greeting

- a. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Scott Newman at 6:00 PM.
- b. Roll Call: Board Members Scott Newman, Rob Stewart, Pat Abercrombie, Fred Peterson, and Larry Heiges were present. Fire Chief Marshall Turbeville, Treasurer Michael Pigoni, and Clerk Anneke Turbeville were also present.
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Approval or Amendment of the Agenda: The Bell's Ambulance Presentation agenda item will be moved to follow Public Discussion. **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Peterson) to approve the agenda with that change. All ayes.**

2. Public Discussion

Scott Newman acknowledged that it was heartening to see our firefighters heading south and he is grateful for their efforts. He also noted that as Board President, he didn't expect the additional feeling of engagement he experienced. He gained an appreciation for Michael Pigoni, Anneke Turbeville and Chief Turbeville.

3. Election of Officers

A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Abercrombie) to rotate officer positions as usual. All ayes. Rob Stewart will be President, Larry Heiges will become Vice President, Pat Abercrombie will serve as Treasurer, and Fred Peterson will act as Secretary. At this point in the meeting, Rob Stewart took over as President.

Bell's Ambulance Presentation (New Business)

Bell's Ambulance delivered a six-month report on the status of enhanced medical services. Overall, Bell's reported quicker response times and less dependency on ambulances from other areas in the past six months.

4. Old Business

- a. Measure H Funding Agreement Between County and Fire Agencies
 - **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Newman) to approve the Measure H Funding Agreement Between the County of Sonoma and Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement, subject to the Fire Chief making any needed minor administrative adjustments. All ayes.**

b. Northern County Fire Ad Hoc JPA

- Abercrombie noted that the vision statement approved at the last Board meeting is different from tonight's vision statement. The two vision statements will be compared at the next JPA meeting and the committee will firm up the language.
- Heiges asked if the districts would merge or remain separate. Peterson responded that Cloverdale and Northern Sonoma County will remain separate districts.
- The next Ad Hoc JPA meeting will be February 28th at 1:00 PM.

c. Policies

- **A motion was made and seconded (Newman/Peterson) to adopt the Chainsaw Operations Use & Safety policy. All ayes.**

d. Multi-Purpose Room

- Rob Stewart reported that the biggest concern with current users is access to the room's audio-visual equipment. Stewart suggested withholding approval until further discussion with current users.

5. New Business

a. Bell's Ambulance Presentation

- This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

b. Policies

- A draft Credit Card Purchases policy was introduced.

c. City and Planning Unit Outreach Ad Hoc Committee

- Chief Turbeville reported that most of the discussion at the last meeting was about vegetation management. The next meeting is April 8th.

d. Special Tax Zone #1 Annual Report for Fiscal year 23/24

- Heiges reported that the community remains happy with the results of this tax.

e. Permanent Fuels Crew Positions

- Newman noted that he would appreciate a master plan to map out expenditures.
- **A motion was made and seconded (Newman/Heiges) to authorize the following: increasing the number of Forestry Technician 4 positions to five, increasing the number of Forestry Technician 3 positions to eleven; increase pay and benefits as described in the Permanent Fuels Crew Positions Staff Report; spend legal fees for LCW to review the Employment Agreement for permanent Forestry Technician positions. All ayes.**

6. Minutes.

- A motion was made and seconded (Abercrombie/Newman) to approve the December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. All ayes.

7. Financial Report

- The Board Treasurer reported that the financial staff report was thorough.

8. Consent Calendar

- **A motion was made and seconded (Heiges/Peterson) to approve the December/January checks issued. All ayes.**

9. Chief's Report

- The written Chief's Report is included in the Agenda Packet.

10. Correspondence

- There was no correspondence.

11. Good of the Order

- Heiges announced a COPE meeting here at 10:00 on February 16th.
- Newman announced that he plans to attend the Palm Springs conference and wondered if anyone else will be attending (no one else plans to attend).
- Abercrombie reported that another newsletter was sent out.

12. Adjournment of the Meeting

- **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Heiges) to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. All ayes.**

Approval of Minutes

Peterson/Newman

Motion Made/Seconded

Anneke Turbeville

Anneke Turbeville - Clerk of the Board