



Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Geyserville Fire Station – 20975 Geyserville Ave, Geyserville, CA

The agenda and all supporting documents are available for public review at 20975 Geyserville Avenue, Geyserville, CA 95441, 72 hours in advance of each regularly scheduled meeting. Materials related to any items on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda, and not otherwise exempt from disclosure, will be made available for public review during normal business hours.

Assistance for Disabled: If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the meeting, please call the Clerk of the Board at 707-857-4373 so the necessary arrangements can be made.

1. Opening Greeting

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call: Newman, Stewart, Abercrombie, Peterson, Heiges
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Approval or Amendment of the Agenda

2. Public Discussion

The public is welcomed and encouraged to address the Board at this time on matters not on the agenda. Please be advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, the Board is not permitted to take action on any matter not on the agenda unless it determines that an emergency exists or the need to take action arose after the posting of the agenda. This period will be limited to thirty minutes and individual speakers will be limited to five minutes.

3. Old Business

This time is set aside for continued discussion and possible action on any issue held over from the last meeting.

- a. Draft Strategic Plan
 - The Board will consider adopting the draft 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan and the Management and Implementation Guide. **(Action Item)**
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *Strategic Plan Final Draft*
 2. *Strategic Plan Management Implementation Guide*

- b. Measure H Funding Agreement Between County and Fire Agencies
 - The Board will review and discuss the revised Measure H Funding Agreement Between County and Fire Agencies.
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *Clean Draft of SVFD Example of Measure H Funding Agreement*
- c. Risk Management
 - Presentation by Ben Fay on Board responsibilities regarding risk management.
 - Identify the deliverable on each of the four legal issues that will signal the matter is complete/resolved. **(Action Item)**
 - The Board will confirm the proper channel of communication, including who is responsible for each item. **(Action Item)**
 - The Board will determine how legal conversations held by staff on other topics, including personnel matters, work into the overall questions of risk management and where, if at all, does Board have oversight responsibility. **(Action Item)**
 - The Board will consider creating a Risk Management Ad Hoc Committee to address these legal issues. **(Action Item)**
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *Risk Management Committee Report*
- d. Northern Sonoma County Fire JPA
 - The Board will review and ask questions regarding the JPA Committee Report and JPA Staff Report.
 - The Board will consider adopting the JPA Shared Vision Statement. **(Action Item)**
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *JPA Committee Report*
 2. *JPA Staff Report*
 3. *JPA Shared Vision Statement*
- e. Multi-Purpose Room
 - Discussion of community use of multi-purpose room.
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *Multi-Purpose Room Use Board Report*
- f. Policies
 - The Board will consider adopting the following policies: **(Action Item)**
 1. Chipper Operations Use & Safety
 2. Reporting for Duty
 3. Emergency Recall
 4. Medical Clearance
 5. Purchasing and Procurement Policy
 6. Financial Reserve Policy
 - *Supporting materials included in packet:*
 1. *Policies Staff Report*
 2. *Policies*

4. New Business

Presentation and discussion of new issues brought before the Board or continued discussion of issues not on the previous month's agenda.

a. Administration of Oaths of Office for Abercrombie and Peterson

- There was not an election in our District as there were not enough candidates for the offices to be contested. Pursuant to Elections Code 10515, Francis Abercrombie and Fred Peterson have been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve as if elected. Pursuant to Elections Code 10554 elective officers take office at noon on the first Friday in December following the General District Election (December 6, 2024). Prior to taking office, each elective officer shall take the official oath. Any Director may administer the oath.
- *Supporting materials in packet:*
 1. *Oaths of Office for Abercrombie and Peterson*

b. Amendment to the Agreement with Bell's Ambulance

- The Board will consider amending the agreement with Bells Ambulance to: **(Action Item)**
 - Increase the contracted amount to \$17,000 per month effective January 1, 2025.
 - Terminate the agreement on March 31, 2025.
- Authorize the Fire Chief to sign an agreement, effective April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, with Bell's Ambulance to provide an additional ambulance. **(Action Item)**
- *Supporting materials in packet:*
 1. *Amendment to the Agreement with Bell's Ambulance Staff Report*

c. Full-Time Firefighter Positions

- The Board will consider authorizing the creation and fund allocation of seven full-time firefighter rank positions. The fund allocation will pay contract costs to the Cloverdale Fire Protection District. **(Action Item)**
- The Board will consider authorizing one time funding of \$100,000 to Cloverdale Fire Protection District for administrative functions related to hiring employees. **(Action Item)**
- *Supporting materials in packet:*
 1. *Full-Time Firefighter Positions Staff Report*

d. Permanent Fuels Crew Positions

- The Board will consider authorizing increasing the number of Forestry Technician positions to:
 - Five Forestry Technician 4
 - Twenty Forestry Technician 3
- The Board will consider authorizing an increase in pay and benefits as described in the Permanent Fuels Crew Positions Staff Report.
- The Board will consider authorization to the spending of legal fees for LCW to review Employment Agreement for permanent Forestry Technician positions (one agreement covers all 3 positions).
- *Supporting materials in packet:*
 - *Permanent Fuels Crew Positions Staff Report*

e. Geysers CalVTP

- The Board will consider adopting Resolution 24/25-1212-01 accepting the Geysers VTP #2024-21 CEQA Project Specific Analysis and the Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR, making CEQA findings, approving project, and approving related actions. The following related documents are available on the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District website: **(Action Item)**
 1. PSA Geysers CalVTP #2024-21
 2. PSA Geysers CalVTP #2024-21 Attachment A (Monitoring and Mitigation Reporting)
 3. PSA Geysers CalVTP #2024-21 Attachment B (Biological Resources)
 4. PSA Geysers CalVTP #2024-21 Attachment C (Project Maps)
- *Supporting materials included in packet*
 1. *Geysers VTP #2024-21 CEQA Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR Staff Report*
 2. *Resolution 24/25-1212-01 Adopting CEQA Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum for Geysers VTP #2024-21, Making CEQA Findings, Approving Project, and Approving Related Actions.*
 3. *Environmental review documents are available on District website under Wildland Fire & Vegetation Management, "[Environmental Review Documents](#)".*

f. Policies

- The following policy will be introduced for possible adoption at the January meeting: Chainsaw Operations Use & Safety.
- *Supporting materials in this packet:*
 1. *Chainsaw Operations Use and Safety Policy (Draft)*

5. Minutes

The Board of Directors will review, amend and approve prior months' Board meeting minutes.

- a. November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes **(Action Item)**

6. Financial Report

The Board Treasurer or designee will report on the past month's income and expenditures.

7. Consent Calendar

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If the Board or the public desires discussion, that item will be removed by the Consent Calendar and will be considered separately.

- a. Approval of the November/December checks issued.

8. Chief's Report

Review and questions regarding the Chief's monthly report and any verbal updates on the status of the District and matters pertaining to the operation of the Department.

9. Correspondence

This time is set aside to read any letters or related correspondence to District business.

- Email correspondence praising Fuels Crew

10. Good of the Order

This time is set aside for announcements of any events that may be of interest to Board Members or personnel.

11. Adjournment of the Meeting