

NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Final Approved 1/25/2022

PRESENT: Tim Tschantz, Chair; Bruce Boyd, Vice-Chair; Pat Leach, Treasurer; Rhea Williamson; Samantha Hinrichs

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Roll taken. Quorum established. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF November 30, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

The following items were asked to be removed from the agenda and to be heard at the January Board Meeting; 7.A, 7.B, 7.C and 7.D. Additionally, the Board will only conduct one evaluation during closed session, as opposed to conducting three.

Rhea Williamson moved to approve the amended agenda, Bruce Boyd seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rusty Fites-Kaufman asked the Board to consider allowing a Conservation Corp Crew to use the facilities at station 1 should they experience inclement weather over the next two weeks.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Boyd Johnson asked to remove item 4.A from the consent calendar for further discussion.

Bruce Boyd moved accept the Consent Calendar with item 4.A removed for discussion, Rhea Williamson seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Item 4.A – Draft Minutes of October 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Boyd Johnson asked where the public can find final minutes after drafts are adopted by the Board. Heidi Ryan responded that all final minutes can be obtained at the District office.

Bruce Boyd moved to accept item 4.A, Rhea Williamson seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Leach announced that there is a meeting on the NSF hydrant system that Tom Browning will attend.

Bruce Boyd announced that he has communicated with Caleb Dardick (Projects Administrator with the Nevada County Executive Office) regarding upgrading Station 1. Caleb Dardick expressed he is supportive of this project and has asked Bruce to work on a more developed plan should an appropriate grant become available.

6. REPORTS

A. Chief's Report- Chief Jason Flores

- Presented October 2021 Statistics.
- Some of our firefighters will be attending a training at a burn tower in Reno, Nevada, with other fire departments.
- Upcoming extrication training at the Whittlesey Junk Yard.
- Multiple agencies are gearing up to conduct prescribed burns soon.
- Two new folks in the process of joining the volunteer roster.
- Minimal rain expected the next two weeks, long term forecast looking better for significant rainfall in the second half of December.
- Updating and adding additional radios in some of our vehicles. We received radios from the Homeland Security Grant, and the Board approved the purchase of one radio.
- 6168 updates: During the 2021 fire season, 6168 responded to the River Fire in South County, and was on a strike team that was deployed to the Tamarak Fire and the Dixie Fire. 6168 was wet hired by CAL FIRE for 6 weeks, the majority of which was spent covering Station 42 within our District. During that wet-hire assignment, 6168 responded to the Pleasant Fire in North San Juan, the Old Fire in North San Juan, the Glenn Fire in Dobbins, and the Bennet Fire in Grass Valley.
- Benefits of Engine 6168; has provided a well-equipped, reliable engine for firefighters to utilize with ample room; The District now has 3 type 2 engines to maintain ISO ratings; We have four new driver operators qualified to operate the Engine; increase firefighters retention; sending 6168 has allowed us to implement a firefighter back fill plan that has ensured ample District coverage; has contributed to a significant boost to morale for firefighters. In closing, Engine 6168 has been a huge asset to the District.

B. Treasurer's Report – Pat leach

i. Financials- October 2021: Funds Summary, Disbursement Detail, Deposit Detail, Cal Card

Boyd Johnson asked for the status of the Audit. Lynn McGarva responded that she received the draft audit this week. Lynn will send it out to Board members for review.

Bruce Boyd moved to approve the October 2021 Financials as presented, Rhea Williamson seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Firefighter Association Report- Chris Rainville

- Badri Matlock is the new Treasurer.
- The association is going to purchase a laptop to use for bookkeeping.
- Working on obtaining a non-profit status.
- Working on obtaining a post office box.
- Firefighters are organizing a Christmas Toy Drive.
- Current account balance is \$14,480.12.
- Next meeting is December 15, 2021 at 1800 hours.

D. Fire Safe Council/FireWise Coalition/Ridge FireWise Communities Report – Pat Leach

- The Council is gearing up for 2022.
- FireWise Coalition is going to provide quarterly meetings for members.

E. NCFA Report – Pat Leach

No meeting to report on.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Water Storage Committee – Bruce Boyd

Item was removed from Agenda.

B. “Preparing for Large Fires” Discussion – Tim Tschantz

Item was removed from Agenda.

C. Landscaping at Station 3 – Pat Leach

Item was removed from Agenda.

D. Measure Q Rate Increase Discussion – Pat Leach

Item was removed from Agenda.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commercial Agriculture Impacts to System, Discussion – Jason Flores

Chief Flores announced that he has been notified of 18 cannabis cultivation permits this year. In addition to the legal grows, there are plenty of illegal grows in the area as well. It appears there has been an increase in calls resulting from this developing industry. Chief Flores summarized the potential impacts he is concerned about for our community resulting from this industry, including water use, pesticide and fertilizer use, weapons, traffic, crime, drug use, and illegal wiring, among other things. How many farms are going to be approved in this area? Chief Flores asked the Board to consider communicating these concerns to the Board of Supervisors.

Diana Gamzon, the Director of the Nevada County Cannabis Alliance, provided valuable information regarding the requirements for legal cannabis farms in the County.

The Board asked Chief Flores to work on tracking calls related to cannabis cultivation. If there is a correlation between cannabis grows and demands on our system, this could be the basis for how we must move forward.

B. Newsletter Update – Rhea Williamson

Rhea Williamson informed the Board that the goal is to get the newsletter out by the end of January and will be 8 pages. Rhea reminded the Board to check their email and add content as requested. The deadline for newsletter content is January 10, 2021.

C. Facilities Rental – Heidi Ryan

This item was heard out of order at 7:19 PM, directly following Board Announcements

The Board would like to make our facilities available for rental with a cleaning fee added to the rental agreement. All rentals will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Fire Chief. Lynn McGarva and Heidi Ryan will contact our cleaner (Rachael Wind) to see her

availability for disinfecting facilities after rentals and determining the amount of the cleaning fee.

Additionally, the Board would like to allow the Conservation Corp Crew (as requested by Rusty Fites-Kaufman during Public Comment) to use Station 1 should they encounter inclement weather during their work project. Rusty will coordinate with Chief Flores.

D. CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Section 54967 of the Brown Act: Public Employee Performance Evaluations: District Manager of Finance and Facilities.

E. Report on Closed Session

The Board received an evaluation on the District Manager of Finance and Facilities and were very pleased. No action was taken.

9. NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Heidi Ryan

Heidi Ryan, Board Secretary