

# NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

13200 Tyler Foote Crossing Rd., Nevada City, California 95959

P.O. Box 299, North San Juan, CA 95960

Phone (530) 292-9159 Fax (530) 292-1417

[www.nsifire.org](http://www.nsifire.org)

[info911@nsifire.org](mailto:info911@nsifire.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

**Final Adopted April 26, 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 March 22, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pat Leach noted that plants that were removed from the landscape are available for pickup tonight. Tim Tschantz suggested we offer members of the public to donate bulbs for the landscape.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**A. Minutes of February 22, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

Pat Leach moved to approve the Consent Calendar, Bruce Boyd seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Rhea Williamson shared that she has been staying low-key recently as she lost her mother to Covid two weeks ago. All Board members offered their condolences.

Tim Tshantz announced that he is working on a series of plaques honoring all the fire chiefs of North San Fire since it's inception that will be displayed on the South side of the building.

**6. REPORTS**

**A. Chief's Report – Chief Jason Flores**

**i. February 2022 Statistics**

*Deputy Chief Tom Browning presented the Chief's Report as Chief Flores was unable to attend the meeting.*

- 5 firefighters recently completed a Driver Operator 1A class (about the vehicle), 4 of those firefighters went on to complete a Driver Operator 1B class (calculating hydraulics).
- New SCBA's are in. Once all firefighters are fit tested and finish training on the new systems they will be put in service.
- Wildland refresher class coming soon.
- Promotions: Forrest Simpson to Engineer assigned to Engine 6162, Casey Fites-Kaufman to Engineer assigned to Water Tender 6191, and Jerrod Hayden to EMS Coordinator at the Engineer level.
- Chief Browning shared that he recently completed a presentation on the entrapment he was involved in. Bruce Boyd suggested Tom give the Board the same presentation.

Rhea Williamson suggested the fire department hold an open house to present the new engine (6168) and show the community how it works. Tom Browning replied that he will bring it up with the other Chiefs.

Tim Tschantz asked if Chief Browning to share information on a proposed control burn class. Tom informed the group that he has contacted the control burn coordinator regarding hosting a control burn class out of station 3. Tom is considering two sites where to hold the live fire portion of the class, both sites border station 3. The classroom portion will likely be held this Spring, but the live fire portion of the class likely won't happen until this fall. Rhea Williamson suggested Tom contact the San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association to coordinate this effort.

Rhea Williamson relayed that she has been contacted by residents who are concerned about spontaneous combustion involving large chip piles. Chief Browning replied that, in his experience as a fire investigator, spontaneous combustion in wood chip piles is not as common as people think, but he would check with experts on the matter to see what the current consensus is.

#### **B. Treasurer's Report – Pat leach**

There are no written reports this month as our Finance Manager is on medical leave. The April Board Meeting will include the Financial Reports for both February and March 2022.

#### **C. Firefighters Association Report – Chris Rainville**

Chris Rainville was unable to attend the meeting and asked Board Secretary Heidi Ryan to relay that the Association is primarily focused on fundraising. Captain Nathaniel Van Order added that the Drive-thru fundraiser will be on April 9<sup>th</sup> and will be yaki-soba with help from local chef Allison Green. The Association is putting on a Firefighter Social on April 30<sup>th</sup> to appreciate the work of the firefighters.

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

The Fire Safe Council is taking requests for Defensible Space mitigation work for low-income seniors, access and functional needs individuals, or disabled vets. The sign-up is online at [www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com).

The Wampum and Robinson/Byron/Brem neighborhoods need assistance finalizing their Action Plan for their FireWise Community certification. Pat Leach can assist.

Bruce Boyd added that Nevada County is considering a Measure for a sales tax increase of 0.5% that will be used for fire mitigation.

**E. NCFA Report – Pat Leach.**

The next meeting is in May.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Water Storage Committee Update- Bruce Boyd**

Nothing to report.

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

Samantha Hinrichs suggested we focus on prescribed fire education.

Heidi Ryan added that the Department loans out root jacks (to pull scotch broom) to the community and suggested we have other equipment available for loan like Mcleods and other tools that are helpful in cutting fire line.

Tim Tschantz brought back Rhea’s suggestion of an Open House and developing it to include an education unit on prescribed fire. This could be an annual event. Tim asked Rhea and Samantha to coordinate ideas.

**D. Resolution 2022-02 Measure Q COLA Adjustment – Pat Leach**

Resolution 2022-22 is to apply a COLA of 3% to Measure Q. Measure Q was passed in 2014 and this will be the first time a COLA was applied. Bruce Boyd asked for the members of the public present to provide feedback.

Liz Walsh responded that the increase is relatively small, but she would not like to see it increase like this annually.

Boyd Johnson added that all the Board members that traditionally opposed any increases are all retired now. Boyd wondered if residents in Paradise would have agreed to pay more for fire service before the Camp Fire if given the chance.

Samantha Hinrichs moved to adopt Resolution 2022-02, Rhea Williamson seconded, motion passed by roll call vote as follows:

Bruce Boyd - Aye

Pat Leach – Aye

Rhea Williamson – Aye

Samantha Hinrichs – Aye

Tim Tschantz – Aye

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

**E. Newsletter Update and Editor Discussion – Rhea Williamson**

Rhea Williamson relayed that two firefighters, Sambhava Burke and Melanya Gonshorowski, have taken the lead on the Newsletter and they are on track. Heidi Ryan

added that once we get this newsletter out (first newsletter since Spring 2019), it will help set the standard and process for future newsletters. Rhea said the newsletter committee is also interested in creating an email distribution list to share the newsletter electronically.

**G. Award Bid for Generator Replacement – Tom Browning**

Tom Browning relayed a brief history for why we need to replace the generator and the process staff went through to obtain the bids. Tom briefly summarized each bid. Tom recommended that the Board award the bid to Empire Energy.

Rhea Williamson moved to award the generator bid to Empire Energy, Pat Leach seconded, motion passed by roll call vote as follows:

Bruce Boyd - Aye  
Pat Leach – Aye  
Rhea Williamson – Aye  
Samantha Hinrichs – Aye  
Tim Tschantz – Aye

Ayes: 5            Noes: 0            Abstain: 0            Absent: 0

**H. Hydrant Committee Update – Tom Browning**

Keith from Sauer Engineering contacted Tom Browning inquiring on what the administrative fees would be to manage the system, which will have to be approved. Additionally, the proposed site for the tank still needs to be surveyed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – Pat Leach**

Nevada County OES will be updating the County’s CWPP plan in anticipation of upcoming grants and funding. Having projects in the CWPP allows organizations to obtain funding to complete their projects. This presents a great opportunity for NSJ Fire to update our plan (currently identified as our Community Fire Plan), as it is included in the County’s CWPP. Pat is asking for input and assistance in updating our plan.

**9. NEXT MEETING:** April 26, 2022, time, and location to be determined.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*Heidi Ryan*  
Heidi Ryan, Board Secretary