NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Final Adopted 1/28/2025

PRESENT: Bruce Boyd, Chair; Samantha Hinrichs, Vice-Chair; Rhea Williamson, Treasurer; Tim Tschantz, Pat Leach
STAFF: Tom Browning, Deputy Fire Chief; Lynn McGarva; Heidi Ryan; Amy Rodriguez

ABSENT: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM. Roll taken. Quorum established. Pledge of Allegiance.
   Pat Leach arrived at 6:02 ; full Board present.

2. **APPROVAL OF November 26, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**
   Samantha Hinrichs moved to approve the November 26, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda, Rhea Williamson seconded, motion carried 5-0-0-0.

3. **CHRIS DORN COMMEMORATION**
   Moment of Remembrance for Chris Dorn

- **Bruce Boyd** took a moment to honor the memory of Chris Dorn, a firefighter who recently passed away. He shared a personal recollection of meeting Chris at Pike and highlighted his deep involvement and dedication to the fire service and community.
- **Tom Browning, Deputy Chief**, expressed the profound impact Chris had on the organization, noting that Chris set an exceptionally high standard for the crew. He emphasized how Chris always ensured the team did what was right and how he was known for his positive attitude, always wearing a smile.
- **Rhea Williamson and Sasha St.John** also shared their reflections, noting how friendly and approachable Chris was. They mentioned how Chris was a constant source of encouragement, always cheering for and applauding his colleagues.
- **Lynn McGarva** shared a story about a time when Chris went on a strike team, where he was highly recognized for his performance and efforts. Lynn noted that Chris's exemplary conduct not only brought recognition to himself but also highlighted the strength and professionalism of the entire department.
- **Jason Flores, Fire Chief** provided details regarding the memorial for Chris Dorn.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   None

5. **MINUTES:**
   A. **Draft Minutes of October 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**

Samantha Hinrichs moved to approve the draft minutes from October 22 Tim Tschantz seconded, motion carried 5-0-0-0

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bruce Boyd shared the sad news of the passing of Ed Beckenbach, a former volunteer firefighter and long-time board member. Ed passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. Bruce mentioned that a memorial for Ed will take place in February.

Bruce also informed the board that **Pat Leach** was attending her last board meeting after 20 years of service. Bruce expressed his appreciation for working with Pat over the years and praised her commitment and contributions.

Pat shared her gratitude, saying she was honored to have served on the fire board. She took the opportunity to compliment the volunteers for their dedication, as well as the fire auxiliary and office staff for their support.

Bruce then introduced **Pamela**, who was present in the room, as the new board member who will join after Pat's term expires.

Samantha complimented Pat's hard work across multiple organizations, particularly noting her efforts with the Firewise Communities program.

Lynn highlighted how crucial Pat's intervention was when she stepped in to assist with the department's financial matters, acknowledging her significant impact on the department's stability and success.

At **6:25 PM**, the meeting was temporarily adjourned for 5 minutes to allow board members to personally thank Pat, give hugs, and take a picture.

The meeting reconvened at **6:29 PM**.

1. **REPORTS**
   A. **Board Chair Report – Bruce Boyd**

Bruce Boyd

i. **Correspondence**

No correspondence

B. **Chief's Report –Jason Flores**

i. **October 2024, Statistics**

Jason provided a summary of the statistics.
highlighting that it looks like another record-breaking year with more incidents than ever before.

- During the report, **Rhea** expressed concern about personnel, noting that many of the calls showed only one firefighter responding. She emphasized that ideally, there should not be single responders.
- **Jason** responded that other agencies, such as Cal Fire, also respond to calls, and he will encourage our firefighters to ensure they complete the section of the incident report that indicates when additional responders were at the scene.

ii. Current Department Activity

Jason Flores

- Jason reminded the board that it is now open burning season, and members of the community no longer need a burn permit. However, they must still verify that it is a permissible burn day.
- Jason shared that **Rich Mead** will be retiring this month after 27 years of service in our department.
- He also informed the board that **Camptonville** and **Pike** are currently facing low staffing levels and may require assistance from our department. It is important to consider potential requests for support.

- Jason mentioned **Chris Dorn's service**, and shared that the firefighters participated in a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) session following Chris's sudden death.
- **Tom Browning** reported on a recent Nevada County Board of Supervisors meeting, where the districts and standards of coverage were discussed. He emphasized the importance of being clear as an organization about our response levels, conducting evaluations, and determining if the organization can meet these standards.
- Tom also discussed ongoing talks regarding consolidation, LAFCO, and the tax revenue disparities between areas. There is a plan to stabilize funding for the Rough and Ready station.
- Additionally, Tom mentioned that our **sphere of influence** has extended and explained when and how this could impact our district.
- **Bruce** pointed out that the area added to our district includes old gold mines.
- **Rhea** and **Lynn** asked if the expansion might impact the community plan, and Tom reassured them that no changes to the plan are necessary and that it will not negatively affect the district.
- **Jason** mentioned that he attended the Firefighter's Thanksgiving event, where the funds raised go to the Firefighter Foundation. During the event, Chris Dorn's service and passing were recognized.
- Jason also shared that he has been working on revising our SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines) and firefighter guidelines with assistance from a former firefighter in our district.
- **Tom Browning** reported that the South Yuba River Fire Break Committee has selected the priority area for the fuel break, which will be in the southern part of our district. He noted that the last three major fires in the district originated from this river canyon.
- **Bruce** mentioned that Cal Fire is contracted to clear the fuel break around access roads, and the project is set to begin on **December 17**.

C. Treasurer's Report – Rhea Williamson

i. Financials- July, October 2024: Funds Summary, Disbursement Detail, Deposit Detail, Cal Card

Rhea Williamson presented the Financials for October 2024.

Rhea Williamson moved to approve the October 2024 Financials and Cal Card as presented, Samantha Hinrichs seconded, motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D. Firefighters Association Report – Tom Browning

- No Report

E. Fire Safe Council /FireWise Coalition/Ridge FireWise Communities Report – Pat Leach
No Report

F. NCFA Report – Pat Leach.
Pat reported that 9 Firewise Communities in Nevada County missed the deadline for renewal. However, she assured the board that she is still working with most of these communities

G. Auxiliary Report – Sasha St. John

- Sasha informed the board that the venue where the appreciation dinner is usually held, Shady Creek Event Center, will no longer rent their space for private events. However, they will make an exception and continue hosting the appreciation dinner for firefighters.
- She also shared that the Auxiliary is now teaming up with the Community Center to prepare dinner for the firefighters every Wednesday during their training. Previously, the Auxiliary only provided snacks, but now they are preparing full meals. The community is excited to support the firefighters, and when people purchase food at the Community Center, they are donating to cover the cost of those meals. Sasha mentioned that the local community feels proud to share with the firefighters.
- The Auxiliary is also connecting with more organizations, exchanging resources, and collaborating to better support the fire department.
- Heidi inquired about the results from the last fundraiser with Briar Patch. Sasha responded that she hasn't heard back yet, but she estimates the total raised was just over $2,000.
- Bruce expressed his appreciation for the Auxiliary's efforts, noting that their support has been invaluable in other ways, such as helping fund the purchase of swift water gear. He commended the impressive labor and dedication shown by the Auxiliary.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Award Bid for Turnout Quotes – Angela Flores

- Angela presented three quotes for turnout gear and discussed the benefits, quality, and differences noted by the firefighters who tested the equipment.
- The board members engaged in a discussion about which option would best cover the department's needs. They emphasized that all options met safety standards and deliberated on their legal responsibility to act in the best interest of the district, considering both safety and financial implications.
- After thorough discussion, the board decided to go with the lowest bid.

Rhea moved to award the bid to Sea Western Firefighter Equipment in the amount of $90,292.69.
Sam Hinrichs seconded it, motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Samantha Hinrichs: Aye

Rhea Williamson: Aye
Pat Leach: Aye
Tim Tschantz: Aye
Bruce Boyd: Aye

Aye: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

B. Grant Award: Forest Reserve Fund Grant – -Bruce Boyd

- Bruce shared that the grant of $18,000 has been deposited. The plan is to install two 5,000-gallon water tanks on Purdon Road, similar to the project completed on Cruzon Road.
- Tom discussed the benefits of having two 5,000-gallon tanks instead of one 10,000-gallon tank. He explained that the two smaller tanks would be more cost-effective and would require less complex engineering, providing a more efficient solution.

C. Hydrant Committee Update – Tom Browning

- Tom gave an update on the Hydrant Committee's progress. He shared that they have gone out to bid for a company that will monitor wells in the area to ensure that when the tanks are filled, they do not deplete the water table. The county is also looking for additional sites for this project.
- The committee is currently seeking a grant for a new income survey, as the last one showed the income in half of the town was too high for us to qualify. The survey needs to be redone.
- The Hydrant Committee is continuing to meet every two weeks and expects the project to take place within the next two years.

3. NEW BUSINESS
No New Business

4. NEXT MEETING: January 28, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Bruce reminded the board that the next meeting will be the organizational meeting and noted that there will be a new board member joining. He expressed his gratitude for having served as chair for the last two years and wished everyone happy holidays.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Amy Rodriguez
Amy Rodriguez, Board Secretary