



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

## 1. Opening Greeting

- a. Call to Order: Scott Newman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- b. Roll Call: Directors Scott Newman, Rob Stewart, Pat Abercrombie, Fred Peterson, and Larry Heiges were present. Fire Chief Marshall Turbeville, Treasurer Michael Pigoni, and Administrative Manager Anneke Turbeville were present.
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Approval or Amendment of the Agenda: Anneke Turbeville asked to remove Item D from New Business from the Agenda. Item C from Old Business will be moved up in the agenda after Public Discussion to accommodate Ben Fay. **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Stewart) to approve the agenda with those changes. All ayes.**

## 2. Public Discussion

There was no public discussion.

## 3. Old Business

- a. Risk Management
  - Ben Fay attended the meeting remotely. Fay explained that his job is to respond to us- the Board directs the Chief, and the Board may direct Fay, or give Chief a voice as the Board's executive. He stated that the ultimate responsibility of risk management belongs to the Board.
  - Fay looked into general Board liability and determined that there is very little chance of personal liability. He explained that Board members have immunity for discretionary decisions, misrepresentation, and injuries caused by the District.
  - Fay intends to look further into the Board's liability of injuries caused during a prescribed fire.
  - He is working on various contracts between the District, landowners, contractors, and other agencies.
  - Fay will be researching our current liability coverage to determine if it's adequate for our activities.
  - He has reviewed the funding contract with the County of Sonoma and said it looks fine.
  - Fred Peterson emphasized that his primary concern is the prioritization and selection of vegetation management projects.

- The Board is satisfied with Fay's response regarding the issue of Board member liability and considers that matter handled.
- The Board is satisfied that Fay is handling the creation of vegetation management contracts but wants regular updates on the issue of adequacy of insurance.
- Scott Newman wants to be involved in the prescribed burning discussions with Fay. Newman and Chief Turbeville will address this issue with Fay.
- Newman also wondered how involved he should be with personnel issues needing legal counsel. Anneke Turbeville explained that Liebert Cassidy Whitmore is consulted on sensitive personnel issues.

b. Draft Strategic Plan

- **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Heiges) to adopt the 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan and the Management and Implementation Guide in its current format. All ayes.**

c. Measure H Funding Agreement Between County and Fire Agencies

- Fred Peterson wondered why the Measure H Funding Agreement Between County and Fire Agencies names Sonoma Valley instead of Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District. Chief Turbeville explained that he is only presenting Sonoma Valley's agreement as a template for the agreements being reviewed right now, not the final agreement.

d. Northern Sonoma County Fire JPA

- Rob Stewart reported that the JPA has had regular, productive committee meetings. Fred Peterson added that they have made good progress and want to functionally consolidate within five years. The staff report was prepared by Jason Jenkins and presented to his Board. **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Heiges) to approve the JPA Shared Vision Statement. All ayes.** The two Boards intend to hold a joint meeting before March. The committee will have clear direction and deliverables by then.

e. Multi-Purpose Room

- Rob Stewart reported that he met with Larry Heiges and they are working on rules for the multi-purpose room.

f. Policies

- **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Stewart) to adopt the following policies: Chipper Operations Use & Safety, Reporting for Duty, Emergency Recall, Medical Clearance, Purchasing and Procurement Policy, and Financial Reserve Policy. All ayes.**

#### 4. New Business

a. Administration of Oaths of Office for Abercrombie and Peterson

- Director Stewart administered the oaths of office for Abercrombie and Peterson.

b. Amendment to the Agreement with Bell's Ambulance

- Chief Turbeville explained that so far, the payment to Bell's Ambulance has been annexation funded. Going forward, the additional expenses will be taken from Measure H funding. Michael Pigoni pointed out that we just approved a policy to set aside 30% of the budget for reserves, adding that we have a lot of expenses coming up. The Board has concerns about the commitment of this amount of money but supports moving forward with the amendment. **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Heiges) to amend the agreement with Bells Ambulance to increase the contracted amount to \$17,000 per month effective January 1, 2025 and terminate the agreement on March 31, 2025. All ayes.**
- **A motion was made and seconded (Abercrombie/Peterson) to 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 at \$33,00 per month. All ayes.**

c. Full-Time Firefighter Positions

- **A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Heiges) to authorize the creation and fund allocation of seven full-time firefighter rank positions and authorize a one-time funding of \$100,000 to Cloverdale Fire Protection District for administrative functions related to hiring employees. All ayes.**

d. Geysers CalVTP

- **A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Stewart) to adopt 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. All ayes.**

f. Policies

- The following policy was introduced for possible adoption at the January meeting: Chainsaw Operations Use & Safety.

5. Minutes

**A motion was made and seconded (Abercrombie/Peterson) to approve the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. All ayes.**

6. Financial Report

Larry Heiges summarized the financial report.

7. Consent Calendar

**A motion was made and seconded (Stewart/Peterson) to approve the checks issued. All ayes.**

8. Chief's Report

Chief Turbeville reported that it was a slow month, with one big rain event. There were no questions for the Chief.

9. Correspondence

There was a flattering email praising the Fuels Crew.

**10. Good of the Order**

The Board wished Larry Heiges a lovely time on his vacation. Wreaths Across America takes place on Saturday, rain or shine. Tomorrow night the District is hosting a COPE reception. Rob Stewart's coronary arteries are looking good, but he is seeing a cardiologist tomorrow.

**11. Adjournment of the Meeting**

**A motion was made and seconded (Peterson/Stewart) to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. All ayes.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Abercrombie/Peterson

Motion Made/Seconded



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Anneke Turbeville - Clerk of the Board