



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

LOCATION: CAL FIRE Headquarters
Highway 9 in Felton, CA 95018
DATE: May 21, 2014
TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

APPROVED Minutes for May 21, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

First District Representative/FDAC Chair:	Alex Leman
Second District Representative:	John Willett
Third District Representative:	Tom Scully
Fifth District Representative:	Arnie Wernick
Volunteer Firefighters Representative/Co-Chair:	Doug Aumack

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Fourth District Representative:	Position Vacant
Office of Emergency Services Manager:	Paul Horvat

- 1.0 Introductions/Call to Order
Meeting began at 4:10 pm
- 2.0 Approval of draft minutes from March 19, 2014.
 - **Motion:** Doug Aumack to approve draft minutes.
 - Motion Seconded:** Arnie Wernick
 - In Favor:** Alex Leman, Arnie Wernick, Doug Aumack
 - Opposed:** None
 - Abstained:** John Willett, Tom Scully
 - Absent:** Paul Horvat
- 3.0 Oral Communications (items not on agenda, 3 minutes per person)
None
- 4.0 Correspondence
None
- 5.0 Business
 - 5.1 New Business
 - 5.2 Old Business
 - A. Discussion of meeting with BOS regarding County Fire funding options
 - 1) Successful meeting occurred in April where options were discussed with Supervisors and FDAC members.
 - 2) John Leopold will come up with a date when funding options will be presented at a BOS meeting.
 - B. BOS Item 21, 5/13/14: Engine Purchase Approval letter was approved.
 - 1) Chief Larkin will meeting with HI TECH Friday, May 23rd to develop work order details.

- 2) Possibility of discounts based on future purchases.
- C. BOS Item 26, 5/6/14: Public Hearing Date for Annual CSA Fee Increase was set for June 10, 2014.

6.0 Informational Reports

6.1 Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Report

A. Updates

- 1) Fire Season Outlook
 - a) Potential for a very significant fire season comparable to 2008-09 based on similar conditions and weather.
 - b) Staffing was augmented by 12 additional firefighters based on fire loss and fire history in the unit. Burrell, Fall Creek, Jamison Creek, Pescadero, Belmont and ECC all received augmentation.
 - c) The unit is 6 weeks ahead of normal staffing resulting in FFI savings for all contracts. Normal staffing would have been June 1 and instead was May 6. Normally peak staffing is July 1 and this year was May 19th
 - d) Very concerned with drought and will put two tanks in service that were received from the City of Santa Cruz in past years. One will be placed at Ben Lomond Camp. The other is to be determined.
 - e) 7 million gallons of reserve water is now dammed at Ben Lomond Camp. Currently full and still filling from fresh water spring.
- 2) Purchases:
 - a) Engine and PPE will be purchased prior to the end of the year.
- 3) Incidents:
 - a) Fire last week at the summit in Santa Clara County which spotted into Santa Cruz County and was contained at 2 acres.
- 4) Training /Academies: 7 new Santa Cruz County Fire Department volunteers graduated from the BFFA on April 30th. Current County Fire roster is showing 68 active members. Our goal is to increase to 100 volunteers.
- 5) Volunteer Handbook: No update.

6.2 FDAC Reports

A. Updates:

- 1) Master Plan Subcommittee
(Members: Arnie Wernick, Tom Scully)
 - a) Until Netcom upgrades their CAD system, our system cannot interface. Netcom is submitting a grant for this upgrade and is on their to-do list.
 - b) No funding to implement simulcast capability.
 - c) Narrow banding is underway but complicates mapping process.
 - d) No funding to support adding MDCs to vehicles. Technology is advancing rapidly and MDCs are being replaced with tablets.
 - e) No funding to implement GPS additions to each vehicle.
 - f) No funding to increase engine staffing.
 - g) County Fire branding is underway through recruitment and educational events.
 - h) Auto-aid agreement with the City of Santa Cruz is being expanded.
 - i) VIP program is not currently supported.
 - j) There are not enough plan checks currently to warrant outsourcing.
 - k) Recruitment is ongoing.
- 2) Recruitment Subcommittee
(Members: Alex Leman, Doug Aumack)
 - a) Signage and recruitment tools were made available to all companies. Some, but not all are using them.

- b) The SAFER Grant is coming to a close next year and it is time to explore applying for a new SAFER Grant with expanded coverage.
- 3) Budget Subcommittee
 - (Members: Arnie Wernick, John Willett, Paul Horvat)
 - a) CAL FIRE final benefit rates have not been released and are anticipated for release after July 1. Supplemental budget reflected an increase in Professional Services of \$203,585 due to the mandatory minimum wage increase and Governor's 2% raise for state workers.
- 4) Volunteer Company Officers' Representative
 - (Doug Aumack)
 - a) Attended S-230 & S-231 and shared camaraderie with Co. 32 and Co 21.
 - b) Retention of younger volunteers is impacted greatly by their somewhat transient lifestyle.
 - c) Recommended using Target Solutions for a shared calendar.

7.0 Announcements

- 7.1 Doug Aumack – Pancake breakfast on May 25th.
- 7.2 Alex Leman – BBQ on Sunday, June 1, 11-4 pm.

8.0 Adjournment at 5:14 pm.

- **Motion:** Alex Leman to adjourn

Next regular meeting – July 16, 2014 at 4:00 pm, located at the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center, 495 Upper Park Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95065

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