



FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

Regular Meeting Minutes

Of The Board of Directors

September 11, 2023

Location: *Felton Fire Station Meeting Room, 131 Kirby St, Felton California*

ZoomOption:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85705788168?pwd=Q3A4YkppbEkvZGNHOU51dnBtK0lKdz09>

1.0 Convene Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Anderson at 6:01 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call: Directors C. Foreman (remote), R. Gelini, J. Anderson, N. Crandell, D. Ladd

Staff: Chief Gray, L. Dennis

Absent: none

Guests: Capt. Patrick Rosso (squad Pres.), Capt. Samantha Moeller, Joe Serrano (LAFCO, remote), Nathan Fenker, Renee Fenker. At 6:50 p.m. Mark Rose and Don Jarvis joined the meeting, both remotely.

1.4 Approve meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 08, 2023. Regular meeting minutes approved as written on motion by Director Crandell and second by Director Gelini and passed.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Gelini, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

1.5 Considerations of Additions to the Agenda: None

2.0 Public Comment: None.

3.0 Public Hearing: None

4.0 Directors Reports: Director Anderson reported the consolidation/ absorption of Branciforte and Scotts Valley Fire Districts is set to finalize and file the paperwork to join the two districts, pending one more meeting. He explained some of the process details speaking as a member of the ad-hoc committee. There is a potential lawsuit against LAFCO, which if successful could stay the merger. Discussion followed regarding the impacts if the lawsuit were successful, likely Scotts Valley would pull out.

5.0 Staff Report: Chief Gray gave a staff report:

- He promoted three Captains – Patrick Rosso, Jason Bravin and Luke Moeller. They have all played important rolls and are pivotal people. Saturday they all met informally to discuss future challenges.
- Chief Ayers is helping with duty coverage in the absence of Scott Sipes, and with training.
- The water tender is back from Peterson after having some recall work done. At this time all vehicles are in service.
- Last Tuesday we had a rescue in Forest Lakes for a tree crew patient with a broken leg. Cal Fire assisted. It turned out well, and could have been much worse.
- The radio next-gen project is moving forward with the County. Some departments still have issues.
- We have request from Roaring Camp for Thomas the Train and Brew Fest standby services. They have been given the fee schedule; this could be a potential income of about \$8,000.
- Santa’s Shelves will be the weekend before Thanksgiving in November. Efforts are in process, it’s up on the website and applications are coming in.
- Chief Gray asked for board input regarding the holiday dinner. Discussed the hall at Roaring Camp for the facility. Director Anderson asked if we could explore other caterers for the food and just use the facility there. Scopazzi’s was suggested as someone to contact.
- The Fire Safe Council is moving forward and is now interviewing for a Coordinator position for their organization.

6.0 Unfinished Business:

6.1 Contract for payroll / claims service through the County auditor controller -Review and approve.

Chief Gray explained the current version of the contract presented. It still represents the best deal and least expensive option. Director Anderson asked that we request our auditor to look more closely at payroll when he’s here.

Director Crandell made a motion to approve and sign the contract, and Director Gelini seconded.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Crandell, Gelini, and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion carried.

6.2 Staffing challenges – Discuss solutions for staffing and possible shared services with other districts- Explore possible shared services with Ben Lomond Fire.

Chief Gray reported that he met with Chief Mike Ayers and he proposed some shared services with Ben Lomond for training and duty coverage currently. Director

Crandell asked the Chief how he felt this would work and discussion followed. Discussion regarding issues related to PERS and hours. Laurie explained how one district invoicing/ billing another district for services could work, and the districts would then pay their own employees through their payroll. Director Crandell agreed that would be wise in the meantime. Chief recommended the ad-hoc group reach out to the Ben Lomond board.

Director Anderson stated that he was also contacted by Chief Ayers to offer training shared services and also possible interim Chief services.

Director Crandell asked Capt. Moeller how she felt training with Ben Lomond has been. She replied very good, Chief Ayers is great to work with and the departments have trained well together and enjoyed it. Capt. Rosso agreed.

Director Crandell suggested a more formalized agreement should be discussed and suggested the boards meet to discuss that. He also asked the Chief to outline what he'd like to see out of this relationship. Chief to provide a list in one week. Director Anderson stated he will take it to the Ben Lomond board.

Director Foreman agreed that it needs to be more of a formalized document, to clarify what both parties expect.

7.0 New Business:

7.1 Presentation: Ember flash wild fire alert system.

Chief Gray explained this is a start-up company that Zack Ackemann is part of. It is for A.I. fire detection and they are requesting to place a camera on the station tower. It would require using our internet. They would sign hold-harmless documentation and there is no cost to us. If the board is interested, they would come next month and do the presentation. Board members were agreeable.

7.2 Fire Chief Recruitment process

Chief Gray stated he included documents in the board package that were used last time for reference. Director Foreman suggested looking at the Chief job description more first. Director Anderson stated that both Ayers and Walters have offered interim Chief services for the short term. Both are PERS retirees. Director Anderson said they've had discussions and he leans more toward Walters as he could dedicate full time, as opposed to Ayers. Director Foreman pointed out this is two things to discuss/ decide, interim and long term. Director Anderson said the Chief needs to do a punch-list for help in the meantime for whomever that is. He said we need to move quickly due the short timeframe we've been given.

Director Crandell asked the Fenkers, Moeller and Dennis if anyone had experiences or issues in working with either man mentioned to which they all replied no. It was noted that neither lives within the District.

Director Foreman pointed out we need parameters of what we need now and write it out. She also expressed concern regarding the number of hours retirees can work,

more discussion followed on this. Capt. Moeller asked about the issue with the hiring process and the length of time it will take. Director Ladd commented he's had people asking him that are interested, there will be candidates and doesn't feel it will be hard to fill. He said he also desires to bring on an interim as soon as possible. More discussion regarding PERS. Director Anderson said this is not the time to look at buying out of PERS, he's talked with Tracy New and she's very savvy on this. It was noted that discussion was getting off topic from the agenda. Board members agreed we need to have a special meeting. Discussion regarding dates and times. Decided on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

8.0 Approve paid vendor claims for the month of August 2023: Board members reviewed the vendor claims in the amount of \$115,460.55 for the month of August. Claims were approved as presented on motion by Director Gelini and seconded by Director Crandell.

Ayes: Directors Foreman, Gelini, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Motion carried.


9.0 Closed Session: none

10.0 Set date for the next meeting: The next meeting will be a Special Meeting on **Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 04, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be in person at the Felton Fire Station.

11.0 Adjourn: Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.



Jim Anderson, Chairperson



Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary