



FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

Regular Meeting Minutes

Of The Board of Directors

November 06, 2023

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

ZoomOption:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72847076981?pwd=vZ4pFcvpA6aNJ8lPBuGTaw5TQQ5ArV.1>

MeetingID:728 4707 6981. Passcode: 8xRUP6

Convene Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Anderson at 6:02 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call: Directors J. Anderson, N. Crandell, D. Ladd

Staff: Chief Walters, L. Dennis

Absent: C. Foreman, R. Gelini

Guests: Captain S. Moeller, Steve Lindsey (Ember Flash), Captain A. Dawson(remote), Joseph Norris (remote/ Ember Flash), Lee Kohlman (remote/ Ember Flash)

1.4 Approve meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 04, 2023.

Regular meeting minutes approved as written on motion by Director Crandell and second by Director Ladd and passed.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Foreman, Gelini

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 requested to move the Ember flash presentation to this time in the agenda. Other board members were agreeable and no board members had anything to report.

Steve Lindsey of Ember Flash began by explaining the application and technology. He stated they were offering to place 3 to 4 cameras on the station which would look for smoke columns. They are looking to place cameras throughout the valley to enable them to triangulate smoke sources, and to aid in identification as they adjust their technology and

capabilities. Lee Kohlman then spoke and added more explanations of functionality and how connectivity would work. Some questions from the board members were answered regarding their needs for a power source and internet connectivity. This will be an initial detection and testing phase. Following researching requirements and needs, communication and follow-up would be on a quarterly basis with the Chief, unless he reaches out to them. Chief will be able to access views from the cameras. He will be their point of contact moving forward. Board members were agreeable to the concept and moving forward.

5.0 Staff Report:

Chief Walters provided a written report in the board package. He added a few additional points-

Staffing has been horrible, low number of volunteers showing up. He provided a calendar showing the lack of staffing and further information showing recent response levels. He explained we would be reliant on CalFire if we had a fire in our district. Chief Walters described new module in First Due with which he plans to improve scheduling process and payroll. Additional discussion with board members regarding potential staff solutions. Walters explained efforts at community meetings he's attended and sharing our need for applicants with them. At drill tomorrow he will be proposing the use of "What's App" for communication amongst staff. Additional discussion followed. Director Crandell stated he's agreeable with the various approaches, and the Chief needs the latitude to try a variety of things.

Chief Walters added there are three tiers- volunteers which are the cheapest, sleepers which are the cheapest paid, and then full-time paid staff being the more expensive. He will report changes and progress in his update next month.

Director Crandell asked about the vehicle repair needs reported. Chief Walters stated 2310 need \$15,000 - \$20,000 to repair various issues and will take months. 2300 needs repairs to the front and rear bumpers and door which will cost about \$6,000 and take 2-3 weeks of down time.

Chief Walters mentioned potential consideration to swap office spaces with downstairs, and make upstairs sleeping quarters. This may offer better comfort and quiet for staff. He's looking at other building improvements and changes to budget for.

Discussed SAFER grant failure and plans for resubmission in the future.

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Fire Chief Recruitment

Director Anderson stated this will be continued at next meeting.

6.2 IRS Payment Update

Laurie stated we have received no further communication or notices.

7.0 New Business:

7.1 Presentation: Ember flash wild fire alert system.

This presentation was done earlier in the meeting.

7.2 Purchase of Ambulance from the Boulder Creek Fire District – discussion and approval.

Chief Walters provided a summary report describing impacts and consideration, and photographs of the ambulance in the board package. Boulder Creek Fire District has offered it to us for \$5,000. It has 37,000 miles on it. It would cut our fuel costs and would provide potential in the future for transport service income. Any staff member would be able drive it and it would hold all of our equipment. Discussion followed regarding transports and the status of ambulances. Captain Moeller was asked to comment. She stated AMR is at staff, but the demand has increased. The number of responses and transports and the backup at hospital ERs have increased the need.

Chief Walters proposed using \$5,000 of the budgeted funds for the pickup towards the purchase of the ambulance, and the costs to outfit it with any lacking equipment. He stated the ambulance won't be received until January, as Boulder Creek is waiting on their new vehicle. He doesn't expect it would go into service until February.

Director Crandell made a motion to approve the purchase of the ambulance and equipment, not to exceed the amount designated for the pickup. Director Ladd seconded.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Foreman, Gelini

Motion carried.

8.0 Approve paid vendor claims for the month of October 2023: Board members reviewed the vendor claims in the amount of \$51,371.68 for the month of October. Claims were approved as presented on motion by Director Crandell and seconded by Director Ladd.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Ladd

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Foreman, Gelini

Motion carried.

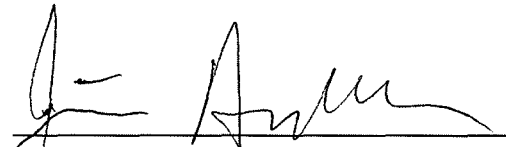
The regular meeting was adjourned by Director Anderson at 7:40 and the board went into closed session.

9.0 Closed Session: Fire Chief Contract & Benefits, Part-time & Shift Employee Wages

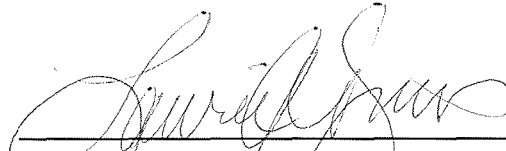
The closed session ended and Director Anderson reopened the regular meeting at 8:19 p.m. Reportable Actions: The board voted unanimously to approve Interim Chief Walters pay to be \$62.50 per hour (\$5,000 per pay-period, comparable to the former Chief pay). The board also approved an increase to the daytime Station Maintenance worker pay for all staff to \$25.00 per hour, and the Station Supervisor to \$30.00 per hour. These pay changes to retroactive and take effect the beginning of the current pay period, which was October 28, 2023.

10.0 Set date for the next meeting: The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.** The meeting will be in person at the Felton Fire Station.

11.0 Adjourn: Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.



Jim Anderson, Chairperson



Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary