



## **FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

### Regular Meeting Minutes

### Of The Board of Directors

August 05, 2024

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

#### **1.0 Convene Meeting:**

**1.1 Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.3 Roll Call:** Directors Jim Anderson, Norm Crandell, Mike Shults

**1.4 Staff:** Chief Blum, L. Dennis

Absent: none

District legal representative C Bronson. Some squad members and many members of the public were in attendance

**1.5 Approve meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 01, 2024.** Regular meeting minutes approved as written on motion by Director Crandell and second by Director Shults and passed.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Shults

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

**1.6 Considerations of Additions to the Agenda:** None.

**2.0 Public Comment:** Dan Arndt read rapidly from a document making claims and demands of board members. He asked for a vote of no confidence and removal, to which Ms. Bronson responded that the board currently can take no actions toward each other due to conflict of interest and lack of quorum according to Brown Act requirements.

**3.0 Public Hearing:** None

**4.0 Directors Reports:** None

**5.0 Staff Report:** Chief Blum provided his report and monthly update:

#### **Fire Chief Monthly Update -July 2024**

##### **Response:**

Total number calls - 62

Out of district call response – 11 nights, 9 total calls

Staffing total - 24

Staff on leave - 6

Staff separation July - 1

Workers' comp - 1

Available staff for response - 18

**Apparatus:**

E2310 – Inservice (priority for maintenance)

E2311 – Inservice

E2336 – Inservice

WT2350 – Inservice

B2303 – Inservice

U2397 – Inservice

U2398 – Inservice/ electrical problems not starting regularly needs follow up maintenance

Type 6 arrival – out of service, working of creating list of items to be done to place in service

**Facilities:**

Sleeper trailer- will need maintenance before winter and will be creating a list of priorities.

Kitchen stove - still leaking gas, working on a cost-effective replacement.

Ice Machine – Leaking and causing tiles to lift (working on alternate location)

**Fire Chief administrative update:**

Workers' comp – One individual – QME/released to work forthcoming

S2365 – Updated JPA forthcoming – currently in draft review

Letters of commendation for actions taken – Notification of intent to present

District counterpart – met with Chief Brownlee, Chief Maxwell, Chief Bingham – all have pledged support and have offered assistance

Overtime usage – has exceeded expectations and additional monies have been allocated

Press Release – Working on draft press release of district status and updates on progress for community

**Additional items to note:**

Supporting Felton Downtown Business Acc. with event Aug 10<sup>th</sup> (will be setting up booth for volunteers)

E2310 for static display and road closure

Met with SLV High – Established new evacuation procedures and routs of evacuation for campus

Cleared out some pending fire inspection items (from April) Still working on additional issues

E2310 participated in a Firewise event at roaring camp, I have heard back from some in community that we represented Felton Fire well.

**Chief focus for next month by priority:**

Staffing

CalFire Contract

Vehicle maintenance

Inventory of District items

Station compliance

Chief Blum stated he has met with the other Valley Chiefs to discuss their offers of staffing help.

Public comment-

- Sam Moeller requested an introduction of Chief Blum. Director Anderson introduced Isaac Blum to the audience as the Interim Fire Chief. He added that Chief Blum's

contract is for 120 days and includes no pay. Chief Blum invited anyone to stay after and speak individually.

## **6.0 Unfinished Business:**

### **6.1 Shared Services Committee update - Anderson**

#### **a) Shared Services update- CalFire**

Director Anderson read an email from Deputy Chief Jed Wilson stating Chief Armstrong was leaving unit and Felton's RFP letter will be on hold until a new Chief is appointed. The action is expected in the next two weeks, then it's hopeful discussion with Felton Fire Board can resume. Director Crandell added once the process begins again with CalFire it could take 90 to 120 days.

- Mark Rose commented that this process has already taken 10 months, and asked if there have been any LAFCO conversations regarding Felton's status. He also asked what other contingencies are being considered. Director Anderson responded if it were necessary County Fire/ CSA48 would step in to provide service. Mark Rose asked what if the CalFire plan doesn't go through? Director Anderson responded they may have to consider the possibility of contract firefighters.

### **6.2 FY 2024/2025 Budget- updates / set Public Hearing Meeting date to approve Final Budget- September 09, 2024**

Laurie explained the adjustments to the preliminary budget to be included for the Final Budget. A \$50,000 decrease to the Contingency Funds would be allotted to the following expense lines to increase them. \$10,000 added to overtime, \$20,000 to vehicle service, \$15,000 to vehicle parts and \$5,000 to legal fees. There will still be \$650,000 available in Contingency Funds.

- Christina Wise commented/ asked if the district's insolvency is just due to budgetary issues. Director Anderson clarified that we do have contingency funding remaining after the budgeted expenses for the year. Director Crandell referred to the larger percentage now going to staffing costs due to the full-time employees. Director Crandell added that the board does intend to do a tax measure for additional funding.

Director Crandell made a motion to set the meeting date for the Public Hearing to approve the 2024/2025 Final Budget for September 9, 2024. Director Shults seconded and it passed.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Shults

Noes: none      Abstain: none      Absent: none

## **7.0 New Business:**

### **7.1 Cure and Correct response/ outcome- update and review most recent letter received from Dooright Enterprises**

Director Anderson stated that the letter received from Dooright Enterprises is included under correspondence for review. They were satisfied with our actions taken and response to their request.

Public comment- Erica Schwanbeck asked if the agendas will be corrected for March 26 and April 12 that were indicated in the Cure and Correct. Legal representative C. Bronson responded that she would need to research this request.

Mark Rose asked about the original complaint which unseated the two board members, and why appointment couldn't have occurred. Director Anderson responded that by the time the Cure and Correct had been received regarding this issue, the time had lapsed for both the board of directors or the County to take any actions to appoint.

### **7.2 Board member use of District vehicle- update**

District legal representative Cassie Bronson requested Director Shults leave the room during this discussion due to conflict of interest. Ms. Bronson read an overview of the event involving the water tender use. Mr. Shults has made restitution for the fuel and water used. She stated that there would be two choices of either admonishment or censure. She further explained that the board is unable to take any formal action regarding this as they do not have a quorum.

Public comment-

Sam Moeller expressed concern and questioned the level of standards appear to be different for accountability for staff and board.

Dan Arndt reiterated the same concerns.

Erica Schwanbeck stated she is concerned that this board member is up for re-election and the public does not know about this situation.

Dan Schwanbeck stated he felt taking the water tender put people at risk.

Adam Hensleigh stated he feels there is a lack of transparency. He called for people to run for their board seats.

Terry Pink stated he feels this is now a waste of time to keep pursuing this issue, as there are more important things and bigger issues the Fire Department needs to be doing.

Doug Conrad stated we need to move on, get a Fire Chief and get Firefighters to keep the district going.

Patrick Rosso stated he understands the key component, but he feels the standards should be the same and fair for everyone.

Director Shults was requested to return to the meeting room.

### **7.3 Amendment to FFPD Fee Schedule- discussion/ action**

Chief Blum explained his request to amend the waiver of fees wording in our Fee Schedule. Current wording states exemptions can only be made by the board. He requested to include the Fire Chief be able to waive fees also. Director Crandell

asked for further explanation. Chief Blum described an example of potential stated fees for event stand-by coverage, which might be considered to be waived for a school. Director Crandell made a motion to approve the amendment. Director Shults seconded and all voted to approve.

**7.4 Update on policies and procedures previously motioned by invalidated board member - Blum**

Chief Blum requested this item be tabled; board members were in agreement.

**7.5 Confirmation from IAFF international for Local 5499 - Blum**

Chief Blum stated a letter was received from the IAFF which indicated that the local Union 5499 was valid. He requested that the charter be acknowledged.

Director Crandell made a motion to accept the charter of Union 5499. Director Shults seconded and it was approved.

**8.0 Approve paid vendor claims for the month of July 2024:** Board members reviewed the vendor claims in the amount of \$357,178.40 for the month of July 2024. Director Crandell asked about the B&H Electronics invoice, to which Chief Blum responded it replaced a laptop that was no longer working. Director Crandell noted that the Type 6 engine payment represented much of this month's total. Claims were approved as presented on motion by Director Crandell, seconded by Director Shults and approved.

**9.0 Correspondence:**

**9.1 Email correspondence from E. Schwanbeck regarding concerns**

**9.2 Letter from Ivan Conrad/ Dooright Enterprises regarding resolved Cure and Correct Public comment-**

Adam Hensleigh asked why a Facebook post was included in correspondence, to which Director Anderson responded that it was actually a part of the Dooright Enterprises letter.

Patrick Rosso asked if anyone knew Ivan Conrad. Board members responded they did not know who he is.

**9.3 Letter from IAFF local 5499**

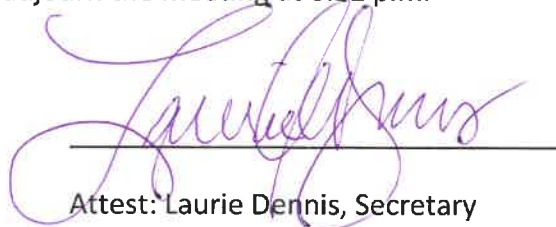
**10.0 Closed Session: None**

**11.0 Set date for the next meeting:** The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Monday, September 09, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.** This will also be a Public Hearing to approve the FY2024/2025 Final Budget

**12.0 Adjourn:** Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.



Jim Anderson, Chairperson



Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary