



FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

Regular Meeting Minutes

Of The Board of Directors

September 09, 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

Guests: Some Squad members and many members of the public were in attendance.

1.5 Approve meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 05, 2024. Director Crandell requested an amendment to the meeting minutes under item 6.1 a, to change the last sentence. He stated the process with CalFire could take 90 to 120 days. The Regular meeting minutes were approved with the noted correction 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:

Erica Schwanbeck asked if the board had any comment on the LAFCO Report. She asked what meeting Chief Blum was appointed according to the Board By-laws. Director Anderson stated it was an appointment of Chief Blum, and was not required to be done at a board meeting. Erica stated she will be submitting a request to add an item to the January agenda to readdress the last meeting item regarding the misuse of the district vehicle, as there will be a full board after the elections.

Kimberly Peterson spoke and voiced her support of the fire board and fire department. She retired as Fremont Police Chief and served in public service many years. She stated we

need to move on and prepare to function moving forward, there is no reason to continue spending time on these same items.

Kanda Whaley thanked all of those on the department and the board for their service. She hopes they will all look at common goals to save the department, including a potential bond measure.

3.0 Public Hearing:

3.1 Adopt Final Budget for fiscal year 2024/2025

Director Anderson opened the Public Hearing at 6:09 p.m. He asked if any board members had questions or comments, they replied no. He asked for public comment.

Erica Schwanbeck referred to GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) stating purchase related to the Auxiliary are not reflected properly in the District budget to account for the expenditures. She stated the budget does not account for the shared services costs. Director Anderson noted that the district has an audit by an outside company every two years as required.

Hearing no other comments Director Anderson called for a motion. Director Crandell made a motion to adopt the 2024/2025 Final Budget as presented.

Director Shults seconded and it was passed.

Ayes: Directors Anderson, Crandell and Shults

Noes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

4.0 Directors Reports: None

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

Fire Chief Monthly Update -August 2024

Call response:

Total calls in August - **78**

Rescue & EMS – 36

Service calls – 26

Good intent calls – 10

Fires – 3

Hazardous conditions – 2

False alarm call – 1

Auto aid ZAY – 5

Auto aid BEN – 5

Staffing:

Staffing: total number of employees on roster - 22

Staff on leave: 0

Staff separation: 1 for August (Roll Turner)

Workers' comp: 2 (Existing 1 + 1 new additional)

Apparatus:

E2310 – Inservice – broken cab lift – unknown replacement cost yet

E2311 – Inservice

E2336 – Inservice

WT2350 – Inservice

B2303 – Inservice – wiring and electrical problems quote for repair 5,000-6,000 dollars

U2397 – Inservice

U2398 – Inservice/electrical problems quote for repair 2,000-3,000 dollars

Type 6 arrival – Not in service – Undetermined in-service date at this time

Facilities:

Working on cleaning out the back bays to allow vehicle maintenance

Fire Chief administrative update:

Service contract brief – (Draft under new Business)

New firefighters interviewed (6 moving forward in the hiring process)

IAFF 5499 – No contact from local

Reported to Ben Lomond fire with PERS info regarding PERS liabilities - (no liabilities for PERS under service contract)

Security breach on Chiefs computer - we are actively looking to take steps to investigate with a third party and put processes in place to insure it will not happen again.

Additional items to note:

Felton Downtown Business Acc. with event Aug 10th (was successful in recruiting one candidate)

Contact with Laura Terrazas from Santa Cruz County Office of Education ROP fire technology – We will be hosting a training on September 21st for them.

Chief focus for next month by priority:

Immediate priorities are staffing

CalFire Contract / Ben Lomond Service Agreement

Vehicle maintenance

Inventory of District items

Station compliance

He restated the incident of security breach on his computer is being taken very seriously.

We will be working with Pagoda Technologies on further details and research.

Public Comment-

Erica Schwanbeck questioned the staffing numbers reported. She made reference to the LAFCO report information statistics. She stated the lack of a permanent Chief is impacting staff. She asked about the in-service status of the Type 6. She questioned the item stating there was no response from 5499 Local.

Chief Blum explained that at this time he believes it is not advantageous to spend additional funds on the Type 6, especially due to the present staffing. It may be considered for sale in the future and not having it identified as Felton Fire would help. The fact that we have it clean and potentially available right away could make a sale more enticing, especially as a buyer would not have to wait the current 2-3 year delivery for a new apparatus. He stated that there is now only one member of the 5499 Local, but there has been no responding communication.

6.0 Unfinished Business:

6.1 Shared Services Committee update - Anderson

a) Shared Services update- CalFire

Director Anderson stated that the new CalFire Chief for San Mateo/Santa Cruz County is Jed Wilson. Chief Wilson reached out for our last three years of financials as part of the State process, which we have provided. This is still in the works and moving forward.

6.2 Presentation regarding proposal to buy-out AT&T cell tower lease – Richard Hatch from TowerPoint

Director Anderson introduced Joe Serrano of LAFCO who would be helping him remotely connect with Richard Hatch from TowerPoint. Richard Hatch joined via Zoom and introduced himself as director at TowerPoint. Richard explained he provided Director Anderson a new letter with a current date. He read the letter detailing the terms.

Director Crandell stated we will need to schedule a special board meeting to discuss the proposal and take any action, which would likely occur in two weeks. Mr. Hatch stated he would provide a new letter to Director Anderson with an expiration date of a month out.

Director Crandell asked if they plan to put more cell companies on the tower as this has always been a sensitive issue in the community. Mr. Hatch responded that there is a lack of space so probably not. Director Crandell asked about concerns of our generator capacity and who would pay for any potential damage during installations. Mr. Hatch replied he would need to review the AT&T lease for those details. Director Crandell asked him to include these answers in the revised management letter.

Director Anderson thanked Joe Serrano for his assistance, and Audrey Dawson for her technical assistance in the set up.

7.0 New Business:

7.1 Present Draft of Service Agreement between Ben Lomond Fire and Felton Fire for contract services – review - Blum

Chief Blum explained some of the original and edited draft of the agreement.

Director Anderson asked about the EMT portion and pay scale, and consideration of

Zayante Fire for a like agreement. Chief Blum responded that these are some of the details still needing to be worked out.

Public comment- Erica Schwanbeck stated she works with contracts for County Health Services and said this agreement is lacking and, in some areas, not legal. She gave her opinion of Ben Lomond services and culture, not being inclusive, and that female firefighters would be at risk.

Chief Blum stated that without the help of Ben Lomond and Zayante we would not be able to service calls for our District. The previous problems with moving forward falls with his predecessors and not the other departments assisting us. He added that this template is similar to one used by Central Fire and Don Jarvis for consulting. He wonders where her statement about female firefighters being lost is coming from. Director Anderson added comment about past department discussions during former Chief Walters tenure.

Sam Moeller referred to the female comment and quoted a line from the proposed Ben Lomond/ Felton agreement “staff that do not fall into the rank or service structure that BLFPD operates within shall be retrained or released.” She referenced lack of inclusiveness. She stated our volunteer females are EMT, so they wouldn’t fit into the draft agreement and two people would lose their jobs. She added 3 people resigned in August and a Captain last night.

Chief Blum stated it is not the intent for anyone to lose their job. There are still details to work out, it is a draft agreement. He requested that he and a board member from Felton meet with the Chief and board member from Ben Lomond to work on this to expedite a final draft. Director Crandell volunteered to be the liaison representative. Chief Blum will reach out to Chief Brownlee.

8.0 Approve paid vendor claims for the month of August 2024: Board members reviewed the vendor claims in the amount of \$23,988.58 for the month of August 2024. Claims were approved as presented on motion by Director Crandell, seconded by Director Shults and approved.

9.0 Correspondence: None

10.0 Closed Session: None

11.0 Set date for the next meeting: Director Crandell requested that we post for a Special Board Meeting to be held on Monday, September 23 to address the Ben Lomond/ Felton Service Agreement and the TowerPoint proposal.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Monday, October 07, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**

12.0 Adjourn: Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Jim Anderson, Chairperson

Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary