

Adam Hensleigh

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got. Currently all three of the board members have a fire service background. The board is in dire need of adding an outsider's perspective to help get them out of the hole they are in. Another reason the Board desperately needs an outsider's perspective is to get away from a past board member resigning mid-term and then there is a handpicked appointment that perpetuates an insider's cycle. The last four board members were appointed because of a previous board member resignation but the last two weren't allowed to start their appointment because of a Brown Act violation.

My top three priorities are 1A hire a permanent Chief. Since Chief Gray resigned last fall, the district is already on its third Chief. The current Chief's contract is expiring soon so the District potentially needs to find another Chief. 1B is to find ways to come up with the money to buy the District's way out of California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), which is the financial albatross holding the Fire District down. For example, Section 13916 of the California Health and Safety Code permits first responder fees to be assessed to recover costs for advanced emergency medical services (EMS). The Fire District should implement a Medicare/Hardship exemption but for those whose insurance covers a First Responder Fee should be charged for services rendered. The District responds to roughly 700 medical calls out of the roughly 1,000 calls a year.

My second priority is working with the current Chief and fellow board members to figure out how to reverse the trend of existing squad members resigning and how to increase the number of volunteers so the District isn't reliant on a shared service agreements with Zayante Fire, potentially Ben Lomond Fire and potentially CAL FIRE to fill staffing shortages. Also, figuring out how to increase the number of in-district volunteers because as of now a majority of the volunteers live out of the district is a priority.

My third priority is more community outreach to engage my fellow constituents on things like attending the public board meetings, which are the first Monday of every month. When I first started attending board meetings shortly after moving to Felton in 2019 it was just me but after Chief Gray resigned more people started attending and they were mostly squad members.

If you value someone who does the right thing even when no one is watching and wants to do all they can to get the District out of the hole they are in, I'd appreciate your vote.

I'm also voting for Erica Schwanbeck. We both have a doer's mentality with an outsider's background. Erica's commitment Transparency, Accountability, Sustainability and Community is exactly what the Felton Fire Board of Directors needs. Erica and I are determined to dig the Felton Fire Board out of the hole they are in.