

# APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 19, 2015

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER: President Leary at 6:02 PM.
- 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Earp
- 3.0 ROLL CALL:  
Present: Director Alaniz, Director Tinsley, Director Earp, Vice President Jeffs, President Leary  
Absent: None.
- 4.0 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:
  - .01 Employee of the Quarter – Second Quarter. The Fire Chief introduced Finance Director Mark Reynolds as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter while calling him to the podium. Finance Director Reynolds was nominated for the EOQ award for his good stewardship of the Fire District's finances. In particular, Fire Chief Sid Hultquist noted the Finance Director's diligence through the difficult years of the 2008-2010 recession. Chief Hultquist went on to mention Mark's successive years of clean audits, his work on the recent Capital Improvement Plan and policy, and pointed out his contributions to the District's reserve policy and resolution.
  - .02 Power Point Presentation on Consultants. Chief Hultquist presented an approximately 10-minute power point presentation outlining the parameters under which the District can hire a consultant. The presentation covered the legal guidelines, the types of consulting available and what role a consultant might play for the District with the special tax measure. Discussion between the Board and Fire Chief followed the presentation regarding the Request for Proposal process should the Board decide to seek a consultant.
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:
  - .01 George Passantino from Passantino Andersen Communications came forward to address the Board regarding Agenda Item 14.06 Hiring of a Consultant. President Leary asked if he would like to address his remarks at this time or during that agenda item. Mr. Passantino did not have a preference and the Board President requested he proceed with his comments as he felt they were appropriate to the discussion and presentation the Fire Chief had just concluded.  
  
Mr. Passantino began his remarks by commenting on the Fire Chief's "excellent" presentation on consultants noting it was a clear and concise representation of what the District can do, should do and ought not to do regarding the special tax measure.  
  
Mr. Passantino also outlined the importance of starting early (special tax measure) in order to have a fully informed constituency. He went on to say his company had been operating in the High Desert for over 10 years and listed the types of campaigns his firm had been involved with including special tax measures and school bonds. Mr. Passantino added information about surveys and the type of valuable information that can be derived from them.
  - .02 President Leary asked James "Buddy" Peratt if he wished to address the Board at this time or later when the agenda items (special tax measure) were addressed. Mr. Peratt opted to wait until those agenda items came up.
- 6.0 DIRECTORS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

- .01 Personnel Report for April 2015
- .02 Operations Report for April 2015
- .03 Community Risk Reduction Report for April 2015
- .05 Fleet Services Program Report April 2015
- .06 Fiscal Reports for April 2015

Director Earp requested the Staff report 7.03 from Community Risk Reduction be pulled. M/S Earp/Jeffer to approve the remainder of the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Board members present.

Director Earp directed questions to Fire Marshal Jason Nailon regarding the number of people participating in the public education events asking for a breakdown of the events. Mr. Nailon noted there had been a Public Safety Fair with the Town of Apple Valley that accounted for the majority of the participants. M/S Earp/Tinsley to approve Staff Report 7.03. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Board members present.

8.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- .01 Minutes of Regular Meeting April 21, 2015. M/S Alaniz/Jeffer to approve minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Board members present.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: President Leary pointed out there were two thank yous in the correspondence packet.

10.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

.01 Information Only Items:

- a) Candidate Endorsement for CSDA Board. President Leary asked for questions or comment regarding this item. He asked ASM Garrison about the timeline for doing an endorsement and for the date of the election which Ms. Garrison noted as taking place in August. This item will be brought forward again next month.
- b) LAFCO Notice of Hearing. The Fire Chief had nothing further to add to the Staff Report.
- c) Training Burn – March-April 2015. No discussion.

.02 Discussion Items:

- a) LAFCO Proposed Budget FY 2015-16 & Special District Apportionment. The Fire Chief pointed out the billing to the agencies in LAFCO's budget and some of its inequities noting the \$10,000 cost to the Fire District. Director Earp asked the Fire Chief if he could contact LAFCO to ask them about the billing and how the amounts are calculated.

11.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

12.0 APPROVAL OF REPORTS: None.

13.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

14.0 ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Award of Weed/Hazard Abatement Contract. President Leary called on Fire Marshal Nailon to ask if he had any further commentary. The Fire Marshal pointed out the fee schedule was on the back (attached). He went on to inform the Board that the abatement contractor that was

recommended to the Board is the District's current abatement contractor. The Board President called for questions or comment from the Board with Director Alaniz asking a question about the fees which was answered. M/S Earp/Jeffs to approve A-Absolute Tractor as the District's weed abatement contractor. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of the Board members present.

- .02 Personnel Policy P-3, Revision 8, Authorization of Positions. President Leary asked the Board for comment. There was a brief exchange between Staff and the Board regarding some of the changes. Questions were answered for both Director Earp and Director Alaniz. M/S Earp/Alaniz to approve Policy P-3, Revision 8, Authorization of Positions. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of the Board members present.
- .03 Personnel Policy P-10, Revision 4, Sick Leave. The Board President again called for questions. There was a significant discussion and exchange between Director Earp and Staff answering specifics about the changes to the policy that were specific to AB 1522. M/S Jeffs/Earp to approve Policy P-10, Revision 4, Sick Leave. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of the Board members present.
- .04 Selection of Option for Special Tax Measure & Ballot Wording. President Leary introduced this item by briefing the assembly on the discussion on the special tax measure at the Special Board Meeting that was held on May 14, 2015 noting there had been four Board members present. He went on to explain there was a consensus reached at that meeting to go forward with much the same ballot proposal as was used for Measure G in June 2014. There was discussion and comment following his remarks calling for clarification about components of the measure. While the Board all agreed by consensus that there needed to be an increase, a specific amount had not yet been settled on but it was agreed to go forward with a special tax measure that would include an increase. M/S Earp/Alaniz to go forward with a special tax measure that includes an increase commensurate with the \$1.99 increase presented to voters in June 2014, will include the annual CPI increase (2% cap) as exists in the current special tax, and be for a term of 20 years. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of the Board members present.
- .05 Ballot Date Selection Special Tax Measure. Mr. Leary shared his recollection of the discussions on this matter from the meeting on May 14, 2015 which were to try to go out for the special tax measure in June 2014. He then asked the Board for their comments or any questions with regard to the topic. Discussion followed among the Board members regarding the dates and whether or not a decision should be made as to the date if the Board was going to hire a consultant noting their (consultant's) input should be considered. M/S Tinsley/Alaniz to move forward with June 7, 2016 as the target date to put a special tax measure on the ballot.

At this point James "Buddy" Peratt was called forward to make his public comments. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and introduced himself as a representative of the Apple Valley Professional Firefighters Association (PFA). He began by stating the PFA supported the idea of a consultant. He pointed out that in just a few weeks the District would be in a 12-month count down to the measure. Mr. Peratt listed several items that he felt needed to be addressed to "get the ball rolling" on the special tax measure such as fund raising and educating the public. Buddy emphasized that there will have to be more outside funding and a greater commitment in order to be successful. He concluded his remarks by pledging the commitment of the PFA to get the special tax measure passed.

- .06 Hiring of a Consultant. President Leary called for comment the Board regarding the hiring of a consultant. There was dialogue among the Board members on the qualifications and type of

consultant to hire. The conversation included debate about whether or not a survey would be helpful. The Board requested Mr. Passantino from Passantino & Andersen come forward again for some additional input and questions. Following the discussion and Board consensus, President Leary directed Staff to begin the process of finding several consultant candidates, preferably from Southern California that could do a presentation before the Board. Mr. Leary went on to emphasize that time was of the essence and to move forward with an RFP within the next 30 days.

**15.0 STAFF COMMENTS:**

**.01 Fire Chief Hultquist:**

- a) Invited the Board to a "table top" exercise on May 29 with all the local chiefs participating.
- b) Advised the Board that the District had budgeted for two Board members to attend the CSDA conference September 21-24, 2015 and to advise Staff if they are interested in attending.

**.02 Finance Director Reynolds:**

- a) Updated on the dissolution of PASIS noting the Finance member of PASIS from the City of Beaumont had resigned and that Tamara Lana from Rancho Cucamonga had taken over those responsibilities.
- b) Briefed that the PASIS funds of approximately 1 million dollars should be received by the District by July 21, 2015 and would be put into a special account set up for that purpose.
- c) Explained that the new workers compensation carrier was all set up and ready to go on July 1, 2015.

**16.0 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS:**

**.01 Director Alaniz:**

- a) Thanked Buddy Peratt and the PFA for coming out in force to the meeting and showing their support.
- b) Thanked Finance Director Reynolds for his hard work and service.
- c) Welcomed Chief Hultquist back.

**.02 Director Earp:**

- a) Congratulated Finance Director Reynolds on his Employee of the Quarter award and thanked him for his service.
- b) Thanked Mr. Passantino for the information he provided.
- c) Thanked Captain Peratt for his input.
- d) Thanked all the employees for their support.

**.03 Director Tinsley:**

- a) Extended a special thanks to Finance Director Reynolds.
- b) Echoed congratulations to Mr. Reynolds on his award.

**.04 Vice President Jeffs:**

- a) Expressed he had the same sentiments of thanks and congratulations as others had noted.
- b) Welcomed the Fire Chief back.
- c) Thanked the PFA for their support.

**.05 President Leary:**

- a) Thanked everyone for their support.
- b) Stated that this time things will be better coordinated.
- c) Thanked George Passantino and Fire Chief for their presentations and input.

d) Thanked Finance Director Reynolds for his work and contributions.

17.0 CLOSED SESSION:

01. Fire Chief Performance Evaluation. (Government Code Section 54957)

Meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:26 PM

The meeting reconvened to open session at 7:44 PM

18.0 REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION: None.

19.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

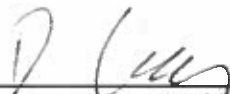
01. Director Earp requested an update on the 48/96 schedule at halfway point at July 2015 meeting.

02. President Leary requested an update on options for hiring or replacing the Finance position.

20.0 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM M/S/P Earp/Tinsley.

ATTEST:

  
ROSE MARIE GARISON  
Recording Secretary

  
DANIEL J. LEARY  
President