

# APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 15, 2013

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Hanson at 6:00 p.m.
- 2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Director Earp
- 3.0 ROLL CALL:  
Present: Vice President Hanson, Director Earp, Director Leary, Director Tinsley  
Absent: None
- 4.0 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:
  - .01 Introductions of Newly Appointed Employees: Fire Chief Hultquist called Aaron Brinkman and Vinh Ho forward individually. Chief Hultquist gave the employment history of each of them noting they were both paramedics and welcome additions to the Fire District. The Fire Chief announced Vinh Ho had been promoted to full time Firefighter/Paramedic and Aaron Brinkman had been appointed to the vacant Limited Term Firefighter position created by Vinh's promotion.
- 5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
- 6.0 DIRECTORS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
- 7.0 CONSENT AGENDA:
  - .01 Fiscal Report for September 2013.  
M/S Earp/Tinsley to approve consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Board.
- 8.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
  - .01 Minutes of Regular Meeting September 17, 2013. M/S Tinsley/Hanson to approve minutes of the August 20, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the Board members with Director Earp abstaining as he was not in attendance at the September 17th meeting.
- 9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: Vice President Hanson asked for comments on correspondence noting it was available for review in the notebook.
- 10.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - .01 Information Only Items: None.
  - .02 Discussion Items:
    - a) Measure V Update: Chief Hultquist gave a presentation on Measure V to the Board to accompany the handout included in the Board packet. During the presentation the Fire Chief also included a brief history of Measure V. Chief Hultquist emphasized the importance of the Measure V funding in order to sustain current operations. He went on to review four options for the Board's consideration for the renewal of this special tax measure. The four options presented were:

- 1) Renew the current special tax "as is" for the same term of 20 years.
- 2) Renew the current special tax but eliminate the sunset clause.
- 3) Increase the current special tax measure fees by 30% resulting in an increase of \$20 more per year (actual \$18.95) per household. This increase would fund six new firefighters to staff a Medic Squad (two people per shift) full time.
- 4) Increase the current special tax measure fees by 56% an increase of approximately \$35 per year (actual \$35.37) which would staff and open an additional fire station full time with an engine staffed with three people.

The Fire Chief continued his comments joined by Finance Director Mark Reynolds. They outlined to the Board the Staff's concerns regarding a change to the Measure V tax with the local economy still struggling to recover.

Discussion followed between the Board and Staff reviewing possible options and scenarios for the special tax. Director Leary suggested the Board not be hasty in dismissing the possibility of asking for an increase noting how the information is presented to the voters is key. The Board by consensus suggested the Fire Chief look into hiring a consultant. The Board made an additional request by consensus that the matter be tabled until there was further information and discussion on the options for the special tax.

#### 11.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- .01 Measure V Committee Update: Director Tinsley stated that there wasn't anything further to add to the previous discussion. He further emphasized the consideration of a consultant.
- .02 Selection Committee – Board Appointment Update: Director Leary stated that he and Director Earp had interviewed three outstanding candidates for the vacant seat on the Fire District Board of Directors the previous week. He updated that the Committee was bringing two of those candidates forward for the entire Board to interview in Closed Session.

12.0 APPROVAL OF REPORTS: None

13.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

#### 14.0 ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Board Policy BP-004 Code of Ethics and Values: Division Chief Mike Parsons briefed the Board on the Fire District's goal to gain the California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Chief Parsons noted this is a new program with CSDA and a useful tool for the public to see their local agencies are following governmental guidelines and providing proof of compliance to the public. He also briefed that the Transparency Certificate of Excellence would demonstrate to the Fire District's constituency that the District conducts its business in an honest and "transparent" way. After answering a few brief questions by the Board, Board Policy BP-004 was put to motion and vote. M/S Hanson/Leary to adopt Board Policy BP-004 Code of Ethics and Values establishing parameters for ethical standards of practice for the Board of Directors. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of the Board.

**15.0 STAFF COMMENTS:**

**.01 Chief Hultquist:**

- a. Read an excerpt from an article written about the Government shutdown remarking that the Fire District cannot just "shut down".
- b. Noted the District's commitment to "rolling up our sleeves" to get the work done and commit to a budget in order to continue to serve our community.
- c. Briefed the Board on AB 327 a renewable energy bill which was signed into effect by the Governor.
- d. Highlighted the Fire District Community Volunteers specifically commending them on the large number of hours each group, CERT, FADD and ECS, have put into training this year.
- e. Remarked that Apple Valley has a full contingent of events scheduled for the upcoming weekend including the Tour de Apple Valley, a charity golf tournament, and the Fire District's Open House and Health & Safety Fair at Station 337.
- f. Reminded the Board to meet with Rosie at Headquarters to be sure their Fire District email accounts are activated.

**.02 FSM Ryan:**

- a. Briefed that the surplus engine (the Hush) had been sold for scrap.
- b. Congratulated Vinh Ho and Aaron Brinkman on their promotions adding that he has had both of them visit the shop and they are both good team members and a good fit for the Fire District.

**.03 Captain Peratt:**

- a. Thanked the candidates who came forward for the vacant Board seat for stepping up and offering their time to serve the community and Apple Valley Fire.
- b. Remarked that he understands the challenges of asking for increased taxes for Measure V adding that the PFA will support whatever decision is made by the Fire Chief and the Board.
- c. Requested the Board be open minded and creative with ideas and suggestions that may be brought forward after Measure V to increase funding for the Fire District.

**16.0 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS:**

**.01 Director Tinsley:**

- a. Congratulated the two new Firefighters on their promotions.
- b. Reminded Board and Staff to keep thoughts trained toward passing Measure V.

**.02 Director Leary:**

- a. Echoed congratulations to the two promoted employees.
- b. Thanked the PFA for attending community events.
- c. Addressed Captain Peratt noting the Board hears his comments and knows that the District needs to look for additional avenues of revenue along with passing Measure V.

**.03 Director Earp:**

- a. Added his congratulations to Vinh Ho and Aaron Brinkman.
- b. Remarked to Captain Peratt that the Board realizes the sacrifices made by PFA members and all District employees to help the Fire District financially.

**.04 Vice President Hanson:**

- a. Also voiced his congratulations to the two promoted employees.

- b. Asserted that difficult times make people resilient pointing out that Apple Valley Fire is a resilient and a widely respected fire department.
- c. Offered the Board's support and commitment to the District's efforts to pass Measure V.

**17.0 CLOSED SESSION:**

- .01 Public Employee Appointment – Board of Directors. (Government Code Section 54957)

Session item was read aloud noting Government Codes and the meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 7:37 p.m.

- 18.0 REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION:** Vice President Hanson thanked all three of the candidates for their willingness to give back to the community by serving on the Board of Directors. In particular he thanked Mr. Jeffs and Mr. Lovano for coming to the Board meeting and participating in the interview process with the Board of Directors.

Vice President Hanson followed his remarks by announcing the Board had selected Mr. Jay Jeffs to fill the Board vacancy. Director Tinsley added it had been a very difficult decision between two very good candidates. Mr. Tinsley went on to invite Mr. Lovano to participate in the Measure V campaign and congratulate Mr. Jeffs on his appointment.

**19.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- .01 Further information and discussion regarding Measure V options.

**20.0 Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. M/S/P Tinsley/Earp.

ATTEST:

  
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ROSE MARIE GARRISON  
Recording Secretary

  
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LARS HANSON  
Vice President