

APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 29, 2016

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: President Leary at 6:05 PM.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice President Jeffs

3.0 ROLL CALL:

Present: Director Karen, Director Tinsley, Vice President Jeffs, President Leary

Absent: Director Savage*

*Director Savage joined the meeting at 6:45 PM.

4.0 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: None.

Prior to beginning the meeting agenda President Leary announced this was an information only meeting explaining no decisions were going to be made. Mr. Leary continued by remarking that the Board would be getting (tonight's) information with the audience with the idea everyone would get on the same page. Mr. Leary outlined there would be two presentations. One presentation was about the need for the measure with the second being a financial presentation on what it will take to expand the District.

He instructed the plan was to get the information out and get a discussion going. He followed up by stating there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to join in. President Leary went on to say that he hoped everyone would come back together in couple months' time with feedback from friends, relatives, and neighbors after having some time to digest the information and discuss it with others. He reported that it will probably be at that meeting in a couple of months when the Board would decide whether or not to run a measure noting that the audience was probably aware the Board was leaning there.

President Leary outlined there would be two opportunities for comment one would be during Public Comment and the other opportunity would be after the presentation of the two Discussion Items.

5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:

.01 Captain James "Buddy" Peratt stated we was speaking on behalf of the PFA, the Professional Firefighters Association. Mr. Peratt went on to read a statement explaining the PFA's stance on an important issue that will forever effect the future of the community and the Fire District.

Mr. Peratt briefed that District ran nearly 11,000 calls the previous year (2015) with only three engines. This resulted in more than 7 minute response times. During this time workers compensation claims increased, training suffered and virtually every area and resource of the District was stretched. These changes were not due to any lack of commitment or effort but the result of the strain routine calls were putting on the District.

Captain Peratt went on to cite a couple of examples when resources were exhausted and the risks and results to the community and firefighters.

6.0 DIRECTORS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

.01 President Leary thanked Captain Peratt for his comments noting that the specific examples were valuable information commenting "the more we know" helps inform the Board's decisions.

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS:

.01 Discussion Items:

a) Special Tax Measure Power Point Presentation. Chief Hultquist began his presentation by thanking Captain Peratt for setting the stage. He went on to explain that this is a critical point in the District's history. The Chief followed by giving a 35-minute presentation outlining the District's resources, the call load and standards of practice for both the District and other critical resources.

*Director Savage joined the meeting at 6:45 PM during the Fire Chief's presentation.

Captain Peratt once again addressed the Board following the Fire Chief's presentation reinforcing how the District's resources to answer calls were exhausted virtually every day noting the bed delays at the local hospitals and the importance of having paramedics on the engines to treat patients. Mr. Peratt also listed to the Board several things that the employees' had done for the District over the last ten years affecting their salary and benefits like pension reform, the current staffing compromises the PFA provides to the District, along with the use of Limited Term Firefighters. There was a brief exchange with President Leary who reiterated the importance of getting this information out to the District's constituency.

b) Financial Forecasting for Special Tax Measure. Finance Officer Brown's 20-minute presentation reviewed the state of the District's finances and outlined the costs for salaries and benefits and costs associated with staffing and running a full-time station along with projected costs and income. At intervals throughout the presentation there were questions from the Board that Ms. Brown answered.

There was further discussion between the Board and Staff regarding getting the information out to the public about the need, but also about the cost.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS:

.01 Date Selection for Special Tax Measure. President Leary felt it was premature for the Board to go forward and make a decision on a date for the special tax measure. After polling the Board it was decided by unanimous consensus to table this matter until the June or July Board meeting. M/S Leary/Karen to defer date selection of special tax measure. Motion carried by consensus poll by Board President.

9.0 STAFF COMMENTS: None.

10.0 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS:

.01 Director Savage:

- a) Apologized for his tardiness due to traffic issues coming from Irvine.
- b) Stated the two big things with regard to the special tax measure were going to be timing and framing the issue explaining if we can do that we will be able to get it passed.

.02 Vice President Jeffs:

- a) Thanked Captain Peratt, Chief Hultquist and Finance Officer Brown for their presentations and comments.

.03 President Leary:

- a) Added his thanks to Captain Peratt, Chief Hultquist and Finance Officer Brown.
- b) Informed that nothing at this point is cast in stone.
- c) Stated that numbers can be discouraging but believes that everyone knows there is a price to be paid for safety.
- d) Said there will be further strategy to the message, but there was already a great start with getting the message out about the measure.
- e) Encouraged everyone to get in touch with people who have a big outreach, data base or other social media to reach a lot of people and get the message out.


11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM M/S/P Tinsley/Savage.

ATTEST:



ROSE MARIE GARRISON
Recording Secretary



DANIEL J. LEARY
President