

LAKE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting

April 22, 2020
14815 Olympic Drive
Clearlake, CA 95422
1600 Hours

Chairperson Watson called the meeting to order at 1600 hours.

Directors present: Director Dean, Director Fults, Director Meisenbach, Director Moore, Director Snyder and Director Spriet.

Employees present: Chief Sapeta, Financial Analyst Rivas (via GoToMeeting), and Finance Assistant Nutting.

Others present: None

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence for our brother and sister fallen firefighters

Special Agenda Items:

- Citizen's input – None

Consent Items:

- Director Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2020 regular meeting. Director Fults seconded the motion.
Motion passed.
Ayes: 7
Noes: 0
Absent: 0
- Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve the warrant register and pay the bills for March 2020. Director Spriet seconded the motion.
Motion passed.
Ayes: 7
Noes: 0
Absent: 0

Chief's Report:

- Chief Sapeta provided an update on COVID-19. Chief Sapeta reported that the District continues to proactively manage the response to COVID-19. A series of policies and response reporting procedures have been in place since the beginning of the pandemic. The general message is to get as much of the COVID-19 related supplies from the MHOAC and Feds to keep the costs to the District down.

Chief Sapeta reported that the Skylark in Lakeport and the Travelodge and Lamplighter in Clearlake have been identified to be used as quarantine sites. Alan Flora, Chief White and Chief Sapeta have concerns regarding the transport of the individuals to and from the quarantine sites. The City of Clearlake will not evict those individuals who have been quarantined greater than 30 days as part of

Project Room Key, but will look to the County to enforce evictions.

Chief Sapeta reported that all paid and volunteer EMS personnel have been issued fanny packs and each pack contains 2 sets of PPE. The packs will be issued to personnel at the beginning of flu season and turned back at the end of flu season.

Chief Sapeta reported that Lake County has experienced only 6 confirmed cases of COVID-19. He and Lynn Brooks have conducted about 18 field tests. Chief Sapeta hopes that when the time comes, the District's first responders are among the first to be vaccinated.

- Chief Sapeta reported that the IFT-Priority One program is on hold as COVID-19 is priority.
- Chief Sapeta reported that District personnel are wearing respiratory protection any time they are out in the community. EMS personnel utilize surgical masks during every patient contact. Patients that are symptomatic are given N95 masks and a full decontamination of the ambulance occurs when a nebulized treatment is provided.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the crews have been directed to use 214 logs each day to track expenditures related to COVID-19.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the LCFCA received \$52,400 from the US Forest Service. The LCFCA was able to secure \$64,600 from Homeland Security. These funds are to purchase a Fire and Law based repeater vault located on Goat Mountain. Sealed bids were sent out and if everything pans out, the vault will be installed near the middle of August, pending this year's fire season. However, the communications equipment may not be installed until the following year.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the generator project for Sta 65 is moving forward. The generators are for the apparatus bay and the office building. The Brick Hall will not be on generator back up power. Chief concurs with what the City of Clearlake is doing to prepare for the PG&E PSPS events, including a microwave link between the City, Sta 70, and the senior center that will provide internet connectivity in the event that internet connection is lost.
- Chief Sapeta reported that there are several cannabis/hemp projects in the works. The LCFCA discussed an area that borders the District where several buildings have been erected totaling nearly 500,000sqft. This resulted in mitigation fees not being collected by any fire district due to ag exemptions. The LCFCA feels that the Ag Commissioner should work closely with the local fire district and the County to ensure ag requirements are maintained.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the Vertical Bridge contract arrived. Legal is reviewing the contract and will hopefully be ready for May's meeting. The tower is expected to be a 60-80ft faux-tree that is in the back of the property and away from everyone.
- Chief Sapeta reported that construction on the Sta 65 sleeping quarters are to begin within the next week or so.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the reorganization is on hold with the exception of the Fire Marshal, which is expected to be filled within the next 30-45 days.
- Chief Sapeta reported that EMS issues in counties around us have bolstered applications for applicant testing. The District is working with HR legal to determine the best way to provide a COVID compliant testing location.
- Chief Sapeta reported that the KUSD meals handout has been successful at Sta 65 and Sta 70 over the past 3 weeks.
- Chief Sapeta reported now that school is out, he wants to get back on track with Becky and the KUSD fire alarm system.

- Chief Sapeta reported that with the fire season and COVID-19, there will be double the number of people to move during an evacuation. The District is prepared, but it may not be as smooth or as clean because of the complexity of the situation.
- Chief Sapeta reported that CalFire and US Forest Service has begun their preseason hiring and staffing. There is a decrease in available state, federal, and local resources due to COVID-19.

Volunteer Association Input and Comments:

- None

Employee Input and Comments:

- None

Chaplain's Report:

- None

Communications:

- None

AD HOC Committee Reports:

- Station 70 CIP – Nothing to report.
- Station 65 Remodel – Nothing to report.
- 2019/2020 MOU Negotiations – Nothing to report.
- Lexipol Policy Manual – Chief Sapeta reported that staff is still reviewing the manual.
- ECC Dispatch – Director Snyder reported that this AD HOC committee should remain for another couple of months, just in case there is a response to the letter.
- 2019/2020 Fleet Replacement –Director Spriet reported he has been in contact with grant writers and is waiting to hear back from them.

Regular Agenda Items:

- Chairperson Watson made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-0401 Increasing Reserves as a Result of Participation in the State Intergovernmental Transfer Program in the amount of \$1,310,025. Director Snyder seconded the motion.
Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Dean, Fults, Meisenbach, Moore, Snyder, Spriet, Watson
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
- Director Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-0402 Appropriating Reserves/Designations for the Replacement of the Station 65 Office Roof in the amount of \$56,626. Director Dean seconded the motion.
Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Dean, Fults, Meisenbach, Moore, Snyder, Spriet, Watson
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

- Director Snyder made a motion to approve the Letter Condemning Director Meisenbach. Chairperson Watson seconded the motion.

Chairperson Watson reported that Director Meisenbach was notified about his behavior in August 2019 and this letter is the next step since the behavior has not changed. Chairperson Watson reported that on several occasions, Director Meisenbach has attended Board meetings while intoxicated. Director Meisenbach is a positive force, has very positive things to say, and has a lot of good background experience needed on the District Board. Chairperson Watson also reported that she verified that this could not be handled in closed session.

Director Dean reported that he rides to the meetings with Director Meisenbach and has not noticed the things mentioned in the letter.

Director Snyder reported that she wishes this could have been brought up in closed session as well. This agenda item was a surprise, but the behavior needs to be addressed.

Director Fults reported that he would view this as a warning and the behavior is not expected to be displayed at a Board meeting in the future. There is a certain level of responsibility and accountability expected of a Board Director.

Director Meisenbach reported that there are a lot of false and unsubstantiated accusations, comments and statements made that adversely affect him and his family. He also denied attending a Board meeting while intoxicated. Director Meisenbach's whole intention is to look out for the well-being of the District and the community it serves.

Chairperson Watson reported that the meetings are recorded and can be reviewed. As Chairperson, the Board policies must be followed and that this letter is not personal. The responsibility to call this behavior out belongs to each Board Director and to deal with it. This is not a resolution or censure, but should be taken as a warning.

Motion did not pass by roll call vote.

Ayes: Fults, Snyder, Watson

Noes: Dean, Meisenbach, Moore, Spriet

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Director Meisenbach reported that instead of allowing the LCSO personnel to utilize the Sta 65 office building, there is a county building in Lower Lake they may be able to use.

Chief Sapeta reported that he has not heard of any problems that LCFPD personnel may have with the LCSO personnel. Chief encourages all personnel to talk to Board Directors, but should bring any issues with LCSO personnel to himself first.

Chairperson Watson reported that the Board wants LCFPD personnel to talk with them, but to remind the employees that issues need to be taken to the Chief. Chairperson Watson also reported that there are no written complaints from the public nor from LCFPD personnel. There must be significant complaints with an internal investigation or an investigation to determine if the contract needs to be modified.

Director Fults reported that we do not have any record of written complaints and having the LCSO presence in Lower Lake is important to the community. It is important to have a good working relationship with all law enforcement and not to harbor grudges.

Director Snyder reported that the District holds a contract with the LCSO. The Board needs to determine if it is necessary to modify the contract, terminate the contract or to move on. One of the original ideas behind the contract was that it provided a built-in security system. Director Snyder reported that generators are expensive to run and would like to know what the utilities are costing the District.

Financial Analyst Rivas reported that Sta 65 office utilities are costing the District almost exactly \$150. The contract states that the lessor is responsible for all buildings and repairs. The purchase of the generator was made by the Board and Chief as a necessity for continuing operations during the PG&E PPS events. Discussions with the LCSO did not take place to determine if the LCSO wanted or needed the generator.

Chief Sapeta reported that before a decision is made to terminate the contract or not, all repercussions should be reviewed. Chief has had minor discussions with Mary Beth about the costs of the contract while the LCSO was reviewing/renewing their contracts before COVID-19 became priority.

Good of the Order:

- Chairperson Watson thanked the City of Clearlake for the use of their building.
- Director Fults reported that Lake County Hospice received a grant that will help pay salaries and applauds them for working hard to make this happen. Director Fults also reported that a \$13M grant was approved for a transportation center.

Chief Sapeta reported that this District has maintained a relationship with Hospice for several years. The District charges a flat rate for transporting a Hospice patient and provided Hospice with N95 mask fit testing. Chief Sapeta also reported that the District has supported the transportation hub project since it was brought up for discussion.

- Director Meisenbach thanked everyone for today and appreciates what everyone has to say.

Adjournment:

- The regular meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned at 1724 hours.

Attest:



Richard Nutting, Assistant Clerk of the Board