

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, March 19, 2012.

**The meeting was called to order by Director Jensen at 8:31 am.**

**Present:** Director Jensen, Director Newquist and Director Venable. Chief Wallace and District Counsel M. Manion were also present.

- 1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any agenda matter or non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District; 30 minutes total time is allotted for this discussion.**

Director Jensen announced that he had heard rumors from community members that the Board had already determined who would fill the newly created seats if the measure to increase the Fire District Board gets approved in November. He stated that the Board has not discussed or decided who will fill the proposed vacancies, nor could they based on how the Resolutions calling for the election were written and approved. The vacant seats will be filled by the highest vote getters during the election. He also added that he is not retiring as reported in the Montecito Journal.

For Board Action:

- 2. Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting.**

On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the minutes of the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

- 3. Approval of District warrants and claims.**

After an explanation of payments made for training, and to Price Postel & Parma, the Board unanimously approved the warrants and claims for the month of February on a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen.

- 4. Consider request from Montecito Water District regarding Hot Springs Canyon Property.**

Chief Wallace reviewed the request made by Montecito Water regarding the Hot Springs Canyon property, adding that FAIRA, the District's insurance carrier, will not insure the property if it is taken over by the District.

Mr. Jackson read from a prepared statement (a copy of which was received by the District) asking Director Venable to recuse himself from this agenda item as he feels there is a conflict of interest.

A Powerpoint presentation was made by Kerry Kellog and Jeff Saley relating to fire prevention concerns and potential vegetation management programs that could be achieved on the Hot Springs Canyon property.

After a discussion on the history of the property and potential issues that could arise from the District taking ownership, Director Jensen made a motion to decline the Water District's request and end staff and legal time on this project. The motion died for lack of a second.

District counsel advised the Board that if no action were taken by the Board to direct staff to move forward with the potential acquisition of the Hot Springs Canyon property then staff would not be authorized to take any action related to the potential acquisition of the property.

The Board took no action.

**5. Report on formation and function of community service district.**

Mark Manion, District Counsel, provided a presentation to the Board on how community service districts are formed, and how they function.

After discussing on the pros and cons of community service districts, the Board took no action.

**6. Review Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interest requirements. (Due April 1).**

Chief Wallace advised that conflict of interest forms need to be turned in to Geri Ventura no later than April 1, 2012.

The Board took no action.

**7. Report on Staff and Officer Workshop.**

Chief Hickman reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Officer and Staff Workshop held at the Circle Bar B on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, which included strategizing on communication with the community, prevention challenges, District achievements, ways to improve service, training standardizations and the progress of Station 3.

The Board took no action.

**8. CLOSED SESSION: 10:09am / 10:30am**

- a. ***Name of Case: Rhonda Kauer Dalton, individually vs. Montecito Fire Protection District, a public agency; and DOES 1-10, inclusive, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 1381564***

The Board went into closed session at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Manion advised that Board took no reportable action.

**9. Fire Chief's report.**

Chief Wallace reviewed the preparation of the Station Three 3D model; Mr. Cole's letter regarding the Recirculated Draft EIR; recent vegetation fires; recent

rain totals; timeline for 5 member board added to the District website; change in CalPERS discount rate; and the Fire District Association's Annual Conference April 11-14.

**10. Board of Directors report.**

There were no Board of Directors reports.

**11. Requests from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the April Regular Board meeting.**

There were no requests for additional agenda items.

**Director Jensen Adjourned the meeting at 10:45.**