

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, October 25, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by Director Jensen at 8:33 am.

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

1. Public comment:

Mr. Manion explained the meeting process and the order in which items will be heard. (First staff reports, then public comment/questions, and finally, Board deliberation.) He explained this is to help keep the meeting timely and the process is compliant with State law and Brown Act requirements.

Herb McElwee, retired fire Chief stated that he was hired in 1987 as Fire Chief. He and the Board always worked to provide the best service to the community, adding a new headquarters station, paramedic services, MERRAG, and excellent training. Many of the District's personnel became members on National Interagency Management Teams. He feels that Montecito Fire District is one of the leading fire districts in the State of California, and nationally. He advised that the community should be proud and supportive of what the District and the Board are doing to upgrade and provide the highest level service possible.

Warner Owens introduced himself as a candidate for board, stating that he has lived here for 16 years. He has great respect for the services that he receives. He has witnessed that when the community has a need for disaster help and healthcare, Montecito Fire has been there. He hopes to help maintain that level of service.

Mindy Denson introduced herself as a candidate for the board, and is in support of better communication between the board and the community. She wants to see the best training, the best apparatus, increased paramedic service, and the proposed Station 3.

Fire Captain Travis Ederer introduced himself as President of the Montecito Firemen's Association. He stated that the MFA is a non union bargaining group which also maintains the Firefighter's Charitable Foundation. This month the MFA has been supporting breast cancer awareness, and has donated the proceeds to the Santa Barbara Cancer Center. Beginning in November, members will be participating in the 3rd annual "Movember", in support of Men's health. This year will include participation from Montecito Sanitary District and Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District.

John Abraham Powell introduced himself as a candidate for the board. He stated that in the past 15 years, no Director had been originally selected by the community. He stated that he was concerned and felt it was unusual for the 4 retired chiefs, who don't live in the district, would be endorsing candidates. He feels that the best way to have a strong board

and district is to have active community involvement and oversight. He feels that those who are paying taxes in the community are better suited to choose the leaders to oversee the safety services of community.

For Information Only:

2. Financial Presentation from Heather Fletcher, Audit Manager, Santa Barbara County Auditor Controller's Office.

Ms. Fletcher provided an overview of the District's budget process and reporting standards with a PowerPoint presentation, including budget timeline requirements, audit procedures, revenue sources, the payoff of the District's side fund, "dry period" financing, and how the District is prefunding post retirement benefits. (PowerPoint slides available.)

Chief Hickman then explained that internal process of the District's budget development process before it is presented to the Board for consideration.

The Board took no action.

3. Financial Projections Presentation for Station 3.

Chief Hickman presented the financial projections for the feasibility of staffing a 3rd Station. He advised that the projections were based on an annual increase in revenues of 2.1% over 5 years as estimated by Ed Price, Division Chief of the Property Tax Division of the Santa Barbara County Auditor-Controller's Office. This would allow the District to hire 3 additional personnel, and restructure existing staffing to provide for 3 personnel on an engine at each of the three stations, as well as a 2 person squad at Station 1. Each station would have a paramedic if the County EMSA allows for this.

There was public comment in support of the third station, as well as questions relating to the Chief's projections and staffing model.

The Board took no action.

Director Newquist asked for a 5 minute recess at 10:30 a.m.

The Board was back in session 10:35 a.m.

4. Station 3 Progress report.

Rita Bright reviewed the progress and timeline for the Station 3 project. The project went before the Montecito Planning Commission on October 24, 2012, where it was continued to November 28, 2012.

The Board took no action.

5. Annual Vegetation Management Program Accomplishments Report, Jeff Saley, Wild Land Fire Specialist.

Jeff Saley provided an overview of the District's vegetation management program, including grants received, neighborhood clean-up projects, and individual property inspections. (PowerPoint slides available)

The Board took no action.

6. Fire Chief's report.

Chief reported on: (1) 4 recent trail rescues; (2) response to the Temprano Incident in Murietta; (3) mutual aid response to the Lookout Fire; (4) vegetation fire at Humphrey/Eucalyptus; (5) County wide USAR drill; (6) positive pressure attack drill; (7) promotional process; (8) temporary approval to keep repeater at QAD; (9) loss of Verizon cell site affects on CAD connectivity; and (10) up-staffing for current high fire danger conditions.

7. Board of Directors report.

Nothing to report

8. Requests from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the November Board meeting.

No requests made.

For Board Action:

9. Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2012 Regular Meeting.

On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 17, 2012 Regular Meeting.

10. Approval of District warrants and claims.

After an explanation of claims to Capture Technologies and LAFCO, the warrants and claims for August were unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist.

11. Approve and Authorize the Fire Chief to execute an Agreement with certain Residents Located on Banana Road.

Mr. Manion reviewed the contents of the proposed agreement and advised that the counsel representing the residents feels that they are close to coming to a final agreement.

On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board approved and authorized the Fire Chief to execute the agreement and further authorized the Fire Chief to negotiate and make minor changes to the agreement with the approval of District Counsel.

12. Adopt Resolution 2012-10, Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to

Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employee's Retirement System and the Board of Directors Montecito Fire Protection District.

Chief Hickman explained that this resolution is necessary to allow the contractual change with CalPERS relating to the 4.5% pension contributions that will be made by the employees.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Jensen, Resolution 2012-10, Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employee's Retirement System and the Board of Directors Montecito Fire Protection District was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: R.J. Jensen, J. Venable, D. Newquist
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

13. Adopt Resolution 2012-11 to Tax Defer Member Paid Contributions – IRC 414(h)(2) Employer Pick Up.

Chief Hickman advised that this resolution allows for the employees 4.5% pension contributions to be made pre-tax.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Jensen, Resolution 2012-11 to Tax Defer Member Paid Contributions – IRC 414(h)(2) Employer Pick Up was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: R.J. Jensen, J. Venable, D. Newquist
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

14. CLOSED SESSION – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).

Name of Case: Montecito Agricultural Foundation, an Unincorporated Association vs. Montecito Fire Protection District; Board of Directors of the Montecito Fire Protection District; and DOES 1-10 Respondents, Petan Company, a California Limited Partnership; Palmer G. Jackson; and DOES 11-20, Real Parties in Interest, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 1401924.

The Board went into closed session at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 12:04 p.m.

Mr. Manion advised that Board had no reportable action.

Adjournment

Director Jensen adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.