

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, August 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Venable at 2:03 p.m.

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

1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any 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.)

Ms. Keller reported on the private mailer sent out to residents supporting a yes vote on Measure N2014 (Proposition 4 override election). She noted that although three Directors were not specifically listed as supporters, she believed all Directors supported the Measure. She wanted to reiterate that all Directors are working in the best interest of the residents and the District. She also congratulated Peter van Duinwyk on his appointment to the Board but was concerned that others were not interested or afraid to get involved to file for office.

Warner Owens stated that the News Press reported that there appeared to be lack of interest throughout the county for District Board openings.

2. Review current status of Upper Hyde Road Community Facilities District:

a. Report from Roger Collis regarding progress of road improvement project.

Mr. Collis thanked Director Powell and reported that the owners have agreed to fund the improvements privately, form an LLC, and the road improvement plans are currently being reviewed by the building department. He stated that there is consensus to officially dissolve the Mello-Roos and requested a special meeting as soon as possible to begin procedures.

b. Report from Director Powell regarding meetings with Upper Hyde Road residents.

Director Powell reported that the owners' request represents a lot of difficult and delicate work to get to this point. Chief Hickman asked to be advised of any changes made to the plans that were previously reviewed and approved by the Fire District.

c. Provide direction on how to proceed with Tea Fire Rebuilds and Upper Hyde Road Community Facilities District.

On a motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Keller, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting to September 15, 2014 to have the "First Reading" to dissolve the Upper Hyde Road Community Facilities District.

3. Report from the Community Outreach Committee.

a. Review progress of new website and provide direction.

The Board discussed the length of time it has taken, and disappointment with the current state of the draft website. The following changes were recommended:

1. Add/Create a "Splash Page" for Home page without basic template components such as side navigation (similar to the San Ramon website)
2. Clean up page templates
 - a. Remove background photos
 - b. Lighten up templates
 - c. Remove recently added side columns
3. Remove Scrolling side navigation photos
4. Create a landing page for each main navigation page with links to sub navigation menus (as has been asked for before)
5. Keep Header Bar with District name and logo black when "lights on" feature is activated.

The community outreach committee will review these recommendations with Ameravant.

The Board took a recess at 3:15 p.m. and reconvened at 3:24 p.m.

4. Report from the Finance Committee (copy of Agenda for Finance Committee Meeting attached).

a. Consider recommendation to approve proposed Budget Calendar.

The Board asked to add “Board reviews draft Preliminary Budget” after the Finance Committee review in April. On a motion by Director Powell, seconded by Director Keller, the proposed Budget Calendar was unanimously approved as amended.

b. Consider recommendation to approve District’s warrants and claims for June and July.

On a motion by Director Powell, seconded by Director Venable the warrants and claims for June and July were unanimously approved.

c. Review Budget for FY 2014/15 and consider recommendation to approve at September regular meeting.

Araceli Gil reviewed the staff reports for year end and the proposed 14/15 Final Budget.

On a motion by Director Sinsler, seconded by Director Powell the Board unanimously approved the draft proposed Budget for FY 2014/15 and directed Staff to prepare the necessary resolutions for the September regular meeting.

5. Consider recommendation to approve the following temporary promotions:

a. Consider recommendation to approve temporary promotion for Captain Bret Koepke to Battalion Chief, effective July 10, 2014 through August 15, 2014.

b. Consider recommendation to approve temporary promotion for Firefighter Eric Klemowicz to Engineer, effective July 26, 2014 through August 15, 2014.

c. Consider recommendation to approve temporary promotion for Engineer Drue Holthe to Captain effective July 10, 2014.

Chief Hickman explained the process and need for utilizing temporary promotions. He advised that the current MOU requires that temporary promotions (working out of classification) be approved by the Board, which is often after the temporary promotion has been made. He explained that he would like to have the Board delegate this authority to the Fire Chief. On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Keller, the following temporary promotions were unanimously approved:

- Captain Bret Koepke to Battalion Chief, effective July 10, 2014 through August 15, 2014.
- Firefighter Eric Klemowicz to Engineer, effective July 26, 2014 through August 15, 2014.
- Engineer Drue Holthe to Captain effective July 10, 2014.

6. Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2014 Regular Meeting.

On a motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinsler the minutes of June 23, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved. Directors Sinsler, Powell, Venable and Jensen voted in favor. Director Keller abstained.

7. Board discussion on drone detection systems.

Chief Hickman explained that drones are currently being used for fire detection and surveillance on Wildland fires, but private users can interfere with air operations. He did

not see a need to pursue drones for detection, but reported that he will be meeting with a vendor to investigate other detection systems.

The Board took no action.

8. Fire Chief's report.

Chief Hickman reported the following items: opting out of the Montecito Water District litigation; wildland fire responses throughout California; draft findings report from Citygate; and the promotion of Travis Ederer to Battalion Chief.

The Board took no action.

9. Board of Director's report.

Director Sinsler reported that he attended the recent Montecito Water District meeting.

The Board took no action.

10. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the September 22, 2014 Regular Board meeting.

The following items were suggested:

1. Amending the MOU to authorizing the Fire Chief to approve temporary promotions.
2. Recognition of Director Jensen's service to the Fire District.
3. Community Outreach Committee: election posting policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

John Venable

John Abraham Powell