

## MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Held via teleconference connection as permitted under the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020 due to concerns of COVID-19 ("Executive Order").

Director Easton called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:** Director Easton, Director Ishkanian, Director van Duinwyk, Director Lee, Director Powell. Chief Taylor and District Counsel Mark 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 allotted for this discussion.)**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

- 2. Receive presentation from Chief Taylor regarding evacuation modifications during the Public Health Emergency. (Strategic Plan Goal 2)**

Chief Taylor provided a report regarding wildland fire operations and evacuation modifications during the Public Health Emergency. He stated that there have been no changes operationally based on COVID, however the Office of Emergency Management and American Red Cross have made substantial modifications. Chief Taylor stated that the former website "AwareandPrepare.org" is now known as "ReadySBC.org", the new moniker for the alerting program and all evacuation preparation. He stated that the California Office of Emergency Services has provided standardized evacuation terminology: evacuation order, evacuation warning or shelter in place order. The Chief stated that when the community is asked to evacuate, the Office of Emergency Management and Red Cross will set up a temporary evacuation point at a large parking lot, where evacuees gather in their vehicles to prevent congregating. He added that should the evacuation be long term, a reception center will be set up at the evacuation point to attempt to provide hotel rooms to those who need them. He added that Santa Barbara County is conducting an evacuation drill on July 30 at the Goleta Community Center. The Chief also mentioned the District's new Access and Functional Needs program, which allows community members to self-identify themselves as having access or functional needs that would limit their ability to evacuate during an emergency.

- 3. That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement not to exceed \$279,500 with Bright Future Solar Energy for a 20-year PPA. Infrastructure investment of \$279,500 to be allocated from Account 3653 – Land and Building Fund; and, \$10,000 annual allocation from Fund 3650 – General Fund to the Capital Replacement Account, or determine Bright Future Solar Energy bid is non-responsive given battery warranty modification and direct staff to research alternatives to provide energy security. (Strategic Plan Goal 6)**

- a. Staff report presented by Chief Taylor, Battalion Chief Chapman and District Accountant Nahas.**

Chief Taylor provided a staff report regarding Bright Future Solar Energy. After thorough Board discussion, motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement not to exceed \$279,500 with Bright Future Solar Energy for a 20-year PPA. Infrastructure investment of \$279,500 to be allocated from Account 3653-Land and Building Fund; and, \$10,000 annual allocation from Fund 3650-General Fund to the Capital Replacement Account made by Director van Duinwyk, seconded by Director Powell. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Ayes: M. Lee, S. Easton, P. van Duinwyk, J. Ishkanian, J. A. Powell

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 4. Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Meeting.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular meeting made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Ishkanian. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Ayes: M. Lee, S. Easton, P. van Duinwyk, J. Ishkanian, J. A. Powell

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 5. Fire Chief's report.**

Division Chief Widling highlighted significant calls for the month of June. He also reported 1,227 training hours. Chief Taylor stated that the Department remains in Phase 2 of the Continuity of Operations Plan, with a mask order to always wear cloth facial coverings while at work. He stated that the Department has initiated antibody testing, with no positive results. Chief Taylor stated that the County has entered into a contract with the company that owns the old Sears building, as the proposed site of an alternate care facility should the hospitals become overwhelmed with patients. The Chief stated that fire season is here and noted the substantial reduction in live fuel moisture. Chief Taylor

provided an update regarding the sheep project. He also provided an update regarding the Neighborhood Chipping Project. He added that the Department continues with the tag and trim work, as well as a significant fuel reduction treatment in the Randall Road area. Chief Taylor stated that the Department continues to be responsive to the community regarding various issues: bonfires at Hammond Beach, illegal cooking fires and camping on Hot Springs trails, and homeless encampments throughout the community. The Chief also noted that the Department is working with the Montecito Association and their Land Use Committee on the Undergrounding of Utilities Project.

**6. Board of Director's report.**

There were no items to report at this meeting.

**7. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the August 24, 2020 Regular Board meeting.**

There were no additional suggestions from the Directors.

**8. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code section 54957) Title: Fire Chief**

The Board reported out of closed session at 3:35 p.m. with no reportable action.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

---

President Sylvia Easton

---

Secretary Judith Ishkanian