

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, March 18, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Venable at 3:04 p.m.

Present: President Venable, Secretary Powell, Director Jensen, and Director Sinsler. Vice President Keller was absent. 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.)

Jeff Moorehouse introduced himself to the Board as the Special District's representative for LAFCO.

Mr. Robert Ornstein asked what the status is regarding his letter to the Board dated 2/17/13. Director Venable advised he would meet with Mr. Ornstein at a later date to discuss Mr. Ornstein's questions.

2. Update on Upper Hyde Road Mello-Roos Status by Roger Colis.

Chief Hickman reported that Mr. Colis would not be able to attend but hoped to have an update in a week. Mr. Sinsler suggested that the District move toward closure on the Mello-Roos process.

Public Comment:

Ms. Ivana Noel stated that funding for some individuals is only available after final plans are submitted.

The Board took no action.

3. Staff Report on supervised residential sprinkler systems.

Chief Gregson reviewed his staff report on the necessity of having a monitored system for sprinklered structures. The main focus of this requirement is to provide the best service as it relates to fire protection, life safety, and property conservation.

Director Powell asked to survey other agencies to see if others require a monitored system for sprinklered structures. Director Powell will follow up with Chief Gregson on this issue.

The Board took no action.

4. Staff Report from the Prevention Bureau on the availability and use of State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee funds available through the California Conservation Corps.

Jeff Saley reviewed a grant awarded to the California Conservation Crews for hazard reduction programs in SRA areas, including projects they have in Montecito.

Director Powell asked if the public (specifically home owner groups) could access these grants. Mr. Saley advised that Director Powell can follow up with him at a later date to review the application process.

The Board took no action.

5. Highway 101 Alternatives presentation.

Jack Overall reviewed the Montecito Association's concerns with the proposed CalTrans Widening project, and encouraged the Board to write a letter to Supervisor Carbajal, Mayor Schneider, SBCAG, and CalTrans.

The Board discussed some of the issues surrounding the various models proposed.

Chief Hickman suggested that he would reach out to CalTrans so that we can be included in their planning sessions.

The Board took a recess at 4:15 p.m. and returned at 4:25 p.m.

Public Comment:

Ms. Sally Jordan asked the District to send a letter asking CalTrans how the project will affect emergency evacuations and how they can assist.

The Board took no action.

1. Report from the Strategic Planning Committee (Copy of Agenda for Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Attached).

Director Powell reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is currently working on a draft Request For Qualifications (RFQs) for a comprehensive risk analysis study and a standards of cover study. He added that there is no costs associated with an RFQ.

The Board discussed the issues related to costs, impacts on staff, expertise, and the need for the studies to be complete, unbiased and unprejudiced.

Public Comment:

Ms. Sally Jordan stated her concern with the costs associated with these studies and suggested that the Board and the committees do the studies in house with the staff instead of engaging an expensive consultant group.

Ms. Sandie Owens suggested that staff already has many of the statistics needed for these studies.

Ms. Judy Ishkanian suggested contacting the District's insurance carrier to assist with the risk analysis.

Ms. Phyllis Marble suggested an ad-hoc committee that could include local expertise to identify the risks, and have an external consultant quantify the results.

Mr. Bob Hazard stated that he also felt the studies should be done in an unbiased and unprejudiced way.

Chief Hickman stated that that the District could do a good job on the studies, however, given the new impacts of the larger Board, and the number of meetings the Board now requires, staff would not have the time to do the proposed studies.

The Board took no action.

The Board took a recess at 4:50 p.m. and returned at 5:00 p.m.

6. Fire Chief's report.

(1) Santa Barbara County Fire Chief's Position letter on pre-hospital care relating to affordable health care; (2) gas leak 171 Butterfly; (3) citation for illegal burn on Gibraltar Road; (4) reviewed burn permit application process.

7. Board of Director's report.

There were no Director's reports.

8. Report from the Community Outreach Committee (Copy of Agenda for Community Outreach Committee Meeting Attached).

Mr. Sinser reviewed the Community Outreach Committee meeting held on March 11, 2013, including that they will be creating a list of information they'd like disseminated, how it is disseminated and the financial costs associated with publications. They will also be revising the speaker slip. The Community Outreach Committee meetings will be held on the 1st Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Ms. Sylvia Easton encouraged the committee to get out as much fire information as possible. She stated that she felt there was neutrality in previous information dissemination, and was concerned that proposed links to newspapers and publications might change that.

Mr. Bob Hazard stated that he is interested in transparency on the website and would like to see more financial information posted as other agencies have done.

The Board took no action.

9. Report from the Finance Committee (Copy of Agenda for Finance Committee Meeting Attached).

Mr. Sinser reviewed the Finance Committee meeting held on March 07, 2013, including discussions on Employee housing, how employee time is processed, a new spreadsheet listing expenses by categories, top 20 vendors, letter to Cochrane Property Management, request for new report formats, and the budget timeline. Although their next meeting will be held on April 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m., the Finance Committee's regular meetings will then be held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

The Board took no action.

10. Review District Mission Statement.

Director Sinser asked that the Mission Statement include when it was created and by whom.

The Board took no action.

11. Review Board of Director's Code of Conducts and Ethics Policy.

The Board made several suggested changes including cleaning up of format errors, adding "directed at staff, public or other board members" to Section 1 (b) and changing Section 4 to reflect a "voice of five". It was also suggested that the Board adopt a simple rules of order to improve meeting organization.

The Board directed staff to include the proposed changes in the Board of Director's Code of Conducts and Ethics Policy and to include consideration of adopting meeting rules of order for the next regular Board meeting.

12. Review outcome of Station 3 litigation.

Chief Hickman advised that the hearing has been continued to April 16 at 9:30 am.

The Board took no action.

13. Review Grand Jury reports regarding fire coverage/efficiency.

Director Sinsler stated that he wanted the Grand Jury reports included for the Strategic Planning Committee to review, as he felt it would be helpful for general consideration.

Chief Hickman stated that the agency replies to the Grand Jury reports were not included. Additionally, he found some of the information hard to believe and some of the information to be untrue.

Public Comment:

Ms. Sylvia Easton suggested comparing the agency/community similarities/differences when reviewing these reports. Montecito has specific weather conditions that they may not experience there and these kinds of issues may not have been considered.

The Board took no action.

14. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2013 Regular Meeting.

After a corrections suggested by Director Powell, the February 19, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended on a motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinsler.

15. Approval of District warrants and claims.

Director Sinsler pointed out that the Balance line should be corrected to reflect –

After an explanation of payments made for Firehouse Annual Workshop, T. Edwards training reimbursement; Informa Corp; Medical Director Services; Liberty Cassidy Whitmore; Sansum Clinic Medical Exams; Andrew Seibolt; shift vacancy expenses; and Oral Board on 3/25; the February warrants and claims were unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinsler.

Public Comment:

Ms. Lauren Kenly suggested that the Board be mindful of the costs associated with the research being done for them to learn more about what the District does, and in redefining its purpose. The research, requests and subcommittees all come at a cost to the District – and the Board should be “mindful” of these costs.

16. Approval of transfer of funds from Cochrane

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Sinsler, the board

unanimously approved the letter to Cochrane Management Company directing them to transfer excess funds to the District quarterly.

17. Reject claim for damages at 1821 Fernald Point Lane

Chief Hickman explained that this is necessary to process the claim for payment relating to damages that occurred during a response at 1821 Fernald Point Lane.

The Board asked staff to include more information on the damages for future claims presented to them.

On a motion by Director Powell, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board unanimously approved rejecting the claim for property damages at 1821 Fernald Point Lane.

18. Consider Board representation at other community organizations.

Director Sinser suggested this be given to the outreach committee for consideration.

The Board took no action.

19. Consider Adoption of Resolution 2013-04 establishing a Personnel Committee.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Powell, the Board approved Resolution 2013-04 establishing a Personnel Committee on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	R. J. Jensen, A. Powell, G.B. Sinser, J. Venable
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	S. Keller

Director Jensen and Director Venable volunteered to be on the committee.

A vote was called to nominate Director Jensen and Director Venable to the Personnel Committee.

In favor:	G.B. Sinser, J.A. Powell, J. Venable, and R.J. Jensen
Opposed:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	S. Keller

The nomination passed.

20. Consider Adoption of Resolution 2013-05 changing the time of regular meetings.

On a motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinsler, the Board approved Resolution 2013-05 changing the time of the regular meetings on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: R. J. Jensen, A. Powell, G.B. Sinsler, J. Venable
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: S. Keller

21. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the April Regular Board meeting.

Ms. Ventura reviewed the list of items previously brought up throughout the meeting. There were no additional items requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.