

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, August 15, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Director Jensen at 8:45 am.

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

1. Public comment:

Sue Leal Katnic thanked the Board for their assistance in the Upper Hyde Road rebuilding process and announced that her family moved into their home on Aug 6th.

T. Ederer advised that members of the Montecito Firemen's Association (MFA) hoped to get to know the Board members better in the future, and asked the Board to consider allowing the MFA to participate in the recruitment for a 5 member Board, and with the selection of the next Fire Chief.

For Board Action:

2. Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2011 Adjourned Regular Meeting.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist, the Board approved the minutes of July 20, 2011 adjourned regular meeting. Director Jensen abstained.

3. Approval of District warrants and claims.

After an explanation of payments made to Campbell Geo, and FAIRA, the Board unanimously approved the warrants and claims for the month of July on a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable.

4. Approve Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report.

Chief Wallace explained that the Employee Reimbursement Disclosure Report includes all reimbursements that were made to employees throughout the year. The Employee Reimbursement Disclosure Report was unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable.

5. Station 3. Conceptual review of proposed design for Station 3.

Howard Leach, Matt Huntington and Susette Naylor of Leach-Mounce Architects reviewed conceptual sketches of their proposed design for Station 3. They clarified that their presentation reflects an overall appearance of the design, not floor plans. They also reviewed some of the guidelines outlined in the Montecito Community Plan.

Director Newquist asked that Station 3 updates be on future agendas. Ms. Naylor suggested that they hold a meeting for the immediate neighbors sometime before the land use committee meeting so that they can see the direction being taken with the Station 3 design; a larger community meeting can be held after the E.I.R. is complete.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist, the Board unanimously accepted the conceptual drawings, and directed Leach Mounce Architects to move forward with their presentation for the September 6th land use meeting, and a report back at the September 19th Board meeting.

6. Consider letter in support of Santa Maria Air Tanker Base.

Chief McElwee advised that the County Chiefs voted to send a letter to Chief Tom Tidwell of the US Forest Service, with copies to all local legislators and the Board of Supervisors in support of the Santa Maria Air Tanker Base. Because the letter created positive momentum, Former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Willie Chamberlin requested that the Governing Boards of each individual agency also send letters of support.

On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board directed staff to author and send a letter to those whom they feel should receive the letter in support of an air tanker base in Santa Maria.

7. Review and consider response to Grand Jury Report entitled “Local Government Post Employment Benefits in Santa Barbara County – Complicated and Costly.”

Mr. Manion reviewed the draft response to the Grand Jury and reported that it is due on September 19.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board unanimously approved the draft response as submitted.

8. CLOSED SESSION (Pursuant to Government Code section 54957) Public Employee Performance Evaluation:

Title: Fire Chief

CLOSED SESSION – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(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 Combined the closed session for the Fire Chief's Employee Performance Evaluation and the Conference with Legal Counsel for Existing Litigation.

The Board went into closed session at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

Mr. Manion announced that the Fire Chief has informed the Board during closed session that he will be retiring on May 31, 2012.

He also advised that the Board took no reportable action on the Dalton v. Montecito Fire Protection District matter during the closed session.

For Information Only:

9. Fire Chief's report.

Chief Wallace reported that temporary occupancy has been granted to 3 residents on upper Hyde Road; Curtis Vincent retired on July 31st; Update on SRA Fees; Jeff Saley promoting to Full Time beginning on August 1st; and the La Presidente Fiesta Congressional recognition received by the Fire District; and thanked Chief McElwee and Ms. Ventura for their efforts in putting the Board packet together while he was on vacation.

10. Board of Directors report.

There were no reports.

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

Director Newquist asked that the following items be added to the September Board Meeting agenda: Montecito Firemen's Association requests for participation in the selection of the Fire Chief; progress of hydrant on Upper Hyde Rd; discussion about FAIRA and inclusion of the insurance declaration page; reports on Canon View Rd and Station 3.

He also asked that the Management of the Employee Housing be discussed at the October Board Meeting.

Adjournment

Director Jensen adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.