

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, February 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Powell at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:** Director Powell, Director van Duinwyk, Director Sinser, Director Easton. Chief Hickman and District Counsel Mark Manion were also present.

**Absent:** Director Venable

- 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.**

There were no public comments.

- 2. Recognition for 5 years of service: Firefighter Paramedics, Shaun Davis and Robert Galbraith.**

Chief Hickman recognized Bob Galbraith and Shaun Davis for 5 years of service.

- 3. Recognition of Lifesaver Award: Lifeguard, Shannon Busse.**

Chief Hickman recognized Lifeguard, Shannon Busse for her heroic efforts while on duty at the Biltmore Hotel on January 23, 2016.

- 4. Discussion item: Report on the status of the transfer of an easement to Upper Hyde Road property owners.**

District Counsel, Mark Manion provided an update regarding the transfer of an easement to the Upper Hyde Road property owners. He stated that all property owners have been notified and have responded, with the exception of David Jones, a new property owner that has yet to respond. He added that Ivana Noell stated that she does not require the District easement, and is prepared to not accept it. District Counsel recommended an additional 30-day extension regarding the easement transfer agreement in order to attempt to contact Mr. Jones.

- 5. Discussion item: Update on Environmental Impact Report for Station 3.**

Director Sinser stepped down from the Board. Chief Hickman stated that AMEC, staff and Counsel are completing their review and responses to comments from the Agricultural Foundation and the East Valley Preservation Association. The Chief indicated that responses to comments from Petan and the Department of Fish and Game have yet to be completed. Chief Hickman added that these responses should be completed by the next Board meeting. District Counsel indicated that the expectation is that an AMEC representative will present the final version of the EIR document, at which time, the Board

can take action on the document. The Board requested two weeks in advance to review the document prior to the Board meeting. Director Sinsler returned to the Board.

**6. Discussion item: Station 3, including possible alternatives.**

Chief Hickman stated that he is open for suggestions and willing to research on behalf of the Board. Director van Duinwyk stated that the Board should focus for at least the next 90 days minimum to make a decision regarding station 3 at the currently proposed location. Director Sinsler stated that the District should start looking into other alternatives in the meantime, and not be caught short if and when it is determined that the District cannot build on the current location. Mary Rose, representing the East Valley Preservation Association stated that there are 1 ½ acre properties that are available for a much smaller station. She added that she would provide a list of possible sites. After extensive Board discussion, Director van Duinwyk recommended that the staff go through with the presentation of the EIR, and then set up a time-line for future action.

The Board took a break. The meeting reconvened at 3:17 p.m.

**7. Report from the Strategic Planning Committee:**

**a. Consider recommendation to approve the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).**

Director Powell provided a report regarding the CWPP, including the process that led to the final document. Director van Duinwyk requested that a chart of the recent fires be added to the document. The motion to approve the CWPP was made by Director van Duinwyk, seconded by Director Sinsler and unanimously passed.

**8. Report from the Finance Committee:**

**a. Consider recommendation to approve January 2016 financial statements.**

Director Sinsler provided a report regarding the Finance Committee meeting. The motion to approve the financial statements ending January 31, 2016 was made by Director Sinsler, seconded by Director van Duinwyk and unanimously passed.

**9. Approval of Minutes of the January 25, 2016 Special Meeting.**

The motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 Special Meeting was made by Director van Duinwyk, seconded by Director Sinsler and unanimously passed.

**10. Fire Chief's Report.**

Chief Hickman provided an update regarding significant calls during the month of January.

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

Director Easton stated that the one-day seminar she was scheduled to attend in January was canceled due to lack of participation. She indicated that the LAFCO slate approved by the Board was voted in. She also noted that Judy Ishkanian from the Montecito Sanitary District was elected as president of the regional CSDA. Director Easton requested that she be approved to take a strategic planning webinar through CSDA in the amount of \$55.00. She also mentioned that she would attend the CSDA dinner tonight to support Chief Hickman's presentation regarding the Gibraltar Incident. The motion to approve the \$55.00 webinar for Director Easton was made by Director Powell, seconded by Director van Duinwyk and unanimously passed. Director Powell reviewed an email from Ivana Noell withdrawing her request for a 30-day extension for the easement agreement.

**12. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the March 28, 2016 Regular Board meeting.**

The Board determined that the Regular March meeting will be held on April 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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President John Abraham Powell

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Secretary Gene Sinsler