

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, October 28, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Venable 3:00 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.)**

Claire Gottsdanker thanked the Board, Chief Hickman, and the Wildland Fire Specialists for clearing the edges of the private roads on Mountain Drive.

Ben Hauser reported that the Montecito Firefighter's Association will be participating in beautification day, and "Fill the Boot" for Muscular Dystrophy.

- 2. Station 3 Status.**

- a. Review October 10, 2013 letter from Petan Company regarding the Option Agreement between Montecito Fire Protection District and Petan Company for property located on East Valley Road on a portion of APN 155-070-008;**

Director Sinser removed himself from the Dais.

Chief Hickman reviewed the letter from Petan Company. He recommended keeping the funds set aside for a third station in that account until the studies indicate that it is or is not necessary.

Public Comment:

Bob Hazard reported that he had spoken to Jim Jackson and he had stated that he would be open to discussing a land acquisition at another time in the future, but they weren't interested in extending the current option agreement.

Sylvia Easton stated that she supports keeping the EIR in motion, and hopes every effort is made to get it done quickly.

The Board discussed its options and asked to have a closed session on the next regular meeting agenda to discuss purchase options.

- b. Provide direction to District staff regarding the Environmental Impact Report and other activities related to the Station 3 Site Acquisition and Construction Project located on East Valley Road on a portion of APN 155-070-008.**

The Board directed the Fire Chief to continue working with AMEC to revise the EIR.

3. Fire Chief's report.

The Fire Chief reported on (1) Revision to MOU to include the language that was mistakenly deleted; (2) SRA Grants for crew work; (3) structure fire with Carpinteria and brush response; (4) mobile home fire in Carpinteria; (4) Season of Hope food and toy drive for Unity Shoppe; (5) County wide disaster drill; (6) thank you note from Spring Fire; and (7) mattress delivery/donation from Sit-n-Sleep.

The Board asked for a presentation from Captain Ederer at a future meeting on the Spring Fire response.

4. Board of Director's report.

Director Sinsler reported that he attended a recent Water District meeting; and his attendance at the CalPERS annual conference.

The Board took no action.

5. Approval of District warrants and claims.

After an explanation of transfers to general fund, 4850 time and payments made for AOK Weed and Brush; Squad 91 repairs; and the new Squad 91, the Board unanimously approved the District warrants and claims on a motion by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinsler.

Director Sinsler asked that a balance sheet tracking monies due for reimbursement be included in the monthly packet.

The Board took a recess at 4:18 pm and reconvened at 4:36 pm.

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

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

Director Powell reported that the residents had put together a revised draft plan and map, which was submitted to the District, but it needed revisions. They hope to provide a new map by next week.

Public comment:

Ivana Noel's representative reported on her current financial situation and her concerns with proceeding on Upper Hyde Road.

Director Powell asked to keep a placeholder on the next two agendas to entertain the dissolution of the Community Facilities District if we are asked to do so by the residents.

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

The Board took no action.

7. Discussion on process for selecting District consultants and services.

Chief Hickman and Mark Manion reviewed the limitation of purchasing services and hiring consultants.

After discussing the options, the Board directed staff to bring the revised resolution to the next regular board meeting authorizing the Fire Chief to purchase services in the same manner authorized for supplies and equipment.

8. Approve the first reading by title only of Ordinance No. 2013-1 of the Montecito Fire Protection District adopting the 2013 California Fire Code, amending provisions of the 2013 California Residential Code, amending provisions of the 2013 California Building Code and scheduling a public hearing on December 16, 2013, for the subsequent adoption of the ordinance.

Chief Gregson and Mark Manion reviewed the process and timeline of adopting the California Fire Code and reviewed the changes included in the Ordinance.

The Board discussed the Ordinance and their concerns with issues related to the Tea Fire rebuilds that may need to be included.

On a motion made by Director Keller, seconded by Director Powell the Board Approved the first reading by title only of Ordinance No. 2013-1 of the Montecito Fire Protection District adopting the 2013 California Fire Code, amending provisions of the 2013 California Residential Code, amending provisions of the 2013 California Building Code and scheduling a public hearing on December 16, 2013, for the subsequent adoption of the ordinance by the following roll call vote:

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

On a motion made by Director Keller, seconded by Director Powell, the Board directed staff to include the Ordinance on the November 18, 2013 agenda and to provide public notice of the meeting in the Montecito Journal.

9. Report from the Community Outreach Committee (copy of Agenda for Community Outreach Committee Meeting attached).

Director Keller reported that committee is focusing on the two local vendors who submitted proposals and that they had directed staff to follow-up with the vendors on their ability to provide a website with the design features they are looking to incorporate.

The Board took no action

10. Report from the Strategic Planning Committee (copy of Agenda for Strategic Planning Committee Meeting attached).

- a. Consider recommendation to enter into negotiations with one consulting group to provide a Standards of Cover Study with an enhanced environmental impact analysis.**

Director Powell reviewed the process they have gone through to recruit consultants to provide a Standards of Cover study. The Committee feels the best way to proceed would be to enter into negotiations with Diamonte Partners to scope the document and provide a bid. Once a price has been negotiated, they will bring the proposal back to the Board for approval.

On a motion made by Director Venable seconded by Director Sinser, the Board authorized the Strategic Planning Committee to enter into negotiations with Diamonte Partners to provide a Standards of Cover Study with an enhanced environmental impact analysis.

11. Report from Director Keller on lawsuit between the Montecito Water District and Price, Postel and Parma.

Director Keller reported on details of the litigation between the Montecito Water District and Price, Postel and Parma.

The Board took no action.

Director Keller departed at 6:20 pm.

12. Consider proposal from Capital Public Finance Group, LLC to provide Financial Analysis Related to Budgeting and Long Term Liabilities.

Chief Hickman reported on his research to find a Financial Advisor to provide a Financial Analysis Related to Budgeting and Long Term Liabilities as directed from the previous meeting.

Public Comment:

Warner Owens suggested that the Finance Committee have a face to face conversation with the consultant.

Bob Hazard felt the fees are worth the return, suggested that the District limit the scope of work to pension/liability, and supported a face to face interview.

The Board discussed the options and concerns of hiring a financial analyst to review the District's finances and what should be addressed.

The Board directed the Finance Committee to arrange for a conference call at their next meeting, and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

13. Report from the Finance Committee (copy of Agenda for Community Outreach Committee Meeting attached).

a. Consider recommendation to contract Fecher & Company for District's Auditing Services.

Chief Hickman reported that there was a substantial increase in fees charged the Santa Barbara County Auditor's office to provide the annual audit next year, which prompted a request for bids from two other vendors. After review of the proposals, the Finance Committee recommended choosing Fecher & Company for District's Auditing Services.

On a motion made by Director Sinser seconded by Director Venable, the Board unanimously approved contracting Fecher & Company for the District's Auditing Services.

14. Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2013 Regular Meeting.

The minutes of the September 16, 2013 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Director Powell, seconded by Director Sinser.

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

Director Sinser asked to add a discussion on the process of election/appointment for its officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.