

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JUNE 14, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 18:02 hrs. Directors Cooper, Doss, Atkin, Uboldi, Moretti and Chief Bellach were present.

**ROSTER REPORT:** 21 Volunteers, 4 Part-Time and 5 Full-Time. Chief Bellach reported that we have 1 new out of district volunteer and 1 new part time fire fighter.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** MSP Cooper/Doss to approve the CR #21-22-12 for \$34,255.91 and payrolls 05/06/22 for \$23,341.81 and 05/20/22 for \$24,655.92. Director Cooper asked about using an outside entity for the testing of hoses and were volunteers not used to get this done. Chief Bellach replied that only 1 day was used by this company, as opposed to the week it takes our employees. Since we are short man-power, it saves on over-time hours. There was only a \$200.00 difference. Also, volunteers are never used for hose testing.

Director Moretti had a question regarding the 6040 sub-object and what is included in it? Chief Bellach replied that it was for cell phones, internet, telephone, fax line and engine tablets.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:** Jay Gamel, of the public, suggested that the old fire station by Plaza Park get a new coat of paint. Maybe it could be a volunteer project. It was agreed that it did need some paint and repairs and Chief Bellach said it would be addressed after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**OLD BUSINESS:** MSP Doss/Moretti to approve the Consideration of Approval of video conference option under AB 361.

The Finance Committee gave a report on the preliminary budget that had been postponed from the last Board Meeting. The primary focus is on the Secured Property Tax Revenue and of what is budgeted there and on what is put in the Replacement Reserve. What is recommended is a departure from past practices, which was to budget for next FY revenue that is equal to this FY actual collection. This understates the revenue for next year. Real estate assessments and property taxes are going to go up 2%. The committee settled on a 5% increase, which brings the secured property tax revenue up \$947,000.00. This would than increase the Replacement Reserve to \$190,000.00 from the \$145,000.00. It is not the \$220,000.00 that the Reserve Study indicated we should have, but it's in the ball park. A cautionary note, this is not for replacing but since we do have older equipment, we should be putting more in annually. An additional \$20 to \$30 thousand a year along with the \$220,000.00.

Director Moretti acknowledged that this budget fully funds the obligation to the Fire Fighters of 11%.

Chief Bellach stated that this budget shows all other positions would be getting a 5% increase, along with another Captains position for Chief Bellach, for his shift on the engine. All items that go along with the pay raise increase are reflected as well.

Captain Tony Ghisla raised a concern regarding the revenue vs. expense in the budget. He noted that with inflation, pay increases, etc., the revenue that we will be taking in is not going to meet the expense.

Director Atkin brought up Grant writing as a way to generate revenue. He has been approached by 2 members of the community as potential candidates, with Chief Bellach stating 15 grants have been populated so far. Director Cooper thought we should act on this as soon as possible.

Chief Bellach said there are 3 items that are in question in the budget for next year. As of right now, Redcom/Dispatch fees will be funded 1 more year. Lexipol should be funded as well. Upstaffing is at \$300,000.00, which will go fast. If the Board of Supervisors does not fund more, we will have to ask OES to fund the upstaffing, which does not seem realistic for various reasons.

MSP Doss/Atkin to approve the FY22-23 Operating Fund Preliminary Budget. MSP Cooper/Doss to approve FY22-23 Capital Fund Preliminary Budget.

Chief Bellach stated Firehouse software is no longer being supported. We are currently paying \$600.00 a year. Redcom and other District's are using Image Trend. This will be \$1200.00 annually. MSP Uboldi/Cooper.

Chief Bellach started an update on the AMR Tiered Response with Director Doss finishing. The Board of Supervisors extended AMR's contract for 18 months with some provisions. There was a discussion regarding AMR's ALS vs BLS tiered response. Director Doss was concerned about how Redcom would be dispatching an ambulance to a call, especially to a community like Kenwood, as we are between services. The patient has to be very clear about their need, so that the proper response is initiated. The Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to move ahead on AMR's extension for 18 months and also, to move ahead with the conceptual idea of the Tiered Response. This tiered service, conceptually, must include all stakeholders in discussion and a summary/review should come back to the Board of Supervisors, with what is being recommended as an informational item and not an action item. Director Doss was concerned that this plan had been on the consent calendar without real discussion. Chief Bellach stated that the stakeholders believed that the plan had been put on the consent calendar without thinking of what was best for the community. Hence, the summary/review discussion. There was a significant increase in the fees by \$600.00 to \$2,700.00, but that number is still only 80% of what other surrounding areas pay.

Director Doss gave an update for the HR Committee. They have been gathering data and forms with which to give performance reviews for the Chief and the Captains. Most districts hold informal reviews with their Chiefs minus the forms, with the committee gathering templates from several districts for the Captains review.

Director Atkin gave an update for the Consolidation Committee. They are determining who they want to interview in the first round of fact gathering and preparing a list of questions that they would like to ask. Chief Bellach brought up Rancho Adobe as an example, with their ongoing consolidation with Sonoma County Fire. They are in the beginning steps of putting together the ask to the Board of Supervisors for the dollar amount needed of 2 million dollars. That's how much is needed if they want them to consolidate. Chief Bellach will be meeting Chief Akre of Sonoma Valley Fire to get a rough number to present to the consolidation committee. He's thinking 1 million. Captain Ghisla thinks we should also be talking to Sonoma County Fire. Director Doss thinks that the county would like all district's to be consolidated.

Director Uboldi gave an update for the Facility Committee regarding the LED Public Safety Sign. It has been decided that it will be installed on the right side of the building where the bushes are. County Ordinance said an electronic sign can only be 6 ft. high. The bushes will be taken out and the sign installed with new landscaping. Director Cooper asked for a schematic of the sign.

Director Cooper asked if there was any news on the septic permit with Chief Bellach responding there was not. He will call the County again.

**GOOD of the ORDER:** Director Moretti spoke about how many fires had already happened in the last week and how well Fire Departments had responded so quickly to put them out. Chief Bellach stated that we are on Full Dispatch Mode. The rain that we had earlier really helped.

Chief Bellach gave a report on the structure fire on Eggfarm Rd. with a fatality. Captain Ghisla was first on scene with our department, Santa Rosa Fire, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire and Sonoma County Fire responding. After multiple investigations, it was concluded, they don't know how the fire started. Captain Ghisla commented on how good a job Bob, Japen and Doug had done along with the Santa Rosa Fire crew.

Director Cooper would like a firm date on when our water tender will be returning and a contact list for Kenwood Water.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attest:

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