

**Woodside Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
Administration Building
808 Portola Rd.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
September 24th, 2024**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm by Director Miller

Directors Present: Miller, Holthaus, Foster

Directors Absent: None

Staff: Chief Cuschieri, Chief Zabala, Finance Manager Liu, Chief Giuliacci, Chief Douthit, Chief Hird

Zoom Attendees: Chief McKenzie, Captain O’Leary, Chief Nannini, Captain Armanino

Other Attendees: *Zoom Attendees:* WFPD General Counsel Rubin Cruse (RPLG), Rich Dean (Stanford)

I. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made on Non-Agendized Topics.

II. CONSENT AGENDA The Board considered the following consent agenda items:

- C1. Approval of Minutes of the August 27th, 2024, Meeting of the Board of Directors
- C2. Accept Financial Reports August 2024
- C3. Accept Statement of Accounts August 2024
- C4. Accept Warrant List August 2024
- C5. Accept Fiscal Year Estimate vs. Actual 24-25

There were no public comments on the consent agenda.

Director Holthaus motioned to approve the consent agenda and approve Items C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5 as submitted, 2nd by Director Foster. Motion passed 3-0.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA BUSINESS ITEMS

R1. N5 Sensor presentation by Fire Marshall Kim Giuliacci

Fire Marshal Giuliacci provided an update on the status and implementation of the N5 sensors within the Fire District. Highlights of the update are as follows:

- **Current Sensor Deployment:**
 - A total of 13 N5 sensors have been installed in the Fire District.
 - An additional 25 sensors have been placed on Stanford-owned properties.
 - The remaining 12 sensors have been deployed in coordination with Palo Alto.

- **Implementation Overview:**
 - The implementation process was smooth, despite minor challenges, which were resolved as the project progressed.
 - The collaboration between the Fire District, Stanford, and Palo Alto was highly successful.
 - Strong support from local residents allowed the team to install sensors on private land, which was crucial for optimal placement.
- **Installation Process:**
 - Each sensor was installed with multiple sub-sensors and is powered by a solar panel. The sensor poles were installed using quick-setting foam cement, ensuring secure placement.
 - A specialized app was used to determine optimal placement, ensuring that each sensor receives adequate sunlight year-round.
- **Sensor Functionality:**
 - The N5 sensors mimic human olfactory senses, detecting various scents and analyzing them to identify potential wildfire risks.
 - The system uses AI technology, which has been trained to recognize wildfire-specific smells. The sensors have a low false alarm rate of less than 0.1%.
 - In addition to detecting wildfires, the sensors also monitor air quality, with all data transmitted to a centralized dashboard for analysis.
- **Sensor Placement:**
 - Sensors in the Fire District were placed 1 to 2 miles apart, in accordance with the company's recommendations. This spacing allows the district to be fully covered.
 - A sensor was successfully installed at Windy Hill, thanks to the cooperation of local property owners.
- **Notification and Response:**
 - When a potential wildfire is detected, notifications are sent to the Fire District's Battalion Chiefs and Fire Marshal. The process includes alerting San Mateo Dispatch and deploying an engine for smoke investigation if needed.
- **Collaboration and Community Engagement:**
 - A flyer has been distributed to property owners near the sensors, providing information about the sensors and contact details for any questions.
 - Each sensor also features a placard with a QR code, linking to further information about the collaborative efforts between the Fire District, Stanford, Palo Alto, and the Fire Safe Council.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Director Miller expressed excitement to see photos of the vegetation clearing being done on Cervantes.

There were no public comments on this agenda item

VI. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

District Updates

SDRMA Workers' Compensation Insurance Review:

- The Fire District recently met with SDRMA, the workers' comp insurance provider, for a comprehensive policy review.
- Attendees included Chief Zabala, Tracy, Lori, and Chief Cuschieri.
- The review resulted in identifying several issues within the policy, leading to a refund of \$87,869.
- The District had initially paid approximately \$1.4 million, and the reimbursement has already been received, as the payment had been prepaid.

DOJ Live Scan Background Check Authorization:

- Chief Cuschieri completed the Department of Justice Live Scan background check process, which allows the district to conduct background checks for future employees.
- This process, which began in December 2022, took nearly two years to complete.
- The new system will save the district money by reducing the need for external investigators in background checks.

Strike Team Deployment:

- On September 7th, a crew of four members was deployed to the Davis Fire in Nevada, then reassigned to the Airport Fire in San Bernardino County.
- The crew returned on September 17th, along with all fire apparatus and resources.

Personnel Promotions:

- EMS Battalion Chief Scott McKenzie was officially promoted from his interim position to permanent status.
- Captain Chris O'Leary was also promoted to a permanent position as the District's Training Captain.

Fire Prevention and Staff Updates:

- Dominic Flocchini, the Fire Prevention Intern, completed his paid internship and transitioned into a part-time DSI Inspector role while continuing to serve as a Fuel Mitigation Specialist.
- A new part-time, non-benefited Accounts Payable (AP) employee, Grace Chow, will start soon. She will work 1-2 days a week with Tracy, assisting with AP and other tasks.

Station 7 T-Mobile Update:

- The District finalized an agreement with T-Mobile regarding reimbursement for services provided since June 2022, following T-Mobile's use of PG&E services at Station 7.

San Mateo County Updates:

- The San Mateo County Fire Chiefs submitted a letter of support to the president of the San Mateo Community College District for a new paramedic school program.
- The program aims to address the shortage of paramedics in the county, as local departments struggle to hire paramedics due to immediate hiring upon certification.

State Fire Updates:

- As of the report date, California has experienced 6,332 wildfires, burning just under 1 million acres and damaging or destroying 1,687 structures.

There were no public comments on this agenda item

VII. REPORT ON WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Thank you, letters, received from Boy Scout Pack 65, Den 13 for a station tour.
- Two thank you letters from citizens regarding separate medical calls in District 19.
- Thank you and acknowledgement letter from a citizen regarding the Districts support in CERT and acknowledging Selena Brown for her continued support within the community.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

VIII. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no requests for items on future agendas.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting will be held October 29th, at 7:00 P.M at the WFPD Administration Building, 808 Portola Rd. Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Cuschieri – Board Secretary