

**Woodside Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
Administration Building
808 Portola Rd.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
August 4th, 2021**

The Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Director Miller.

Directors Present: Miller, Holthaus, Cain

Directors Absent:

Staff: Chief Lindner, Fire Marshal Bullard, Interim B/C Lambrechts, B/C Smith, Human Resources Manager Lori Arevalo, Fire Captain Hird

Other Attendees: Joseph Charles – San Mateo County Counsel

Public Comment Non-Agendized Topics: Portola Valley resident Bob Turcott addressed the Board and wished to express his thanks for the service WFPD provides to the community. He also expressed his thanks for the evaluation Fire Marshal Bullard performed in the canyon near where Mr. Turcott resides. He has been a resident for 15 years but wished to express his concerns that he feels there is a void only WFPD can fill. He expressed concerns that, in June, PV Town Council elected not to appeal a mandate that requires accommodating a 50% increase in housing units. In July, PV town Council approved an ADU ordinance amendment that allows construction in high hazard areas without requiring minimum structure separation, internal sprinklers, hazard risk assessment, or other basic NFPA standards. He stated he, as well as others, expressed concern that fire safety was being compromised. He also stated residents asked the planning commission and town council to hear public input from a fire safety professional about the impact of these decisions on public safety, but they declined. He feels there needs to be independent, unfiltered, professional guidance regarding the impact of policy decisions and development proposals on public safety. He referred to SB 9 being signed into law, feeling the law allows exclusion of areas as needed for public safety provided certain conditions are met. He feels NFPA 1140 is the obvious choice as the objective standard to protect the community. He feels there may be a conflicting agenda, feels his voice is being silenced at town of PV level, feels the WFPD has the expertise and should have input in the decision-making process. He wishes to hear from the WFPD and hear the District's views are on the issues he raised. He reiterated a desire for the District to embrace NFPA 1140 as the objective standard with which to evaluate proposals. Director Miller thanked Mr. Turcott for expressing his views. No further action was taken by the Board.

Consent Agenda:

Items: Director Holthaus motioned to move items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to the consent agenda; 2nd by Director Cain. Motion passed 3-0.

Regular Agenda:

Item 8: CalPERS Trust (CERBT) Fund (Section 115 Trust Fund) - Discussion

Finance Manager Edwards was absent, but Chief Lindner gave the Board a brief presentation. Members of WFPD attended a seminar a while back where CalPERS was recommending governing bodies move funds from low interest accounts, into accounts that could generate greater return. The district explored these options, but held off at the time, due to uncertainty related to the upcoming fire station builds and remodels, as well as uncertainty in the economy (Covid, etc.). Now that more stability is present, there is a desire to revisit this as an option. Chief Lindner advised the Board that FM Edwards would give a more detailed report for the Board to evaluate, if they choose. Director Miller expressed desire to explore this option, as well as reaching out to others to see what has worked. Director Cain wanted to make sure we have the ability to opt back out, if we choose. Board members agreed to move forward.

Item 9: Station 7 and Station 8 Project Updates:

Interim Station 7 – Still progressing. There was a delay in the project due to an issue with the modular buildings and the architecture/engineering portion. WFPD project management team felt comfortable that issues were resolved. Chief Lindner advised the Board the District was looking at all avenues available to progress with other portions of the project. Director Holthaus inquired if there were any other foreseeable hurdles with the project moving forward. Chief Lindner advised there were none at this time.

Station 8 Remodel – Architects and Builder are moving forward with evaluating the site and getting more detailed information to get through engineering and get plans to submit to the Town of PV to obtain building permits. The goal is to keep personnel on site and in the station during construction. There is still ongoing outreach to the neighbors regarding the landscape plan. A meeting with the neighbors is planned for mid-March.

Station 7 Build – Preliminary plans are in place on moving equipment out of Station 7 and into either storage, the interim station, or to dispose. BC Slaughter is tasked with this, with the assistance of both the project management team, as well as the builder.

Fire Chief's Report:

Covid-19 Pandemic/Vaccination/Booster Shot Update – There is no change in the status of fire personnel and no increase in number of infections. Booster shots are still pending as the Moderna vaccine was used for the majority of WFPD personnel. Moderna still has not received FDA approval for booster vaccinations. Still discussion where WFPD personnel fall into the healthcare provider recommendations. Chief Lindner advised the Board that flu shots will be offered to personnel in the month of October. The community flu clinic, normally sponsored by WFPD, is canceled this year.

Promotional Exams – WFPD completed the promotional examination for Battalion Chief. The test consisted on a one-day assessment center which was held at Station 19. There was WFPD interview that was conducted the following week. 5 candidates took the test. Fire Captain Keenan Hird was promoted to the position of Battalion Chief. He will be assigned to the B- shift, and will start his new assignment 10/1/2021.

The Fire Captain promotional exam will begin on 10/5/2021. There currently 11 individuals who have submitted a letter of intent. The assessment center will be on 10/5, with a WFPD interview to take place 10/13 and 10/14/2021. Promotional offers should take place the last week of October.

The EMS Battalion Chief exam will take place on 10/26/2021. This will be an interview that will be proctored by representatives from San Mateo County EMS, Redwood City Fire, AMR, and WFPD personnel. A list will be established, unknown if there will be a promotion into this position. There are 3 WFPD personnel intending to take the exam.

Statewide Fire Report: Chief Lindner gave an update on the fires burning across the state. Conditions have improved throughout the state. There are approximately 10K firefighters deployed statewide. Currently, no WFPD are deployed to any fires. There 11 major fires burning in the state. The most significant fire of note is the KNP Complex, burning in the Sequoia National Forest.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no written communications.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M. and entered closed session.

Closed Session:

Chief Lindner advised the Board of personnel issues regarding time off on work-related and unrelated issues. No action was taken by the Board.

Chief Lindner advised the Board of a disciplinary/employee performance issue. After discussion, the Board took no further action.

Return from Closed Session: The Board returned from closed session at 8:55 P.M.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting will be held October 25th, 2021 at 7:00 P.M at the WFPD Administration Building, 808 Portola Rd. Portola Valley, CA 94028. (Or virtual or a combination of both depending on Covid-19 related concerns).

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Cain – Board Secretary