

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Station 7  
3111 Woodside Road  
Woodside, CA 94062  
November 24, 2008

Director Gardner called the regular meeting of the WFPD Board of Directors to order at 7:25 pm.

**Directors Present:** Gardner and Berger

**Staff:** Fire Chief Armando Muela, B/C Don Romero, B/C Dan Ghorso, B/C Emil Picchi, B/C Kevin Butler, Captain Steve Slaughter, Captain Rob Lindner, Firefighter Robert Douthit, Business Manager Kate Edwards, Administrative Assistant Pamela Van Horn.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items 1 – 4 and 6 of the agenda were moved to the consent agenda and approved unanimously. The Closed Session was postponed until after Written Communications.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**Item 5: Fiscal Year Spreadsheet.** Board Member Berger raised the point that the actual Ending Cash Balance for October had not been carried over to the beginning Cash Balance for November. Business Manager Edwards acknowledged the oversight. She will make the appropriate correction. Board Member Berger has heard a rumor that CalPERS suffered a 30% overall hit on its investments due to the current international financial situation. B/C Ghorso recently read in the newspaper that CalPERS would be increasing retirement contribution requirements by 4 – 5%. Business Manager Edwards stated that, based on the funding calculations used by CalPERS, we still do not expect to see any immediate increases in costs. ~~The Fire District will see any increase in our PERS contribution in 2011.~~ [The Fire District will see any increase in our PERS contribution in 2011.](#) Mr. Berger asked if there was any indication that the County might request financial support in its efforts for recovery from Lehman Brothers. Both the Fire Chief and the Business Manager said they would check their sources to see if this is a consideration. The School District has considered suing the County for not having pulled out of Lehman earlier.

## STAFF REPORTS:

**EMS** – The Fire Chief reported for B/C Picchi that two of the probationary firefighters have completed their paramedic internships and are awaiting ~~waiting to take~~ their National Registry exams. EMT test review was the topic for this a significant issue for the month ~~month's EMS Training~~. The JPA has been working on EMS Supervisors' leadership issues regarding staffing and assignments. An ad hoc Operations group is reassembling within the JPA. The ad hoc group will be reviewing the JPA/AMR operational agreements. The group will recommend any revisions to the JPA Executive Committee. Belmont San Carlos Fire and Half Moon Bay are both interested in having a stand-by ambulance, depending upon the terms available from AMR. "Star?" cars have been discussed but \_\_\_\_\_ is not willing to pay for them.

**IT** – B/C Romero reported that the State has our third quarter data from FireRMS for the National Fire Incident Reporting System. On-going server maintenance was completed. The district map now has shading areas which ~~areas that make the new map easier to read~~. Mobile Status Terminals (MST) are ~~are~~ an alternative to direct radio communication radios for tracking our apparatus auto status status devices. ~~Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) laptop~~ are another consideration. MDT's ~~They are mobile, not radios, and are mobile, and~~, by nature, less reliable than radios, due to since they are run on a cellular wireless system. Director Berger asked if there would be any value in having both, for redundancy. The response was that cellular transmission rates are so poor now, that having both means of communication would not really equal redundancy. The radio frequency tests, using the current equipment, were a not reliable disaster. Director Berger suggested that we communicate with ~~find a way to pressure~~ the towns and residents to be more accepting of cellular towers. More towers would provide better coverage for the District. With the status quo, we would be unable to communicate within the district if a major emergency was to occur!

**TRAINING** – Battalion Chief Butler reported that the county has been very busy with training. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the Academy. Academy graduation will take place at Upland Crystal Springs High School in Hillsborough. The probationary employees have been working hard, and performing very well. Jim Cunnie has resigned from his ~~probationary assignment~~. The others probationary employees are progressing nicely toward their paramedic certification. The NUMI cars have provided opportunities to practice auto extrication challenges in a more real environment. New designs mean more safety features, like side impact air bags, booby traps which ~~and~~ increased dangers for firefighters performing extrication. Unfortunately, safety personnel will always be in a "catch-up" situation when it comes to new cars. NUMI is assisting with keeping our firefighters as current as possible.

**OPERATIONS** – B/C Ghiorso reported that the exhaust system at Station 19 has a problem and will be repaired. The new air packs, complete with all component ~~are components are~~ now in service. Over 1/3 of the cost was offset by a grant for from ~~Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG)~~. We received another grant for from ~~portable Metro Mobile for~~ radios from AFG. The price of the radios decreased since the

submission of the grant application. Fire Marshal Enea will resolve this issue with [AFG Metro Mobile](#). We anxiously await the May 2009 delivery of the new engines.

**FIRE PREVENTION** – Fire Chief Muela reported for Fire Marshal Enea that the new web site should be available soon. It will contain a link for the new Rescue 7 Foundation. [Medical Reserve Corp](#) “funded” the flu shots via CERPP [this year](#). We received donations of \$700.00 during the clinic at Station 7. Director Berger indicated the need to meet to review the mission statement of the new foundation and to ~~make preparations~~[prepare](#) to present it to the public.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business was presented to the board.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:**

1. John Dellinges thanked Fire Chief Muela for his nice words at the Retirement Celebration.
2. Rawn Pritchard sent a thank you for the Retirement Party.
3. Brian Schindler sent a thank you for the Harry & David gift basket.
4. The North County Fire Authority ~~thank the~~[thanked the](#) District for “your caring, kindness and professionalism” shown related to the loss of Angelina Ciucci. Our District covered one of their stations during Angelina’s funeral.
5. Palo Alto Fire Department advised that they are switching to the new Fire Run Maps in a phased approach. During the process, Palo Alto Communications will identify which map to reference as part of the dispatch. In an aside, Fire Chief Muela added that the confusion about coverage for the area around the Alpine Inn is resolved. Whichever of the two organizations, Woodside Fire Protection District or Palo Alto Fire Department, receives the initial call will respond accordingly. Santa Clara County will conduct any fire inspections required, regardless of which organization responded.

Fire Chief Muela released the Staff prior to the commencement of the Closed Session.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at [9:30](#) ~~pm~~ pm. The next meeting ~~date~~ is ~~scheduled for~~ [January 26, 2009](#).

Respectfully submitted,

| Peter Berger