

**PENINSULA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

November 20, 2024 Minutes

1) Fire Board President Nancy Foote called the meeting to order at *11:00 A.M.*

2) Fire Board Members present: President Nancy Foote, Secretary Tracey Smith, Director Mark Burnham & Director Joseph Spooner. Absent: Vice President Bill Barry.

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray & Administrative Assistant Holly Coons-Price.

Public Present: 1.

3) Pledge of Allegiance: President Foote led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes for *October 16, 2024*

President Foote asked if anyone who had read the meeting minutes would like to make a motion to approve them along with the November agenda. Director Burnham stated he had read the meeting minutes and motioned to approve them along with the agenda. President Foote seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

5) Approval of Agenda for *November 20, 2024*:

See above.

6) Public Comment:

President Foote called for public comment.

Shawn McKenzie from Seneca Hospital complimented Fire Chief Gray. He said that Chief Gray has done a really good job with something as complicated as the annexation of Chester.

7) Old Business:

A. Shared Service Options in the Almanor Basin:

Chief Gray explained that one of the most recent questions he received was when Chester Fire's \$95.00 base tax would start coming to Peninsula Fire. The chief explained that the citizens of Chester will continue to pay this tax to the Chester Public Utility District for approximately 30 years. This tax was allocated for CalPERS' unfunded liability for safety employees. Chief Gray said the other question was, are the Peninsula residents aware that when we annex Chester, that will increase the voting body to pass the increases in the future? Chief stated we have other ways to increase funds as we have talked about in previous meetings. We have room for growth with fees for services like building inspections. He plans to develop fee schedules along with increasing our ambulance billing rates, capturing some of the tourist tax would also be visited in the future.

All the documents have been submitted to LAFCO for the annexation of Chester. The next step is to go over the cost to lease their building or the airport space. Chief said he will meeting with Adam Cox after the Thanksgiving week. Chief said \$1,200.00 a month was talked about which is more than we could do. After a brief discussion the Board decided to find out what CPUD's lease amount is and for how long.

8) New Business:

A. Open Negotiations with Almanor Firefighters Association Labor Body:

- AFA Negotiators – Arbuckle & Carter
- Peninsula Fire Board Negotiators - Foote & Burnham

President Foote asked the Chief when the next meeting with the labor body would be. The chief said a time has not been worked out yet. He did talk to their president, and the plan is for them to meet first. The chief informed the board that the employees' wages have been fixed, and for the most part, they are being paid appropriately now. There is some back pay that will be adjusted, and he is pushing for this meeting as soon as possible.

B. Increase Ambulance Billing Charges:

The Fire Board received a copy of the current ambulance billing sheet and the proposed new one with increased rates.

The chief explained that this increase stems from the assembly bill that the Senate approved. The patient cannot be billed for the balance after their insurance pays.

After talking with NorCal, I realized our costs are significantly lower than industry standards.

After a brief discussion, President Foote moved to approve the new ambulance billing rate based on the recent evaluations. It will become Effective on November 20, 2024.

Director Spooner seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

There was no further discussion.

President Foote called for the vote:

Foote - AYE, Smith- AYE, Burnham- AYE, Spooner- AYE

Barry - Absent

9) Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Gray reported that out of 57 calls, we ran 24 in Chester. The chief stated that the calls seem to slow down in the winter. There were no major incidents in October.

Chief informed the board we are making our process better as we grow. We are working on restocking our medical supplies. We are implementing a daily check on our medical supplies. The paramedic writing their report will be able to input the supplies used for each call with our ESO records management & billing software. This will keep track of the supplies we have in stock so we will not run out. Chief reminded the board that Seneca Hospital restocks some of the ambulance supplies at no cost. Some items we order that we can bill for.

Chief Gray informed the fire board that we received a call to respond to ECHO Lake for an individual that had fallen off a kayak and was stranded in the water.

When we arrived, Cal Fire and Forest Services were there. Both agencies could not get this man out of the water because of the liability of possibly more distressed people. The highway patrol helicopter was called and arrived in approximately 45 minutes. By then, the individual was so fatigued that he could not hold the rescue rope to be pulled out of the water. Eventually, this method worked, and we transported the patient, who was in very bad shape and could have died.

Chief said in general he thought the whole process could have gone better with the properly train personnel. Chief reminded the board that we have a program for water rescue on the lake and should have a program for the smaller lakes. Chief Gray said while working near the coast he is aware of several aquatic programs and one being a large paddle boards that are very effective in water rescues. If we had a paddle board the individual could have been rescued in a quarter of the time it took at this incident. Chief said he is considering what it would cost to purchase paddle boards and dry suits. Currently we have personnel that are trained in water rescue and we could add more with training. Chief said the funding for this program is something that he needs to figure out.

President Foote stated that some organizations may donate funds. The Almanor Foundation, Almanor Fishing Association, Ducks Unlimited, and ELKS were mentioned.

Chief Gray informed the board that he had not received a response from the KBK Foundation regarding their grant funds. His request was for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and turnout gear. He said the current SCBAs will soon be outdated. We have Chester Fires, if needed, which are the same as the ones we requested from KBK. The chief said he would keep the board informed.

B. Fire Board of Directors' Reports / Comments:

Director Burnham stated that the paddle board program is an excellent idea.

Director Smith stated that the younger generation likes to be more remote, so it is a very smart decision to think more extensively than we have ever thought before. So we should get prepared.

President Foote thanked Chief Gray and congratulated him.

There were no other comments from the board of directors.

10) Correspondence:

None

11) Future Agenda Items:

A. Shared Service Options in the Almanor Basin:

B. Fire Chief's 1-year Evaluation

12) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:

December 18, 2024 @ 11:00 AM, Station 2

13) Regular Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business, President Foote adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by *Holly C. Coons - Price*.

The November 20, 2024 meeting minutes were approved on December 18, 2024.

X



Nancy Foote, Fire Board President