

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

**October 16, 2024 Minutes**

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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 Joseph Spooner. Absent: Vice President Bill Barry & Director Mark Burnham.

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray & Administrative Assistant Holly Coons-Price & EMS Billing Coordinator Nikole Machado. Public Present: 3.

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

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes for *July 17, 2024*

*(The August & September Meetings were canceled)*

President Foote asked the fire board if they had read the July 17, 2024, minutes and if they had any corrections. There being none, President Foote called for a motion to approve the July minutes. Upon a motion by Secretary Smith, seconded by Director Spooner, and with a unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as written.

President Foote called for any discussion, and there was no further discussion.

5) Approval of Agenda for *October 16, 2024:*

President Foote asked the fire board if they had reviewed the agenda for October 16, 2024, and if they had any additions or comments, there being none, and President Foote called for a motion to approve the agenda. Upon a motion by Secretary Smith, seconded by Director Spooner, the motion was unanimous.

6) Public Comment:

President Foote called for public comment.

There was none.

7) Old Business:

**B. Shared Service Options in the Almanor Basin:**

Chief Gray explained that we have been meeting weekly, sometimes multiple times a week, to discuss the process of annexation with Chester. The communications between the two boards are good and moving forward. The chief said the most important discussion, and it has been agreed upon, is that Peninsula Fire will not go into debt for this process. We have crunched a lot of numbers and agreed we could do this, but barely.

Chief explained that a letter was sent to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors asking them to contribute \$50,000.00 out of their budget toward the professional fees, reviews and mapping that would need to be paid for the annexation process. Chief said he attended their meeting yesterday because we were on the agenda.

Chief said after a lengthy discussion, they did come back with a counter offer to give us a \$50,000.00 loan to cover these fees, but Chief said he declined because going in to debt is

not an option. We needed a 2/3 vote but only received 3 out of 5 supervisors that voted in favor of helping with these fees to help the town of Chester. McGowan, Goss and Hagwood were in favor and the other two said they did not want to start a precedence for other Plumas counties so voted no.

The chief informed the board that right at the beginning, the Plumas County Auditor-Controller and CAO were both quick to say, "We cannot do this, and it will never happen." The chief said that after talking with LAFCO, they informed him that this had happened before, and the County was able to turn the request around in a few days.

The chief explained that if we don't process this application for LAFCO in December, we will not receive the tax funds until 2026. He said that until then, we would own Chester's problem without receiving any money. We can continue responding to Chester's EMS calls and will bill insurance and patients for reimbursement, which will help compensate our services. We hope the annexation goes through, or if it doesn't, then we can say we tried.

The chief explained that Chester's airport building is being considered for staffing our personnel or leasing their fire station on Main Street. He said the Chester board wanted too much to lease their building on Main Street, so this idea has been tabled for now. The chief explained that he is interested in Chester's assets and will get this in writing.

Chief confirmed that Chester will pay Peninsula \$440.00 per parcel per year.

Chief Gray explained that the Peninsula Fire Board needs to move forward and review and approve the draft resolution between Chester and Peninsula before we can proceed to annex Chester's parcels.

The district's ambulance billing rates were discussed. Our rates will be increased to meet industry standards.

## 8) New Business:

### A. Open Negotiations with Almanor Firefighters Association Labor Body:

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

Chief Gray explained that there is not an attachment because the MOU is still being worked on. The chief explained that the MOU was not being distributed to the labor body, and there is a meeting tomorrow with the labor body to revisit the changes. The chief reported that a new president for the labor body was voted in at their last meeting and requested that labor negotiations be re-opened to address some issues.

There are two meetings set up this week to correct the MOU for distribution.

There was a question regarding who is responsible for distributing the MOU and setting up meetings. It was confirmed that the President of the labor body is responsible not the district's office staff.

## B. Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 / 2025:

The chief reported on the final budget. President Foote made a motion to approve the final budget for 2024/2025. President Foote called for a discussion, but there was none, and upon a second by Director Spooner, the motion was unanimous.

*Foote -AYE*

*Smith -AYE*

*Spooner -AYE*

*Burnham -Absent*

*Barry -Absent*

There was a discussion regarding the Fire Sirens and the money they raise for us.

Chief Gray said he attended their last meeting, and they approved new replacement chain saws, rescue ropes, and medical bags. The Firemen's Association agreed to pay half of the amount. He said our new ambulance will arrive in June, and he has asked the Sirens to help with the cost of a new auto-loading device for the gurney, which is about \$60,000.00.

Chief said he informed the Sirens he would ask for help purchasing this early this spring. He is putting together a wish list for them.

## 9) Reports:

### A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Gray reported 71 calls for the month of August. 65 Medical Aids, 1 Public Assist and 5 Fire Calls, 2 that wildland.

The chief reported 55 calls in September, 48 Medical Aids, 4 Public Assists, and 3 Fire Calls that were outside the district.

There was a question regarding keeping track of the Chester runs and the time frame to respond. Chief asked EMS Billing Coordinator Nikole Machado to print a list for his 1:00 meeting today.

Chief Gray contacted dispatch to count the number of times Peninsula covered Chester when Chester had no staffing. There were 14 times in August.

Chief Gray informed the Board that he has not received final approval for the items he requested from The KBK Foundation. The chief requested new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) because our current ones are getting close to being outdated. They need to be replaced every ten years. The chief also requested new turnout for fighting structure fires and rescue rope.

Chief said he will keep the board informed of the outcome from KBK.

Chief reported that our new ambulance will be here in June.

Chief reported that we have received some funds from Office of Emergency Services (OES) from pre-position and strike team operations, which he needed to up-staff for.

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 *October 16, 2024* meeting minutes were approved on *November 20, 2024*.

X   
Nancy Foote, Fire Board President