

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

April 17, 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, Vice President Bill Berry, Secretary Tracey Smith and Director's Mark Burnham & Joseph Spooner. Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray, Administrative Assistant Holly Coons-Price. 3 Firefighters attended.

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

4) Approval of Minutes for *March 20, 2024*:

President Foote called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for *March 20, 2024*. Upon a motion by Secretary Smith, seconded by Director Burnham, and with a unanimous vote, the Fire Board meeting minutes were approved as written.

5) Approval of Agenda:

President Foote called for a motion to approve the Agenda for *April 17, 2024*:

Upon a motion by Secretary Smith, seconded by Director Burnham.

The motion was approved unanimously.

6) Oath of Office for Board of Director – Joseph Spooner:

Administrative Assistant Coons-Price administered the oath of office to Joseph Spooner.

Joe was appointed by the board of directors on April 17, 2024 and ends December 1, 2026.

7) Public Comment:

President Foote called for public comment.

There was none.

8) Old Business:

A. Almanor Firefighters Association – Negotiations – Discussion

AFA Negotiators – Arbuckle & Carter

Peninsula Fire Board Negotiators - Foote & Burnham

Lieutenant Arbuckle informed the Fire Board that he plans to meet on Monday with the labor body and he will keep the Peninsula negotiators and the Chief up-dated.

President Foote explained that the Peninsula negotiators will be happy to meet with Arbuckle at his convenience.

There was no further discussion.

9) New Business:

A. Shared Service Options in the Almanor Basin:

Chief explained that after a conversation with President Foote regarding shared services options in the Almanor basin, they agreed it time to meet with the other fire agencies.

Chief explained an AD HOC committee needs to be formed with board members from each fire district around the Almanor basin to discuss where they are at with their agencies. Chief asked our board if they has any questions regarding consolidation or shared services.

Chief assured the Peninsula board that this area would not take an adverse reaction from any decisions.

There was a discussion regarding Chester Fire tax assessment. Chief said he has been looking at the amount of parcels that are located in Chester and Chester Public Utility District.

Chief explained the administrative agreement between Peninsula and Hamilton Branch Fire includes administrative responsibilities, operations and staffing is reimbursed out of their budget. Administrative Assistant Coons-Price stated their reimbursed amount runs between \$28,000.00 and \$30,000.00 per month.

Chief said similar responsibilities can be done for Chester if they brought in a \$450.00 yearly tax per parcel. He has thought about keeping an ambulance staffed in Chester so we are not pulling our ambulance in to Chester so often. Chief said we cannot keep responding to Chester without getting funded.

Chief informed the fire Board that out of 45 responses in March only 14 were in Peninsula and Hamilton Branch area.

President Foote stated that there is no point in having an AD HOC meeting that includes Chester Fire board until after the results are in from their tax measures.

President Foote said she would like to see Hamilton Branch Fire, West Almanor Fire and Peninsula Fire have a discussion regarding consolidation.

President Foote asked the Board of Directors for comments.

Vice President Barry asked about Chester Fire's debt and their tax dollars.

Chief Gray explained the amount of Chester's debt seems to move around a lot.

President Foote stated we cannot get a straight answer.

Chief explained that if their measure does not pass they will have to brown out their fire station when there is no volunteers. They may maintain a fire chief and some administrative staff to collect their current taxes to pay down the loan to Chester Utility Services District. Chief stated Chester has a responsibility to keep serving their community under the current tax assessment.

President Foote explained that we can discuss consolidation with both sides of the lake (Hamilton Branch & West Shore) without discussing Chester Fire.

President Foote asked Fire Chief Gray if he would contact Hamilton Branch and West Shore fire boards to meet on the subject of consolidating. Chief said he would.

Director Spooner asked what Peninsula Fire is gaining. Chief Gray explained pooling funds, better staffing and efficiency all around. Chief reminded the fire board that funding would increase and the staff pay rates would be determined for all staffing along with new cost per parcel if consolidation happens.

Chief Gray stated at least we are trying to come to a conclusion to help with the problem with Chester Fire without losing money and including the other fire districts is the most efficient way financially for everyone.

10) Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief reported a total 45 calls in the March.

1 Fire call in Chester & 24 Medical Aids in Chester.

14 Emergency calls between Peninsula and Hamilton Branch.

There were 5 emergency calls in other areas. (Westshore and Westwood).

Chief explained that West Almanor Fire is responding to Chester for some medical aids while Peninsula is in route because their Fire Chief is a paramedic and lives in Chester.

Chief reported Chester Fire is closed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There is nobody there so it is all on Peninsula for medical responses. The West Shore fire volunteers respond to fire calls.

Chief reported he has a meeting on Friday with the Fire Safe Council Coordinator to learn more about a grant for fuel reduction for the Peninsula area.

Chief reported that Hamilton Branch is in the process of getting a new driveway and parking lot.

Chief thanked Paramedic Dave Henderson for all the CPR training for the community. There have been businesses in our community, Lake Almanor Country Club employees and some of our own employees getting certified.

Chief reported he is working on a revised policy for emergency response services along with inter facility transfers (IFT) including the air field and it should be completed soon.

Chief Reported that Firefighter Arbuckle is working on a new internet telephone system that will save the district about \$400.00 each month.

Chief reported that Holly is doing a good job managing the office with our new employees Turi and Nikole. Chief thanked Holly for helping him with whatever he needs on the spot and keeping the office running efficiently.

Chief reported he is working on the district's preliminary budget for year 2024/2025.

Chief reported his house in Felton is on the market and he is looking at houses on the market in this area.

B. Fire Board of Directors' Reports / Comments:

President Foote asked the Chief when he completes his plan with Seneca Hospital to let the Fire Board review it, prior to submitting it to Seneca. Chief said he would.

President Foote asked the board if they have any reports or comment.

Director Spooner asked if a Fire Department can just shut down.

Chief said the Plumas County Board of Supervisors would get involved. Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) would get involved also.

Secretary Smith stated more information is needed from Chester Fire board before including them in a consolidation meeting.

Director Burnham asked if Chester's measure passes for a volunteer fire department, does this mean they can only use those funds for fire protection. Chief said yes or they would have to return the funds if they shut down.

President Foote thanked Chief Gray for his bravery during this trying time and stated the fire board is behind him.

11) Correspondence:

None

12) Future Agenda Items:

A. Almanor Firefighters Association - Negotiations

B. Standard Documentation for Employee Mandatory Physical Fitness

13) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:

May 15, 2024 @ 11:00 AM, Station 2

14) Regular Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business, President Foote adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 11:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by *Holly C. Coons - Price*

The meeting minutes for *April 17, 2024* were approved on *May 15 2024*.

X



Nancy Foote, Fire Board President