



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

LOCATION: CAL FIRE Headquarters

Highway 9 in Felton, CA 95018

DATE: November 16th, 2011

TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Draft Minutes for November 16th, 2011

- 1.0 Introductions/Call to Order
 - 1.1 Meeting began at 4:05pm

- 2.0 Approval of Minutes from 9/21/2011
 - **Motion** to approve Draft Minutes made by Bob Stokes.
Motion Seconded by Tom Scully
All in favor; none opposed
Motion passed

- 3.0 Oral Communications (items not on agenda, 3 minutes per person)
 - 3.1 None

- 4.0 Correspondence
 - 4.1 Email Response from John Scott Regarding SAFER Grant Impact on Workers' Comp Premium
John Scott states that an increase in the training stipend due to the SAFER grant, will not affect Workers' Comp premium. The premium is based on the number of volunteers, not the amount they are paid.

- 5.0 Business
 - 5.1 New Business
 - A. Discussion of mapping local area water tanks.
 - 1) Tom Scully suggested the marking and mapping of all private local area water tanks as well as notification of new installations to County Fire Volunteer Companies.
 - 2) Scott Jalbert clarified that private water source donations are voluntary, and that mapping would have to be based on owner's consent. In the event of emergency, private water tanks can be accessed, however, the responsible agency is obligated to replenish the tank with potable water.
 - 3) Loma Prieta currently has an online database where local residents can voluntarily register their water source. The possibility of a County Fire registry was discussed briefly. No tasks were assigned.
 - 5.2 Old Business
 - A. Review of the September 20th Options Letter to Board of Supervisors and discuss future Options Letter, due to Board of Supervisors by December 13th.

Discussion and ranking of options listed in letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Options listed from most desirable to least desirable:

- a. Increase Revenue
 - b. Reduce staffing in Fire Marshal Office
 - c. Close County Fire Station
 - d. Close County Fire
 - e. Reduce number of firefighters
 - **Motion** made by Tom Scully, that FDAC accepts ranking as listed above and that FDAC members take this information/recommendation to their district supervisors.
Motion seconded by John Willett
All in favor; none opposed
Motion passed
 - f. Formation of Budget Subcommittee:
Paul Horvat, John Willett and Arnie Wernick (Ginny Petras and Chief Jalbert to be present as well).
- B. Report on County Fire's Financial Situation (including projections into the future – near and far)
County Fire is on track so far for FY 2011/12. ISO says that heaters may not be necessary in apparatus bays, which would save us \$40,000 in the current budget. The reserve is expected to sustain County Fire through FY 2012/13, at which time services may need to be altered if revenues are not sufficient.
- C. Report on the Number of Active Volunteers and Recruitment Efforts
Discussion commenced regarding the need for a Recruitment Subcommittee. Members were not assigned.
- D. SAFER Grant Update
Chief Larkin is working closely with Training Battalion and Alex Leman to develop process for tracking volunteer responses to incidents. It is not fully implemented at this time.
- E. Update on the New Water Tender
Water tender could arrive next week. Training for water tender will be made available to all companies.
- F. ISO Inspection Update
Chris Walters has been working with the ISO inspector to identify risk factors and complete suggested improvements. Process may take a few more months, but so far it appears that we are within compliance.
- G. Update on Housing of the Fall Creek Engine
The Fall Creek engine will again be housed in the McDermott apparatus bay for the winter months to comply with ISO requirements.

H. Update on the Master Plan Adoption and Implementation
Staff to finalize draft Master Plan for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

I. Report on Mapping Issues

Tom Scully expressed his concern that current maps in adequate numbers be available at all County Fire stations for use by mutual aid resources. Scott Jalbert will follow up on this request.

6.0 Information Reports

6.1 Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Report

SRA fees, as proposed by Governor Brown, will likely be held up in litigation due to threat by Howard Jarvis Association and other opposing agencies. This situation is not expected to impact the County Fire budget.

7.0 Roundtable

Alex Leman – Community members in Loma Prieta are taking action to save County Fire and are willing to pay extra if needed.

Luisa Haddad – Retiring as an active volunteer firefighter after fifteen years of service. She will remain as an auxiliary member.

8.0 Adjournment and set next regular meeting – Wednesday, January 18th, 2011

➤ **Motion** to adjourn made by Bob Stokes

Motion seconded by John Willett

All in favor; none opposed

Motion passed

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