



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES

December 9, 2019

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Chair Galey called the meeting to order, and Fire Captain Gil Caravantes led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Lisa Bartley – At Large Alternate #1
Erel Betser – District I
Richard “Tom” Chapman – At Large #2
Michael Daugelli – District III
Mike Egan – At Large #1
Walter Fields – At Large Alternate #2
Debra Galey – District IV
Matthew Guichard – District II

Fire Chief: Lewis T. Broschard III

Absent: None

BADGE PINNING CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS

Fire Chief Broschard presented recently promoted Assistant Fire Chief Michael Quesada with his badge.

Fire Chief Broschard and Communications Manager Traci Barkley presented Fire Dispatcher Jeannine Owens with her ten-year service award pin.

Fire Chief Broschard and Advisory Fire Commissioner Tom Chapman presented Fire Captain Gil Caravantes with a service award pin and an additional special award in recognition of 40 years of service with the Fire District. Commissioner Chapman was an active Fire Captain with the District in 1979 when Captain Caravantes first joined the District.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Chair Galey opened the public hearing on the December 4, 2019 Report on the Cost of Abatement. Hearing no objections or protests to the December 4, 2019 Abatement Report, the hearing was closed. Chair Galey then asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the December 4, 2019 Abatement Report in the amount of \$10,340.00. Commissioner Egan moved that the

Commission adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the Abatement Report, seconded by Commissioner Daugelli. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

Commissioner Chapman made an additional motion to have District staff adjust or modify any charges found to be incorrect because the charge was entered:

- a) more than once,
- b) through clerical error,
- c) through the error or mistake of a material fact, or
- d) illegally

Motion seconded by Commissioner Bartley. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT ITEMS

A. October 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

B. Accept and File Reports:

1. Personnel Report
2. Operating Budget
3. Fire Prevention Reports
4. Monthly Activity Reports
5. Suppression Leave Summary
6. Correspondence

Commissioner Daugelli made a motion to accept and file reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner Egan. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Declaration of Surplus Equipment (Radio) – Report of November 4, 2019

B. Declaration of Surplus Equipment (IT) – Report of November 4, 2019

Commissioner Daugelli made a motion to approve the surplus of equipment listed on the declaration reports of November 4, 2019. Motion seconded by Commissioner

Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

C. Discuss and Complete 2019 Annual Report

After discussion, Commissioner Guichard made a motion to accept the 2019 Annual Report, with two changes, for submission to the Board of Directors. Motion seconded by Commissioner Daugelli. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

D. Approve 2020 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Bartley made a motion to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Bartley, Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; ABSENT: None).

E. Late October Fire Activity / Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Update

Fire Chief Broschard provided an update.

Prolonged Fire Seasons

- Earlier and longer fire seasons are the new normal in California
- This season was similar to the past two years (North Bay, Camp and Woolsey Fires)
 - Rains created a high fuel “load” – taller/denser than past years
 - Predictions were accurate for the late summer and fall -- continued heat, critical fuel moistures, low humidity and winds
 - Setting the stage for long, challenging and dangerous fire seasons
- The 2019 fire season was one of the longest on record in Contra Costa County, until December rains arrived

October 27 Wind-Driven Wildfire Event

- Driven by a historic North Wind Event (with gusts up to 75 mph), a near-continuous series of eight multiple alarm wildfires occurred throughout the County
- A 2 Alarm commercial structure fire immediately preceded these incidents and a mass-casualty incident occurred during the multiple incidents
- Many of the incidents represented the potential to become a WUI conflagration

Ten Major Incidents in 18 Hours

1. 3:09 AM – Santiago Fire, Four-alarm grassfire with evacuations and structure loss
2. 5:14 AM – Knightsen Fire, Fire-alarm grassfire with evacuations

3. 5:36 AM – Cypress Fire (see Knightsen Fire)
4. 6:40 AM – Leon Fire, Five-alarm grassfire with evacuations
5. 9:39 AM – Sky Fire, Ten-alarm grassfire with evacuations
6. 10:17 AM – MCI, Major injuries, seven patients transported
7. 1:20 PM – Pleasant Fire – North, Nine-alarm grassfire with evacuations and structure losses
8. 1:23 PM – Pleasant Fire – South, Managed with North Fire
9. 3:51 PM – Forest Fire, Seven-alarm grassfire with evacuations
10. 11:45 PM – Oakland Fire, Two-alarm structure fire, wind-driven embers

Incidents within Our Jurisdiction

- 10/26 @ 23:45 – 2 Alarm Commercial Structure Fire in Walnut Creek
- 10/27 @ 10:17 – MCI – Tree Down – 7 patients in Martinez
- 10/27 @ 13:20 – 9 Alarm Vegetation Fire Complex (2 Fires) in Lafayette
- 10/27 @ 15:31 – 7 Alarm Vegetation Fire – Structures threatened in Martinez

Planning, Preparation, and Response

- Prepositioning of additional fire resources Task Forces (XCC 2025 and 1 TF from SLO County), Dozer 220, Dispatchers and Chief Officers
- Up-staffed Resources by holding the off-going shift, personnel recalls, and overhead staff recalls
- County EOC real time coordination and Evacuation Communication – Law, Fire, & other agencies
- Immediate requests and coordination of additional in-county Task Forces and Strike Teams along with additional adjacent county MA Resources
- CAL FIRE coordination and support in state-wide drawdown conditions
- Prevention / Weed abatement works and likely saved numerous homes

CON Fire Additional Resources and Support

- 21 Additional Fire Apparatus (Type 1's, Type 3's, Water Tender)
- 7 Additional Battalion Chiefs
- 4 Additional Safety Officers (Training Captains)
- Logistical Supply Support – Manager and 5 District Aides
- Apparatus Shop Support – Manager Sayre, Mechanics, and Driver/Clerk
- Fire Prevention Bureau – Additional Staff responded in to help
- Communications Center – A/C Pigeon, Manager Barkley, additional Dispatchers, and Communications Support Technicians

- Steve Hill and additional PIOs

Lessons Learned

- For severe wind events or red flag events, the District as a whole needs to value additional staffing more. The key to this day was the pre-position units, that we up-staffed 21 additional CON units, and sharing resources with neighboring Op Areas.
- Keep head on a swivel at all times with many things happening at once, also to rest up when opportunities allow for it to be ready for the next incident.
- That our district employees care deeply about the communities we serve and our co-workers. Many came in from time with their families to help out in this situation
- The importance of having everyone recalled because we were hit with a surge in calls...
- How well the District can operate in a crisis. Completely unexpected. Well-disciplined personnel.
- Through all our differences, when our back is against the wall we can come together for a common goal.
- PG&E greatly affects my days off.
- Use common sense and don't wait for someone with a gold badge to tell you what to do.
- We need higher staffing levels during "Red Flag" days as a standard, not an exception.
- That prevention and suppression must work hand in hand to prevent these fires or to at least contain large vegetation fires with fire breaks and abatement

Major Incident Planning is in Motion

- The development and review of an Emergency Operations/Major Incident plan is under way
- Multiple grant requests for generators and other assets have been submitted
- A draft personnel recall policy has been drafted

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Reviewed/discussed the December 9, 2019 Fire Chief's report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above a horizontal line.

Latonia Ellingberg, Recording Secretary