



MINUTES

June 13, 2016

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Tom Chapman called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Commissioners:	Richard "Tom" Chapman – At Large #2 Mike Egan – At Large #1 Debra Galey – District IV Bill Granados – District II Ed Haynes – District III Nat Rojanasathira – District V Erling Horn (Alternate – District II)
	Absent:	Walter Fields (Alternate – District V)
	Fire Chief:	Jeff Carman

RECOGNITION OF BARRY CUNNINGHAM

Chief Carman and the Commission presented Barry Cunningham with a plaque in recognition of 21 years of dedicated service on the Advisory Fire Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

CONSENT ITEMS

A. April 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Granados made a motion to approve the April 11, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Egan. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Egan, Galey, Granados, Haynes, Rojanasathira).

B. Accept and File Reports:

1. Personnel Report – Reviewed/discussed report of June 13, 2016.

2. Operating Budget – Reviewed/discussed report of May 11, 2016.

Commissioner Haynes asked about VPN tokens. Chief Carman explained that it provides a verification number or password so that staff working at home can access the network.

3. Fire Prevention Report – Reviewed/discussed June 13, 2016 report.

Commissioner Haynes asked about the number of active investigators. Deputy Chief Broschard responded that for the actual unit there are four dedicated full time staff. Captains Laing and Martinez assist with supervision and wherever needed.

Commissioner Granados expressed concern that our inspectors may not be up to date on the rules for cattle grazing areas. An Inspector told his rancher friend that he was required to do five acre circles on his 400 acres as opposed to only trimming the perimeter. The rancher contacted FPB East, and Kathy Woofter took care of it. The rancher friend also praised whomever did the fire trails from Alhambra to Reliez Valley, and he is not easy to please.

Commissioner Chapman spoke with the Fire Marshal about the weed abatement carryovers which sometimes occur. The Fire Marshal explained that they can occur as the result of a mistake in the parcel number listing, the charge, or various other reasons. Going forward, he agreed to put a note of explanation after each carryover.

4. Monthly Activity Reports – Reviewed/discussed April 2016 and May 2016 reports.

Commissioner Egan noted the high number of calls at Station 6. Chief Carman responded that this has been a concern since we closed the engine a few years ago. Since then, a single truck company was covering those runs. Adding a squad helped, but a squad can only respond to certain types of calls. As of last Saturday, we reopened Engine 6 and dropped Squad 6. Calls should be pretty evenly divided between the two companies, dropping to about ten calls per day.

Commissioner Egan expressed concern that everyone is awakened when a call comes in and crews will end up getting worn out. He suggested bringing a slower station in to give them a break. Chief Carman agreed that this might be a great concept, but the company probably would not be willing to give up the calls and Labor most likely would not be pleased. We have been looking into other available options for alerting crews to calls such as individual alerting.

Commissioner Haynes noted that Engine 70 in San Pablo is running with a Squad and is piling up runs. Chief Carman agreed that we have quite a few calls and added that Stations 83, 84, and 85 all run in excess of 3000 calls a year. One of the things we want to try is sending an ambulance alone to lower level medical calls without an engine or truck and hope that will add more capacity to the system. The other answer would be adding another company, but that would run about \$2.75 million per year.

Commissioner Haynes noted the high volume of structure fires in East County lately. Deputy Chief Broschard shared that Engine 85 is one of busiest houses out there and puts on about 35-40,000 miles in a year. Just three or four years ago a fleet analysis indicated

that Engine 85 was doing about 14,000 miles a year, so mileage has really increased as a result of high activity which also shortens the lifespan of the apparatus. Chief Carman noted that when we project a 10-12 year lifespan on a frontline engine at \$600,000 to \$800,000 each, and we are putting 30,000 miles on it per year with strong recommendations from the manufacturer not to exceed 100,000 miles on the chassis – our projections go down the drain.

Commissioner Chapman commented on the numerous calls in the Pittsburg/Antioch area and wanted to know how mutual aid and auto aid are working after the problems we were having with it. Chief Carman referred to the most recent reports which show that we are very close. Not too long ago there was a three to one ratio. They are also preparing to open another company.

5. Suppression Leave Summary – Reviewed/discussed April 2016 and May 2016 reports.

6. Correspondence – Reviewed

Commissioner Rojanasathira asked if the fire boat is berthed at the marina and if the crew is coming from the station when they respond to a call. Chief Carman confirmed that the fire boat is berthed at Pittsburg marina, and the crew does go to calls from the station. Our old rescue boat without a pump is housed at 81 now. There was a rescue the other night at Mayberry Slough and BC Huntze considered putting the boat in the Antioch marina so it would be on the water. Even though we did not put the boat in Antioch, they had a time of bells to time underway of 11 minutes which is pretty remarkable. So we are satisfied with keeping the lighter boat on the trailer and just taking the boat to the ramp when we need to launch. The other boat is much larger, and the one we are in the process of purchasing is much too large to trailer, so it will be at Pittsburg marina.

Commissioner Haynes asked if the boat would be transported for an event or incident in Martinez. Chief Carman replied that we would probably call Richmond as a backup.

Commissioner Haynes asked if the rescue boat at 81 is the one we have been trying to purchase. Chief Carman explained that last year we borrowed this fire boat with pump capability from east county fire and it is in Pittsburg on the water now; we put our rescue boat on a trailer at Station 81; and we are in the process of purchasing this catamaran from Tiburon. During inspection, pitting was found inside both hulls. After going back and forth, they agreed to complete the repairs in a manner which would be approved by us and the Coast Guard. After the repairs, and if the boat passes two more tests, we will make the purchase.

Commissioner Egan made a motion to accept and file reports as written, seconded by Commissioner Haynes. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Egan, Galey, Granados, Haynes, Rojanasathira).

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Reviewed/discussed reports of May 10 and June 13, 2016.

Commissioner Haynes asked about the expense and finance numbers as no reports have been provided. Chief Carman noted that the Board also wants quarterly reports and

explained that there is a gap between when we send out billing and when we are paid by the insurance company. We were told 30-120 days and now 180 days. If the gap is 120 days, we will have our first quarter report at the beginning of the fourth quarter. However, we originally projected that we would need to take three \$3 million draws while waiting for the money to come in, but we only had to take one draw. We are about 60 days ahead of where we thought we would be.

Commissioner Haynes asked if background and selection are in process for Academy 50. Denise Cannon replied that 17 candidates have passed background and are moving on to medical examination and psychological assessment which is a 6-8 week process.

Commissioner Egan asked if any developer fees are involved in the construction/reconstruction of our facilities. Chief Carman replied that we are using developer fees to build the stations. The City of San Pablo agreed to \$2.5 million for Station 70 and the remainder of the funds will come from capital money we had set aside for some time. For Station 86, there will be some Pittsburg developer money but not much. No developer fees for Station 9 but rather a low cost long-term lease at the airport through the Director of Airports which will allow us to cut some costs.

Commissioner Egan asked if we will get any money from the new development on Diamond Blvd. Chief Carman replied that one of the Deputy Chief's tasks (after he is finally relieved of his old tasks as Chief of Support Services) is to seek out developer fees. We are already working with Pittsburg for a proposed \$75 per parcel CFD and Antioch as they have the most residential development at this time. We are currently seeking a \$200-300 dollar CFD to adequately fund stations in the future. I believe Antioch and Pittsburg have 400 dollar CFDs for law enforcement.

Commissioner Galey asked if we are looking at CFDs for ongoing operational expenses in addition to one time development fees. Deputy Chief Broschard replied that it is a two-pronged approach. We have a development impact fee that was developed in 2005 through an engineering analysis. The only participating jurisdictions are the unincorporated county in Pittsburg and Antioch. We have no power to impose this on the city, but rather they must adopt it on our behalf. We will be going back to reassess the fee and refresh it and use the same consultant to develop a community facilities district which would be the ongoing operational funds. CFD overlay can be done only on practically on any new development.

Commissioner Galey asked how it is that the cities are able to not accept the engineer's report and do the development impact fee if the District and the Board adopts the report and sets the fee and if the District is providing the service boundaries? Deputy Chief Broschard responded that the Fire District does not have the legal authority to set planning or zoning type ordinances. It is the same as when we create the fire code, and we cannot impose it on the cities. Per California law, they have the legal authority to say yay or nay on our fire code.

Commissioner Egan asked about the OES HazMat apparatus being staffed with a crew of five. Chief Carman replied that this will only be the case when going out of the county. It would be our three-person company and possibly two from the county HazMat team. They have a tremendous amount technical expertise, and we have emergency response and command and control expertise. Joining the two will provide a very capable hazmat team.

Some of the most capable models throughout California are comprised of both fire and health – San Bernardino, San Francisco, and San Diego teams.

Commissioner Egan asked if all three firefighters at a station will be HazMat certified? Chief Carman responded that we are talking about this with Labor. We think they will all be to the specialist level. Will also be bringing all BCs up to HazMat IC Level later this month and refreshing all our first responders throughout the District in both basic operations and first responder decon so they can assist in the decontamination process of the entry team of HazMat.

Commissioner Chapman asked if our HazMat calls have gone up dramatically over the years. Chief Carman replied that he could not answer that questions historically, but he does not believe that we are sent for many HazMat incidents. Their current system is people calling into their line to notify them of HazMat incidents. As an example, there was a white powder incident at Kaiser Antioch with a threat on a package, and we were never even made aware until HazMat was on scene and beginning to process the incident.

Commissioner Egan asked when the vehicle will be delivered, and Chief Carman replied January 2017 or sometime in spring 2017.

Commissioner Haynes asked where we are with chief officers' alignment to the new organization. Chief Carman replied that we are currently in the recruitment process for an Assistant Chief for EMS/Training and the Assistant Chief vacancy in Support Services. We approved nine candidates to move forward to phase one and six candidates to move forward to phases two and three this week.

Chief Carman noted that he met with Pinole and Rodeo-Hercules today, and there is a 50/50 chance of moving forward. If we do proceed, we will hire another Assistant Chief to take over operations in West County, assuming the role of fire chief for Pinole and Rodeo-Hercules fire district and answering back to ConFire. The goal is to align us all with one consistent philosophy and operational mission.

Commissioner Egan asked if we will continue with the BN7 model. Chief Carman replied in the affirmative and added that the West County Assistant Chief will oversee the three Battalion 7 Battalion Chiefs while receiving direction from Chief Carman, Pinole city council, and Rodeo-Hercules board of directors and assimilating that direction into one operational mission which is communicated consistently to the Battalion 7 chiefs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. At the April 11, 2016 meeting, Commissioner Horn asked for clarification of the limitations on sharing District information communicated via email and accompanied by a confidentiality notice. Secretary Ellingberg responded that, per the County Counsel's office, anyone can share information that is part of the public record. On a case by case basis, the recipient should ask the sender if the information is okay to share.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Horn report on the Fire Station 16 Neighborhood Meeting: The meeting was very well done and well-attended by City Councilmember Brandt Andersson, City Manager Steven Falk, emergency services task force committee members, neighbors, and a representative from LaMorinda Weekly. Chief Broschard did an absolutely smooth and wonderful presentation. Board selected LCA Architects in Walnut Creek. Lead architect has done work in Lafayette. The result of the attendees' vote was a CA 1960s Ranch Style design very similar to what is there now.
- B. Nomination and Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2015/16: Commissioner Granados made a motion to reappoint the current Chair and Vice Chair for another term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Egan. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Egan, Galey, Granados, Haynes, Rojanasathira).

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Rojanasathira – There is a lot of activity in District Five, and your team is doing a great job responding to the multi-family housing fires in Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch and Martinez and the rescues in the delta. And keep up the good work on Nextdoor,

Egan – I was very impressed with the graduation ceremony. The quality of candidates was outstanding; and they seem cohesive, you could feel the bond with them. The tillers coming into operation and I heard that the tiller person and the driver are both the operators. Is that true? Chief Carman replied that there will be the firefighter in the box.

Egan – Breathing Support 7 is getting a lot of calls, particularly over to East County. Does that take Station 7 out of commission? Engine and breathing support? Any thought of making 4 person station? Chief Carman says, yes; just breathing support; no, and it is not a bad thought, but it would cost almost a million dollars to put that person on. We have had brief conversations about the most effective way to deliver those specialty units. In fall, command vehicle is coming and we need to figure out how to deliver it to scene whether it be on-duty firefighter, student firefighter, FPB staff – must evaluate this by fall.

Egan – Still looking at reserve/volunteer concept? Chief Carman says bottom line is that waning interest by reserves is because it is hard to maintain their qualifications, family and career and still respond to fires. Still hopeful that we can do something, especially in Briones. We really stepped up equipment training and apparatus and have not seen reciprocal increase in the amount of responses when we call.

Chapman – Have you absorbed any AMR staff as recruits? Chief Carman says, yes. We had at least one in this last academy. There are now focused efforts to get to them over next recruitment including student firefighters, reserve firefighters, and some AMR staff.

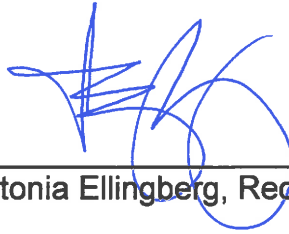
Granados – Attended an event at the Sheriff's shooting range. Helicopter crew was there and Captain-Paramedic Platt and the Sheriff's crew did an excellent job of promoting it.

Commissioner Granados made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Egan. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Egan, Galey, Granados, Haynes, Rojanasathira).

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

August 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a vertical stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

Latonia Ellingberg, Recording Secretary