



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES

October 11, 2021

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021. Chair Guichard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Erel Betser – District I
Richard “Tom” Chapman – At Large #2
Michael Daugelli – District III
Mike Egan – At Large #1
Debra Galey – District IV
Matthew Guichard – District II
Richard Nakano – District V
Soheila Bana – At Large Alternate #1
Walter Fields – At Large Alternate #2
Clayton Laderer – At Large Alternate #3

Fire Chief: Lewis T. Broschard III

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. October 6, 2021 Report on the Cost of Abatement

Chair Guichard opened the public hearing on the October 6, 2021 Report on the Cost of Abatement. Hearing no objections or protests to the October 6, 2021 Abatement Report, the hearing was closed. Chair Guichard then asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the October 6, 2021 Abatement Report in the amount of \$61,943.45. Commissioner Chapman moved that the Commission adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the Abatement Report, seconded by Commissioner Daugelli. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard, Nakano).

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 Egan. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard, Nakano).

B. Hearing on Abatement Orders

Chair Guichard opened the Hearing on Abatement Orders for all properties listed in Exhibit 1, dated October 11, 2021.

There were no property owners in attendance representing any of the seven (7) properties listed in Exhibit 1.

Chair Guichard closed the hearing and asked for a motion to uphold and enforce all abatement orders listed in Exhibit 1. Commissioner Nakano made a motion to uphold and enforce all abatement orders listed in Exhibit 1. Motion seconded by Commissioner Egan. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard, Nakano).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. August 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- C. Accept and File Reports:
 - 1. Personnel Report
 - 2. Operating Budget
 - 3. Fire Prevention Report
 - 4. Monthly Activity Reports
 - 5. Suppression Leave Summary

Commissioner Galey requested that a separate vote be taken for Item B. Commissioner Chapman asked about the amount of interest received for lateral transfers. Chief Broschard responded that there has been strong interest, and there will be 28 lateral recruits in the Academy that begins next week.

Commissioner Daugelli made a motion to accept and file Items A., and C.1 through C.5. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard, Nakano).

Commissioner Nakano made a motion to accept and file Item B. Motion seconded by Commissioner Egan. Motion passed (AYES: Daugelli, Egan, Guichard, Nakano; ABSTAIN: Betser, Chapman, Galey).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Bylaws Committee Meeting

Discussion included changing the Article V – Membership requirement from residing in the Fire District to residing or working in the Fire District; and changing Article VIII – Committees language to (1) add an EMS standing committee, (2) allow Alternate-At Large members to participate on committees, and (3) set committee membership at a maximum of three members per committee.

After discussion, Commissioner Galey made a motion to accept all changes as discussed and direct staff to forward the proposed revisions to County Counsel for review prior to submitting to the Fire District Board of Directors for approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; NOES: Nakano).

B. Morgan Territory Community Association

Chief Broschard reported that in the Morgan Territory area, within the jurisdiction of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, there is a group operating as an ad-hoc volunteer fire department. After several inappropriate incidents, we have corresponded with them in writing in support of the efforts of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and Supervisor Burgis to get the group to cease and desist this unsafe practice.

Deputy Chief McAlister noted his past experience with similar cases, particularly with private fire companies hired by insurance companies, and the dangerous situations they can create. It is believed that this group is monitoring Pulse Point and initiating group responses to incidents. The Fire District's issues are related to safety and this group's lack of adherence to legislation governing the operation of private fire companies which includes certain required communications with local fire agencies and use of personal protective equipment. Additionally, the use of fire hydrants by these groups interferes with the operations of the fire agencies for whom the use of hydrants is intended.

C. Annexation Update

Chief Broschard reported that, on September 14, the Fire Board of Directors approved the submission of the District's annexation application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). On September 16, the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District's Board also approved. We are moving forward with the LAFCO process; and a Commission hearing will likely occur sometime in January 2022.

We have established internal work groups to help us work through all the logistics and prepare. We are being guided by the action plan (IAP) we developed to facilitate identifying issues to address and overcome, and it encompasses every division of the Fire District from administration and finance to training and emergency operations. We are also working with the County Administrator's Office

and Labor Relations on getting the Human Resources element planned. The target effective date could be as soon as April 1 but will likely not be later than June as we want to wrap up before peak fire season begins in June.

Chair Guichard asked how this effort will be staffed. Chief Broschard indicated that the next two fire academies should yield roughly 50 graduated firefighters to staff our current stations and ECCFPD stations post-annexation.

Commissioner Nakano stated that he is not certain that the four percent revenue projection will be enough to cover operational costs post-annexation.

Commissioner Egan agreed with Commissioner Nakano and also expressed concern about staffing new stations when we still have closed stations. Chief Broschard indicated that the District's current plan would be to reopen Station 55 in spring 2022 and staff it with nine of the twenty-eight graduates from the next academy. Next to reopen would be Station 4 and potentially a second company in Brentwood around July 2022 staffed by firefighters from the lateral academy that graduates in July 2022. The only remaining closed station is in Martinez, and we hope to have Measure X funds available to help with that station and downtown Antioch which is where Station 12 will be relocated. The tax rate in East County will not change.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the condition of ECCFPD's stations, hoses, nozzles, and, after annexation, if there will be enough fire prevention inspectors and what will happen with weed abatement and fire trails. Chief Broschard responded that ECCFPD's facilities and apparatus are fairly young. One station they still own in downtown Brentwood will have to be demolished and rebuilt, but that will be about five or six years down the line. They recently purchased three new Type 1 Engines, but we will have to address the older water tenders. We are very familiar with their Fire Prevention workload since we used to do that work for them. There will be two of their fire inspectors joining us and also their Fire Marshal who was formerly a Captain with us. They do not have a significant state mandated inspection workload, and it can all be accommodated with the combined current staff. We will learn more about their weed abatement needs; and fire trails will be dealt with over a few seasons likely starting as early as spring 2022.

Some economies of scale will be achieved. ECCFPD's fiscal situation is different from what it was before. Their property taxes are up over 6% while ours are only going up by 3.8%. The perception that East County cannot pay their own way is not necessarily the case now. Of course, the future is uncertain, but there are definitely post-annexation benefits for both entities. With more resources, there will be less burden on Antioch response to Brentwood and Oakley. The last tax roll shows strong property tax growth in East County.

Commissioner Galey asked why they did not staff Station 55 if they had the funds to do so. Chief Broschard replied that it was their plan to staff the station which has been rebuilt, but they paused due to the annexation process moving forward.

In response to Commissioner Daugelli, Chief Broschard confirmed that the area covered by ECCFPD is part of District Three.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Reviewed/discussed the October 11, 2021 Fire Chief's report.

Commissioner Egan asked about the company sizes for engines and trucks. Chief Broschard responded that each engine company has three members and each truck company has four members.

Commissioner Nakano asked how many District staff have been vaccinated, and Chief Broschard indicated that number is approximately 75% of staff.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Commissioner Nakano – Further discussion on Article VIII of the Bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next SPECIAL meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.



Latonia Ellingberg, Recording Secretary