



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES

April 11, 2022

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2022. Chair Guichard called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Michael Daugelli – District III
Mike Egan – At Large #1
Matthew Guichard – District II
Richard Nakano – District V
Soheila Bana – At Large Alternate #1 (arr. 7:15 p.m.)
Walter Fields – At Large Alternate #2
Clayton Laderer – At Large Alternate #3

Fire Chief: Lewis T. Broschard III

Absent: Richard "Tom" Chapman – At Large #2
Debra Galey – District IV

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT ITEMS

A. February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

B. Accept and File Reports:

1. Personnel Report
2. Operating Budget
3. Fire Prevention Report – December (CORRECTED)
4. Fire Prevention Reports – February and March
5. Monthly Activity Reports
6. Suppression Leave Summary

Commissioner Fields requested that Items B.1. and B.4. be moved to Discussion.

Commissioner Nakano made a motion to accept and file Items A., B.2., B.3., B.5., and B.6. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fields. Motion passed (AYES: Daugelli, Egan, Fields, Guichard, Laderer, Nakano; ABSENT: Chapman, Galey).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report (B.1.)

Commissioner Fields noted Fire Captain Gil Caravantes' retirement and offered congratulations to all the retirees.

B. Fire Prevention Reports – February and March (B.4.)

Commissioner Fields extended thanks to the Fire Prevention Bureau for providing excellent reports. He also asked if the 23% indicated on the March report is the percentage of the total number of required inspections currently completed. Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bachman confirmed that it is.

Commissioner Fields asked if additional staff will be required to complete all inspections after annexation. Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bachman noted that post-annexation, there will be only about 330 inspections added to our list of mandatory inspections. We currently have five prospective personnel in the background phase of the hiring process.

Commissioner Egan made a motion to accept and file Items B.1. and B.4. Motion seconded by Commissioner Laderer. Motion passed (AYES: Daugelli, Egan, Fields, Guichard, Laderer, Nakano; ABSENT: Chapman, Galey).

C. Discuss Commission Roles and Fire District Needs

Chair Guichard indicated that he has been researching the fire commissioners' role. He knows that the Supervisors appreciate having the commissioners out in the community. Commissioner Nakano has brought this issue up. The text of his recent email will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Email to Commissioners, on April 11, 2022, from Commissioner Nakano:

For the sake of discussion...attached is a description of the Advisory Fire Commission duties from the Contra Costa County website. It generally outlines the areas that our standing committees operate. My question is what does "feedback" look like and how do our committees support that process?

"The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Advisory Fire Commission provides feedback on Fire District annual operations and capital budgets, expenditures, and service matters; monitors citizen complaints stemming from the District's weed abatement program; exercises oversight of the approval process for the disposal of surplus property; and serves as liaison between the Board of Supervisors and the community served by the District."

Not trying to recreate the wheel, just looking for clarity about the purpose of our committees.

Commissioner Nakano restated his inquiry that if not charged with specific responsibilities, what is the purpose of the committees? What are they supposed to report back on? What are the expectations for input?

Chair Guichard noted that the purpose and function(s) of the Commission are currently being reevaluated and may be refined in the near future.

Commissioner Fields asked if the District has considered becoming an independent fire district. Chief Broschard noted that the dependent special district setup is common for metropolitan fire districts like ours. Other examples include Alameda County, Ventura, and Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Bana expressed thanks to the Fire District for being so responsive.

Chair Guichard expects that we will soon have clarity about what the Fire Board wants and how the Commission can be helpful to them. This will be an agenda item for the June meeting of the Advisory Fire Commission.

UPDATE: MORGAN TERRITORY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Deputy Chief McAlister provided an update on the Morgan Territory Community Association. The group is made up of a number of residents in the area who acquired an engine and are using it to respond to fires in their community. The group is not organized or recognized and have been causing concern for ECCFPD. Cease and desist communications have been sent by both CON Fire and ECCFPD, but the group continues to respond to fires.

Although it is common for owners of ranches or farms to use an engine on their own property, anyone who is not properly licensed runs the risk of being in violation of the vehicle code if/when they take the engine onto roadways. Chief McAlister is aware of individuals who have received citations under similar circumstances. The Fire District is concerned with this group interfering with its efforts. Concerns include water theft when they use hydrants which is also an issue for the Water District.

With regard to insurance companies who provide private fire brigades for their customers, following the Napa incident, legislation was passed requiring them to meet certain requirements which include being integrated in the incident command system and being in communication with the local fire district in any area where they are providing service.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Reviewed/discussed the April 11, 2022 Fire Chief's report.

Chief Broschard acknowledged Fire Captain Gil Caravantes following his retirement after over 42 years of service. He remembered speaking with Captain Caravantes on his 40-year anniversary and asking him if he remembered his first day in the fire service, and, of course, he did. Gil is one of a kind and will be missed. He knows he will always be part of the Con Fire family.

Commissioner Egan asked how many more stations CON will have after annexation and if they will be staffed. Chief Broschard said there will be five additional stations, including the Cal Fire station on Marsh Road. Cal Fire pays to staff this station during fire season. After fire season, the District will fund staffing. Staffing for Station 55 was built into the last academy and a few spots will be filled from the current academy. Next spring, we anticipate adding an additional company at Station 81 in Antioch and at Station 52 in Brentwood. The next stations to be built will be with Measure X funds. This includes Station 51 in Brentwood and Station 54 in downtown Brentwood. Station 54 will also be staffed with Measure X funds.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Fields – Great job everyone. Would really like to see the fire department help problem solve the ambulance patient offload times issue and come up with solutions that elude private industry.

Egan – Noticed on flight radar that one of our helicopters was in Kelseyville and wondered why. Deputy Chief McAlister responded that Air 2 transports to a larger geographical area than just Contra Costa County.

Guichard – Would like a quick update on the ambulance patient offload times issue when more information is available.

Nakano – Has noticed that patients with mental health issues seem to contribute to the wait times.

Bana – Some of her neighbors are concerned about eucalyptus trees in Wildcat Canyon during fire season. Chief Broschard indicated this would be best discussed offline to explore the issue after being given more specific information. Commissioner Bana will follow up with Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bachman.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next Special meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Latonia Ellingberg, Recording Secretary