

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 13, 2021**

**Due to COVID-19 precautions, Board Meetings will be open to the public. Anyone attending will have their temperature taken before entry into the facility. Masks must be worn and social distancing of 6 feet will be observed. Limit to (10) public participants will be allowed in the facility.**

**Agendas and Board Packets are available at our website: [kenwoodfire.com](http://kenwoodfire.com)**

**MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 16:03 hrs. Chief Bellach welcomed new Director Gruchawka. Cooper, McIntosh, Doss, Moretti, Gruchawka and Chief Bellach were present.

**MINUTES:** MSP Cooper/McIntosh to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. MSP Cooper/McIntosh to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of March 17, 2021. MSP McIntosh/Cooper to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of March 24, 2021.

**ROSTER:** 19 Volunteers, 5 Full-Time and 6 Part-Time.

**CLAIMS APPROVAL:** \*Note: Claims were not attached to the board packet and were distributed to all attending the meeting. Director Doss asked if the \$6,500.00 amount to the Auditor was the previous agreed amount. Chief Bellach stated it was the agreed amount.

MSP McIntosh/Moretti to approve CR #20-21-10 for \$50,253.23 and payrolls 3/12/21 for \$17,461.34 and 3/26/21 for \$17,626.89.

**OLD BUSINESS:** MSP Cooper/McIntosh to adopt FY 21/22 Benefit Assessment rate at \$10.00 per unit, 4 units per single family dwelling. As well as Commercial/Agriculture rates (same as FY 20/21).

MSP Doss/Cooper to create a measure for November 2021 elections to increase the current Benefit Assessment for the District. The Board will start the process working on the measure for the November 2021 elections and work with District Council, consultants and create an AD Hoc Committee with Chief Bellach, one Board Member and 2 KFA members.

Director Gruchawka asked if our Council had taken a look at this document. Chief Bellach stated we have not had anyone look at it. MSP Doss/Moretti made a motion to approve the contract based on it having no changes and having council review it. If nothing has changed on the contract we will move forward approving it.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Kenwood Professional Firefighters opened up negotiations presented by Captain Japen Soto-Pomeroy. KPF submitted letters to the Board stating they would like a 25% pay increase with a (1) year contract. The board will go into labor negotiations in closed session at a later date. Director Moretti stated that this is an extremely important topic and hoped that we can come to a resolution acceptable to both sides.

Director Doss reported that due to the county not receiving 15 inches in rain, we will not be able to do the testing for our septic system this year. We have contracted with Adobe & Associates and they will be doing a survey with neighboring properties to see if tests have been conducted. We will have a report back after the study is complete. Measurements have been taken from neighboring wells.

Chief Bellach reported that the Personnel Management Committee consists of himself, Richard Gulson, Captain Japen Soto-Pomeroy, Captain Tony Ghisla and Asst. Chief Ben Gulson. The group discussed results of the survey and prioritized different components of the survey. The first topic to address is the dynamics between leadership/Administration and all staff members. The group came up with some ideas to have the Chiefs move forward. Some of them were to have members help create a new vision/mission statement for the department, bring in an outside consultant to speak to the members, create more social events, reinforce the open door policy, educate the staff on management skills and topics and work on getting people vested and engaged by having department wide projects that would have everyone getting together. The Chiefs will be working to start the implementation of some of these ideas.

Director Doss stated that he was concerned with having a Director on a management group as a member. Chief Bellach stated that when the committee was formed the Board Member position was only a sit in and not a decision making member. The Board position is also a rotating position to bring in new members to listen only. This committee is not a voting committee and no Board Member will have any vote if this committee was to vote on anything. Only ideas/advisory.

Engineer Molesworth stated that the correct terminology for the new construction impact fees is Fire Impact Fees. Chief Bellach reported Sonoma Valley Fire and Sonoma County Fire Districts have created a Fire Impact Fee for new construction. It was approved by the County BOS. A lot of leg work has been done. Kenwood could create a Fire Impact Fee for any new construction and gain revenue from it.

Chief Bellach reported that we have never charged a fee for commercial building inspections. (Annual Life Safety). This fee would generate revenue for the district. Our current fee schedule has not been updated since 1995. We would have to create a new fee for Life Safety inspections.

Director Cooper felt that if we were going to ask for a parcel tax measure, maybe doing both a Fire Impact Fee and charging for Life Safety inspections at the same time, may impact the results of our Measure to the voters. Director Doss stated they would like to look at the fees and what that actual impact may be.

**GOOD of the ORDER:** Director Doss reported that the Sonoma County Fire Districts did create an Ad Hoc Committee to look at the proposed new Measure G for June of 2022. The County is fast tracking the new language and new distribution rates that different Districts would receive. SCFD and the new FSWG are making sure that we have input on this process. Measure G did fail by only 2% - almost every precinct supported the Measure. They are taking a look at where it failed and focusing on those. There will be another meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There was a change on the FSWG committee – Fred Peterson has been voted in to the group. Vegetation Management is a major topic now for the County. A portion of the PG&E settlement was used to create the program. A lot of movement and discussion is taking place now.

Richard Gulson from the public, stated that all members of FSWG were typically Fire Chiefs. He felt it confusing that a District Director was appointed to that body. He also stated that the County has been dismantling the CSA40 agencies. He believes that the County is going to this with a CSA41, which would be just specific to vegetation management. He believed that this is not a good idea. This would allow the County to control a large number of dollars and where it would go.

Director Doss stated the County is having an outside firm run the vegetation management program with grants. Over \$250,000.00 for a director for the vegetation management.

Engineer Dean Martin spoke in regards to the Explorers Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. June 15<sup>th</sup> Sonoma Valley Fire District would like to support and help fund this event and do a joint breakfast with them. Renaming it a Mother's and Father's Day Breakfast. Proceeds going to the Explorers.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attest:

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