

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUGUST 8, 2023**

MINUTES

MEETING: Meeting called to order at 16:00 hrs. Directors Cooper, Uboldi, Doss, Moretti and Chief Bellach were present. Director Atkin was absent.

MINUTES: MSP Moretti/Cooper to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023.

CHIEF'S REPORT: 12 Volunteers, 6 Part-Time and 2 Full-Time. Chief Bellach reported we are looking at a new potential volunteer out of Oakmont that lives with his mother. He has Firefighting experience and is currently going through his physical.

Regarding the FY23-24 Parcel Tax, Chief Bellach reported the Parcel Taxes had been completed and the total projected amount for FY23-24 will approximately be \$440,000.00.

Chief Bellach reported the signatures gathered for the County Sales Tax Measure were delivered to the County for approval. Fundraising will now start for the campaign, as we are in that mode now. The County budget funding requests to the County for Cloverdale, Kenwood and Northern Sonoma County were turned down and asked to have the Fire Ad Hoc committee take the lead on the requests. Chief's Heine and Akre will meet with the Ad Hoc on August 23rd to discuss these wants. Any additional asks, from now on, will go through the FSWG group and Fire Ad Hoc. The City of Sebastopol is polling for a quarter cent sales tax measure for the November ballot. This will be presented to the city tomorrow. The election council is working on the Do's and Don'ts for campaigning. We will have a presentation tomorrow at the Chiefs Meeting.

CLAIMS: MSP Cooper/Doss to approve Claim #23-24-02 for \$58,623.41 and payrolls dated 07/14/23 for \$16,968.51 and 07/28/23 for \$15,029.76.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: Firefighter Platt asked the board why employees have to fall under one organization and why Kenwood Fire District has to lose its identity. The reason is all employees must fall under one organization for safety and accountability reasons. There can only be one Chief and we must follow the proper chain of command. Kenwood Fire District will still be an agency, but all of its employees will be under Sonoma Valley Fire and follow all policies and procedures. The KFA will remain an independent 501c3. It was acknowledged the sense of identity is real and understood. Chief Bellach and Akre will be meeting with the volunteers on August 17th to discuss their concerns.

OLD BUSINESS: A policy was drafted for Cash Management Procedures. MSP Cooper/Doss to approve this policy.

NON-ACTION ITEMS: Director Doss reported that the HR committee has met twice since the last board meeting. They looked at personnel issues, the contract with Sonoma Valley and items raised at public meetings with questions or concerns of the board and the public. The leasing of the equipment and facilities in the contract was removed and replaced with articles naming Sonoma Valley as a covered entity within our insurance policy. There was discussion of a start date of September 4th. All employees of our district would become Sonoma Valley employees starting July 1st, 2024. There was work done on defining the administrative duties of the district once the contract is started as well as what duties Chief Akre will do. A hand out was provided to the board on the duties of the clerk of the board.

Director Uboldi asked how we will be making the adjustment of the duties once the contract is signed. These conversations will happen between September and July to define the duties. As Chief Bellach's current salary would be higher than a current captain's position, he could take part in some of these duties since he has been doing them as the current Chief. Chief Bellach stated that he would be willing to continue the current administrative duties as well as being clerk of the Board for the District.

Director Uboldi reported that the Facility committee talked about getting some plants to put out by the LED sign as well as some large rocks. Engineer Molesworth stated that the Kenwood Resort will be donating some rocks and Swedes Feed will be donating some plants.

Director Moretti reported that the Finance committee has found new council and submitted the contract for review. His name is William Ross.

Captain Ghisla reported that the Grant committee is still waiting to hear if we will receive the AFG Grant for new radios and the SAFER grant for personnel. LED sign is done and KFA made the last payment. We were awarded about \$4,000.00 from the Cal Fire matching grant.

GOOD of the ORDER: Director Doss stated that it is important that we find a date for a special meeting at the end of the month to hear from council regarding the contract. Chief Bellach will put out some dates.

Director Moretti stated there has been many fires throughout the state and asked if we have participated in any. The County has sent out some resources, but nothing from Kenwood has gone out. All the fires here in the County have been stopped very quickly with minimal acres burned.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:
