



Quincy Fire Protection District

Board of Commissioner's Minutes

Special Meeting December 12, 2019

Feather River Bulletin Conference Room

- I. Chairman Taborski called the meeting to order at 7:40 am., with Vice Chairman Leonhardt, Treasurer Andrew Ryback, Chief Cassou and District Secretary White present.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Chairman Taborski, made a motion to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes, Vice Chairman Leonhardt second the motion, motion passed.
- IV. Financial Reports – Treasurer Andrew Ryback
 - a) November Financials were reviewed and approved. Treasurer Ryback had questions with regards to the District's liability insurance from Flanigan-Leavitt. His concerns come in light of lawsuits against board members in Butte County in the aftermath of the recent, devastating fires in Paradise. Secretary White will contact our insurance carrier to clarify coverage for board member special responsibilities and liability.

Treasurer Ryback appreciated Secretary White including the cash balance sheet showing a balance of one million five hundred and sixty-two thousand.
 - b) Claims were reviewed and signed.
- V. Fire Chief's Report (Chief Cassou)
 - a) Chief Cassou reported that Quincy Fire had fifty-five medical calls, seven fire calls and one hazmat response for a total of sixty-three calls for the month. We had an average attendance of 4.7 personnel per call. It's been a busy month.
 - b) Tuesday Drills;
 - a. On 11/12/2019 AC Carey, Capt. Schmid gave instruction on "Shake & Bake" search techniques where we blind fold firefighters and send them through a maze where they work as a team to re-assemble multiple breathing apparatuses in the dark and exit the maze.

- b. On 11/19/2019 instructors Deputy Chief Windle and Paramedic Mark Thomas (from Careflight) gave instruction on patient assessments and AED use on our rescue drill night. Mark's program was on how we use the information gathered in a patient assessment to guide a patient's care. After the lecture, firefighters were split into groups and practice what they learned in several different skills stations.
- c. On 11/26/2019 Capt. Gay gave a class on Emergency Operations and Safety. Subjects included the Incident Command System (ICS), our firefighter accountability system and basic fire ground safety.
- d. On 12/3/2019 we had our Officer's Meeting.

VI. Last Tuesday Chief Cassou gave a class on confined space rescue awareness.

VII. Chief Cassou and Deirdre McCarthy went to a Rural Recruitment and Retention Workshop in Palm Springs. The 18-hour class was sponsored by the California State Firefighter's Association through a SAFER Grant from FEMA.

VIII. On October 19th Chief Cassou and Deirdre McCarthy went to Blairsden to help members of the Plumas Eureka Fire Department unload and install a memorial bench dedicated to the late Fire Chief Tom Forster at Plumas Eureka State Park.

IX. Chief Cassou - There were a couple of children's fire safety tours given at Station 1 for the Plumas Charter School and the Episcopal Church. Several volunteers gave of their time to make these tours fun and educational.

X. Chief Cassou gave a brief reported on several larger incidents.

- a) At a garage fire at the corner of Center and Fourth Streets, Meadow Valley, Long Valley and Greenhorn Fire Departments came and provided mutual aid assistance for a residential structure fire.

The fire was first reported as a fully involved structure with a person still inside. Upon Chief Cassou's arrival, he noted that the fire was actually confined to the garage and the trapped person turned out to be a minor injury that was treated and released by PDH Ambulance at the scene.

A surveillance camera from across the street captured the progress of the fire which started in a garbage can in front of the garage and spread to the house.

- b) Chief Cassou reported on the Quincy Junction Road Barn fire's ongoing investigation. We once again received mutual aid assistance from Meadow Valley, Long Valley and Greenhorn Fire Departments. The US Forest Service also responded and helped prevent the spread of fire to adjacent agricultural and wildland exposures. Multiple Insurance companies are requesting information along with the Fire Investigation Report on several coverage issues related to the fire.

Throughout the following week, Quincy Fire and the US Forest Service went back to the fire scene several times to check for, and extinguish hot spots.

- c) Chief Cassou – Shortly after the Barn Fire, OES-360 responded to the Kincade Fire for eleven days. To facilitate getting the engine out the door quickly, Chief Cassou performed some emergency repairs on OES-360 for damage discovered at the Barn fire.

XI

We are still having some issues regarding billing and reimbursement for the Walker Fire. Despite Chief Cassou's efforts to head off any billing issues during the fire. We are still negotiating with the US Forest Service to honor our existing contract. As it stands, Quincy Fire has an agreement with the Forest Service which states that we will be reimbursed using the methodology used in the contract we have with the State Office of Emergency Services.

Some of the issues we are dealing with include, interpretation of the time-and-one-half policy, Portal-to-Portal agreements and our negotiated rate with the state versus the base rate the state pays for agencies who do not have a current salary survey on file with OES. In the past, these types of conflicts have caused long delays in reimbursement. It is not uncommon to have reimbursement payments received nine months or more after our invoices have been submitted.

The Quincy Volunteer Fire Department Inc. currently pays our firefighters \$20 per hour for hours worked. When we are reimbursed by the Feds or the State, QVFD Inc. pays them the balance owed. QVFD Inc. also issues 1099s to our volunteers for tax purposes.

Quincy Fire often uses personnel from other departments to fill out a crew when we respond to long term incidents. In the Case of OES-360, we are required to make that vehicle available for immediate dispatch with a crew of four firefighters who can commit to a 14-day assignment. Very few volunteers can take 14 days away from their jobs which forces us to occasionally change out personnel during an incident. Most overhead personnel at major incidents are not supportive of personnel changes prior to the 14-day commitment. As a result, many departments throughout the State (like Chester Fire) are turning in their OES Engines due to the hardship and expense created by these types of policies.

Chief Cassou will keep the Board updated with the ongoing issues.

XII Chief Cassou - Quincy Fire once again participated in the annual Safe Trick-or-Treat event. As always, Deputy Chief Windle purchased the candy. Volunteers took Engine 8124 up to the Courthouse on Main Street in the late afternoon. Later, Engine 8122 set up on the corner of First and Center to hand out candy. Participation in the Safe Trick-or-Treat event appears to be getting bigger with greater turnout every year.

XIII Other Business

- a) Chief Cassou asked Secretary White to explain the State legislation (SB 929) that requires all independent special districts to have a website by January 2020. These websites must make available specific information that is ADA approved including district and board member contact information, board meeting agendas, links to financial reports, and to encourage greater transparency.

Streamline is a CSDA approved website that provides a low-cost website for \$75.00 a month. The service includes the maintaining of the website's transparency, updated legislative laws that will keep QFPD in compliance with the new laws being passed annually. Treasure Ryback's understanding is that exemptions are allowed but they are limited.

Possible reasons for an exemption may include a lack of access to broadband Internet, insufficient staff to maintain a website or inadequate financial resources.

- b) Long Term Building Plan discussions and possible actions.

Chief Cassou shared the itemized quotes from Wilcox Construction for the renovation of the north side of Station 1 including woodwork, concrete and structural steel for a new staircase. Chief Cassou and Board members had a lengthy discussion on the presented price from Lazzarino Construction to do the metal staircase. In an effort to reduce costs, Chief Cassou will again elicit more competitive bids including the possibility of purchasing pre-fabricated stairs.

Treasure Andrew Ryback made an offer to reach out to other contractors to compare pricing. Chief Cassou will get copies of the plans to Treasure Ryback and Chairman Taborski. The Board decided to put the project on hold until further data from other bids or price comparisons come through.

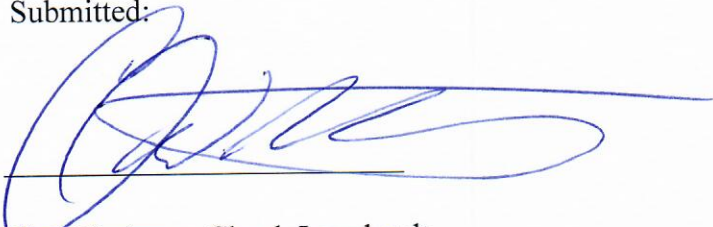
- c) Discussion of the appraisal for the Andy's Way property behind Station 1

Chief Cassou received the appraisal for the property behind Station 1. The property on Andy's Way appraised at \$185,000. The cost for appraisal services was \$1,500. Chief Cassou expressed interest in purchasing the property to expand the training facility at Station 1. After discussions on Station 1's training center expansion and Station 2's

eventual replacement, the Commissioners decided to put the acquisition of the Andy's Way property on hold until further discussion can be had at a later date.

XIV. Meeting adjourned by Chairman Taborski at 8:25 a.m.

Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chuck Leonhardt", written over a horizontal line.

Vice Chairman Chuck Leonhardt

BOCMM 11/14/2019