



Quincy Fire Protection District

Board of Commissioner's

Minutes Meeting January 20, 2022

Feather River Bulletin Conference Room

- I. Chairman Taborski called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with Treasurer Andy Ryback, Commissioner Johnny Mansell, and Fire Chief Robbie Cassou present. Administrative Secretary White was not present at this meeting.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Commissioner Mansell made a motion to approve the November 10, 2021, meeting minutes with amendments, Treasurer Ryback seconded, motion approved.
- IV. Financial Report: Treasurer Ryback reviewed financials for the last three months.
 - a. There were two pay periods in October and November and three that fell in December, so December wages are higher as a result. The State Disability Insurance was very high in November and December which relates to the revenue section, Strike Team Pay, \$28,000 and \$32,000. Chief Cassou explained that the State Disability and Workers Compensation costs are reimbursed above the 10% administration fee the district receives.
 - b. Treasurer Ryback noted a change in Chief Cassou's car allowance from \$300 a month to \$450 a month. Chief Cassou had no recollection of the increase stating that he sees \$150 per pay period on his pay stub. Treasure Ryback will check with Secretary White to review the matter in past board minutes.
 - c. Treasurer Ryback questioned the peridium expenses for approximately \$200,000 in November and \$32,000 in December. Chief Cassou explained that these were payment to firefighters who responded on recent fires. Treasure Ryback couldn't find the revenue for the strike team pay and will follow up with Secretary White.
 - d. The only other unusual expenses that fell in November was the insurance through Flanigan and Leavitt and safety equipment and vehicle maintenance. The vehicle maintenance was due to several engine out of service for repairs during that time.
 - e. Treasure Ryback with follow-up with Secretary White regarding the peridium situation and the \$28,000 revenue adjustment in November.

- f. Chairman Taborski updated the board on our consideration of moving the district finances out of Plumas County and doing them internally. This discussion was broached because of the ongoing concern with respect to the County's diminishing ability to conduct the district's finances in a timely manner, due in part to the County's ongoing staffing shortages and the loss of experienced employees. Treasure Ryback voiced concerns regarding the potential lack of checks and balances should the district choose to withdraw from the County. Chief Cassou shared Treasure Ryback's concerns but went on to lament the seemingly insurmountable task of trying to get accurate, consistent financial data from the county and the district when applying for a recent FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's Grant.

Secretary White (though not present) had supplied Chairman Taborski with some contact information for representatives of the Beckwourth Fire Protection District who are four months into the process of separating from the County. After much discussion it was decided to wait and see how the process plays out with Beckwourth Fire and then revisit the subject at a later date.

The board also considered approaching the County Board of Supervisors about making them aware of the concerns of the special districts. Consideration of privatizing the district's fiscal services might be an option for the County to better serve the special districts.

- g. Treasure Ryback asked about our progress on reviewing our insurance coverage with regard to the facilities and equipment. Chairman Taborski explained that we were waiting for Mike Flanigan to come to another board meeting and go through our coverage, point by point. Commissioner Mansell offered to look at the building and get a more comprehensive evaluation of the replacement cost should any of our facilities be damaged or destroyed.

V. Fire Chief's Report - Chief Cassou

- a. Calls for December – December was a very busy month with 61 calls for emergency medical services, 11 fire related calls and 5 hazardous materials responses for a total of 77 calls for the month.
- b. As of January 1st we have two new Captains, Eric Vinyard and Dale Ready replacing David Schmid who has promoted to Assistant Chief and Kevin Correira who has retired and moved out of the area.
- c. Drills - 1/4/2022 - Officers Meeting
1/11/2022 Protective clothing, equipment inventory and emergency vehicle familiarization.

1/18/2022 – Rope rescue systems, mechanical advantages “Pig-Rigs”. Matt West led the evening activities and did an excellent job of explaining and demonstrating the systems.

1/25/2022 – Firefighter survival techniques. With the assistance of several officers, Deputy Chief Carey set up three skill stations. Station 1 “Shake and Bake” a team building, breathing apparatus exercise. Station 2 was an entanglement prop used to teach firefighters how to negotiate and self-rescue if trapped by wires and other obstacles. Station 3 involved teaching disoriented firefighters how to escape a structure using hose coupling identification and hose following techniques.

- d. Adopt a family. This December Quincy Firefighters raised \$1,000 to help 10 needy families in Quincy. Chief Carey worked with the Plumas Crisis Center to distribute ten \$100 dollar gift cards.
- e. Community Supper – Under the guidance of John Gay, 19 Quincy Firefighter’s and Support Team Members provided 80 free meals to community members. As always, Tim Pitlock and others started cooking at 6 AM and throughout the day to help make this event a success.
- f. On December 26th, Fire Chief Randy Fluke from West Almanor Fire was seriously injured while at a car accident on Highway 89 when a responding fire engine brock loose on the ice and pinned him between the engine and his command vehicle. After several surgeries, rehabilitation, and light duty, he is expected to make a full recovery.
- g. On January 6th Chief Cassou met with two members of the Fire Safe Council who are interested in starting a new group through the Quincy Fire Support Team to offer free home evaluations of residences within the Quincy Fire Protection District. These members would, upon invitation, visit private properties and give recommendations on “home hardening” and “defensible space” techniques to better prepare for wildfires in our community. Chief Cassou is very enthusiastic about the potential benefit to the community explaining that the best way to protect the community from fire is prevention.
- h. We have received an extension on last year’s Public Safety Power Shutdown funding. The extension will change the deadline from March 31st to December 31, 2022. This funding was provided to install a generator at station 1 to support the entire facility. The project was put on hold due to the death of the contractor who was going to do the job. We have elicited another bid and had a site visit from Power Up Electric out of Redding. Because of the recent demand and availability of commercial generators and the associated installation costs, the current bid is \$8,000 more than our previous bid. Once ordered, the generator and transfer switches will take approximately 8 months to arrive.
- i. This year’s breathing apparatus fit testing and immunizations will be conducted on February 22nd at Station 1. PDH has agreed to supply us with the materials and supplies

to get everyone's immunizations and TB testing up to date. Ashley Blesse is working on volunteers to help administer the immunizations and TB tests.

- j. On January 25th we will be using the ladder truck to help Plumas County Buildings and Ground remove the Christmas lights from the tree in front of the Courthouse.
- k. OES 360, which has been out of service for several months, is back in service. Dale Ready and Chopper Muñoz picked it up From OES and Brought it home. 360 appears to be working fine so far.
- l. Chairman Taborski asked how our new mechanic Chopper Muñoz was working out. Chief Cassou stated that his performance has been excellent. Charlie Read has been working with Chopper to get him up to speed on our equipment and facilities maintenance. Charlie is now providing Chopper with commercial vehicle operation training. They have spent several days driving, and pumping, our various apparatus and Chopper is well on his way to completing his DMV Firefighter endorsement.
- m. On January 27th we will be having a site visit from a representative from SCOTT Breathing Apparatus. We are comparing different breathing apparatus to be prepared should we be funded for our FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. Last month Chief Cassou met with representatives of MSA Breathing Apparatus and is now trying to set up a visit from a third vendor.
- n. On December 15, 2021, we received approximately \$42,000 form a grant we applied for through the California Special District Association for cost associated with COVID 19. Chief Cassou has asked Secretary White to establish an account specifically to track this new funding. The funding may be used for the procurement of fit testing equipment for SCBA and N95/100 masks. The funding can also be used to assist with possible cost overruns associated with our PSPS generator project.
- o. Recently, former Commissioner Dorothy Dunn passed away at nearly 103 years old. Dorothy was not only a long-time commissioner but used to handle the finances for the District and the Quincy Volunteer Fire Department Inc. (501c3). Her husband R.K. Dunn was a long-time firefighter with the Quincy Fire Protection District. Gayle Anderson will keep us advised if there will be any upcoming services for Dorothy. If so, we would certainly participate.
- p. Due to COVID concerns, the Dixon Fire Department will not be having their annual awards dinner this year.
- q. Chairman Taborski asked if we would be swearing in the new officers for 2022 at the next Officer's Meeting. Chief Cassou set a tentative date of February based on expected attendance. All three commissioners are planning to attend.

- r. Chief Cassou handed out copies of QFPD's Training Crews for 2022 and the current Training Schedule for the first six months of the year.

VI. Other Business

1. Fire Station 2 replacement

Commissioner Mansell looked into the property north of where 1st Street connects to East Main. Plumas County has an easement that crosses the property. For the County to abandon the easement, we would require permission from all adjoining property owners. Though labor intensive abandoning the easement could be done if the property would meet our needs. Chief Cassou believed that the parcel was too narrow to accommodate a desirable fire station. He believes that Lee Road is too narrow to provide for a drive through station. This would require that we depart from, and back into the station by blocking the 35 mile an hour, 4 lane highway. Blocking the 2 lanes on Lawrence Street (a 25 MPH zone) while backing into Station 1 is problematic enough.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of the 173 Andy's Way property.

Having received a counteroffer on the property at 173 Andy's way, there was a lengthy conversation regarding next steps. Chief Cassou raised some questions regarding the long-term goals of the district after his proposed retirement in July of 2023. His concern is that if purchased, development of the property to utilize it as an expanded training facility and possibly crew's quarters would probably not happen in his remaining time as fire chief. Chief Cassou questioned whether we should commit to a project that might not be a priority for the next fire chief.

Commissioner Taborski request some clarification on how acquisition of this property would enhance the mission of the Quincy Fire Protection District. Commissioner Ryback, having spent many years as a Quincy volunteer firefighter, explained how small the facility was when he was a firefighter even before the ladder truck building took up a large portion of the drill grounds. Chief Cassou pointed out that half of the existing training grounds is owned by the Christ the King Episcopal Church and may not be available in the future. He went on to list several other functions that would be enhanced using the additional space. These functions included, providing a permanent driver's training course, and space to have multiple training crews operating at the same time around the drill tower and burn building.

Commissioner Ryback and Mansell both discussed how the future priorities for the fire district will be determined by the board, not a new fire chief. Also, any new fire chief will be selected based on their ability to meet the boards vision for the district's future. Commissioner Mansell went on to talk about worse case scenarios where the district might want to liquidate the property if it no longer met the needs of the fire district. Mansell believed that the property would only increase in value and could be sold for a profit should the need arise. The board considered the possibility of continuing to rent

the property for income through a property manager until such time as we are ready to move forward with the training facility expansion.

After discussion, the board unanimously agreed to except the counteroffer of \$217,500 for the property located at 173 Andy's Way and appointed Fire Chief Cassou as signatory on matters concerning the acquisition of the property.

3. Discussion, possible action on water storage project at 1378 LaPorte Road.

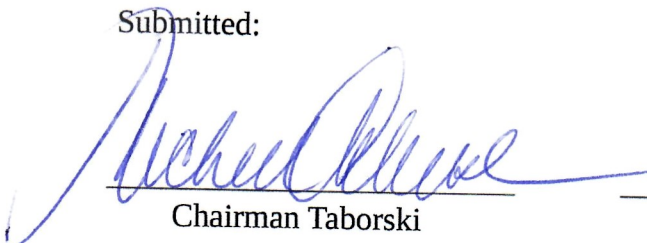
Commissioner Ryback stated that he felt strongly that the district should continue to pursue the acquisition and development of the 1378 LaPorte road property as a water storage facility. In light of the recent fires and the current support of the community, Commissioner Ryback asserted that it is important that we have water out there to better protect the LaPorte Road area.

Though the property acquisition would be free, Chief Cassou pointed out some projected costs associated with developing the site. These costs included prepping the site, tank purchase and installation, drilling a well, providing electricity, building a turnout and dry hydrant system costing upwards of \$100,000. Commissioner Ryback pointed out that those costs would amount to a fraction of the value of just one of the houses on LaPorte Road.

Commissioner Mansell asked if the County had signed over the property to the district. Chief Cassou stated that the County was waiting for him to provide them with a scale drawing of the proposed facility before taking the matter before the County Board of Supervisors. Knowing the Chief's workload, Commissioner Mansell offered to take the lead on the project and explore our options for the property and the associated costs.

VII. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Taborski at 9:23 a.m.

Submitted:


Chairman Taborski

2/10/2022

Date