# OPHIR HILL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AGENDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Special Meeting Friday, March 22, 2024 4:00 PM

# I. STANDING ORDERS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL Others Present

#### II. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Approve board minutes from the previous meeting
- 2. Funding for the fire district
- 3. Discuss consolidation option

# III. MOTION TO ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENT: The opportunity of the public to be heard on an item on the agenda shall be provided during the consideration of that item (Gov't. Code Section 59495.3). The public may address items not on the agenda that are of interest to the public and are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, provided no action is taken in compliance with Gov't. Code Section 54954.3(a).

\*\*This Agenda was posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting at the Ophir Hill Fire Protection District office Online at www.Ophirhillfire.org

# OPHIR HILL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Meeting Minutes BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Monday, March 11, 2024 4:00 p.m.

## I. STANDING ORDERS

1. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Armacher

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL – Chairman Armacher, Vice-Chairman Peterson, Director Martin, and Director Ramey

Others Present: Chief Rothenberger, Firefighter Ackerman, Board Secretary Sousa, NCCFD Chief Robitaille, NCCFD Board President Gruenberg

Director Sousa arrived at 4:02 p.m.

# II. SPECIAL ORDERS

1. Approve Board Minutes from previous meeting on February 12, 2023.

MOTION I – Director Peterson motioned to approve the meeting minutes.

2nd by Director Ramey

**VOTE: Unanimous** 

2. Chief's Report

Chief Report given by Chief Rothenberger – see report for details.

OES WT-42 is back in service. Chief Rothenberger has updated the policies via Lexipol. There are policies to read and review. Policies will be reviewed on training nights when possible.

3. Financial Statements and Warrant Requests

Monique Sousa reported the fund balances as outlined below:

Fund Balance for LAIF 721 \$ 620,705.22

Fund Balance for 727 LAIF \$

Fund Balance for 765 LAIF \$

West America Checking \$ 415,535.44

MOTION II – Director Peterson motioned to approve the financial statements.

2nd by Director Martin VOTE: Unanimous

#### III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss consolidation of the fire district

The board discussed the current difficulties in hiring and retaining employees and the large turnover in the fire service in general. Chief Robitaille and Board President Gruenberg were invited to discuss the process of consolidation with Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. Chief Robitaille explained the process of reorganization. Currently AP Triton's Municipal Service Review is pending with the first draft/technical report expected in April. The fire districts may benefit from their recommendations to alleviate staffing, and improve recruitment and retention. For the current reorganization between NCCFD, PVFPD and RaRFPD, there are several reports compiled: a report for plan for service, capital improvement plan, and career development. The districts are also completing a financial analysis looking at the cost to provide service to the community. The gap in funding that needs to be filled can be addressed by the county. The reorganization is the only time to approach the county and request a reallocation of the tax agreement/ad valorem. The county will review AP Triton's MSR and cross reference with the reorganization reports to validate the numbers. The county wants to see the efficiencies of the fire districts coming together. There would be a benefit to leverage funding from the county if

more fire districts are interested in reorganizing with NCCFD. LAFCO will review the application and determine if it is solvent and sustainable.

To get started, OHFPD would form an ad hoc committee to determine if reorganization is to be pursued, and then work with NCCFD's own ad hoc reorganization committee to move forward. Together they would integrate the districts and develop several reports. The application would be submitted to LAFCo for review and to determine if it is solvent and sustainable. Once validated the State Board of Equalization would dissolve the districts and create one new district. Once the application is submitted it takes 4 months to go through the LAFCo process. Discussion around special taxes, ad valorem taxes and possible funding.

- 2. Funding for the fire district
  - Discussed under item #1.
- 3. ID Badges
  - Chief Rothenberger will have them printed to be distributed next month.
- Appreciation Dinner
  - The appreciation dinner was a great success. Chief Rothenberger expressed his gratitude to the board for hosting it.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Discuss establishing jurisdiction of fire inspections violations in commercial parcels
Captain Nelson is spearheading this. There has been some discussion with the Nevada County
Fire Planner. While Captain Nelson is out, fire inspections will be completed by Captain Wheeler
and Chief Rothenberger. There are no pending fire inspections until June.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Conflict of Interest, Form 700 is due April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
   This has been completed by all members.
- 2. Audit review

The audit report was presented to the board. The board will review and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

A special meeting is called for Friday, March 22 at 4 p.m. to continue discussion regarding agenda item #1.

#### VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION III – Director Peterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

2nd by Director Ramey

VOTE: Unanimous

Attest

Monique Sousa → Board Secretary

Date

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