



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

LOCATION: CAL FIRE Headquarters
Highway 9 in Felton, CA 95018

DATE: March 19, 2008

TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Members in Attendance:

Alex Leman	Chair of the FDAC/1st District Representative
Arnie Wernick	5th District Representative
Donita Springmeyer	3rd District Representative
Ian Larkin (by phone)	Fire Labor Organization Representative (by phone)
Paul Helm	Deputy Chief of Operations CAL FIRE/County Fire
John Willett	2nd District Representative
Mike Coryell	Volunteer Company Officers/Vice Chair of FDAC

MINUTES for March 19, 2008

- 1.0 Introductions
- 2.0 Oral Communications (Items not on Agenda)
 - Minutes from 1/9/08 presented for review. Revisions made and noted. Motion to approve revised Minutes by Donita Springmeyer, motion was seconded by John Willett and approved unanimously by all present.
- 3.0 Discussion
 - 3.1 Budget
 - 3.1.1 Current year status – Chief Helm
 - On track to be about \$500,000.00 under-spend in Amador contract due to late start to fire season, reductions in staffing and reductions in un-planned overtime.
 - 3.1.2 February 12 timeline vote
 - Motion by John Willett to discuss at April 16th meeting when all representative are present, second by Donita Springmeyer, motion carried.
 - 3.1.3 08/09 recommendations for Board– discussion continued
 - FDAC Commission to make recommendation to B.O.S. to not consider Fund Balance as money for balancing County Fire budget, instead FDAC will try to work with County Fire’s own revenue.
 - Discussion of reduction of money budgeted for un-planned overtime. Reducing amount budgeted from 150,000.00 to 100,000.00 should still provide a comfortable safety buffer. The February spike in un-planned overtime was due to “buy out,” for Firefighter I separations and increased workload for captains during training at Returning Firefighter Academies.
 - Letter addressed to Board of Supervisors and Santa Cruz County Fire Chief, was presented which identified areas of savings through 6

Recommendations. Letter was edited and voted on for approval. All members present voted to approve letter. Letter was signed by members present.

- Members not present will be granted an opportunity to sign or decline to sign within 72 hours of initial signing.
- Purchase of Engine/Apparatus discussed. Motion by Mike Coryell to County Fire to take action to purchase an engine using a combination of this year's money that has been obligated already and next year's which is in proposed budget agreement, and to report the findings/details at the next meeting. Motion approved by Mike Coryell, Alex Leman, John Willet, Paul Helm, and Arnie Wernick. Motion disapproved by Ian Larkin due to the fact that Labor cannot support the purchase of new equipment amidst staffing reduction.

3.2 Role of County Fire Chief

- Suggestion of County Fire Chief role/responsibility being transferred from CAL Fire Unit Chief to CAL Fire Deputy Chief.
- Discussion of single point of contact between County Fire Chief and County Department head.

3.3 Discussion continued on internal communications plan

- Publish a communication of actions taken at the end of every official/regular meeting that will be made available to members of the Board of Supervisors, County Administrative Officer, General Services Department, Office of Emergency Services, County Fire Chief, Volunteer Fire Department (through representatives), Fire Labor Representative, and posted on a website for public availability. Motion to approve by Mike Coryell, second by Paul Helm; motion carried.

3.4 Proposition 172 – information

- Motion carried to discuss at next meeting on April 16, 2008. Information on topic presented to members by Donita Springmeyer to be reviewed before discussion at next meeting.

3.5 Additional study sessions – schedule if necessary

- Motion carried to discuss at April 16th meeting.

4.0 Roundtable

- ECC may not be tracking response of County Fire engine company assisting other agencies on mutual aid calls in total volume of calls. Chief Helm will check into this and it will be added to the agenda for the 4/16 meeting.

5.0 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Mike Coryell
- Second by John Willet
- Motion was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Next regular meeting: April 16, 2008 at 5 p.m.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. This meeting is located in an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and you will require assistance in order to participate, please contact the ADA coordinator at 831-454-2210 (TDD number is 831-454-2123 or 831-763-8123 from Watsonville area phones) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, to make arrangements. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

****Distribution**** *If you are unable to attend please call Beth Snyder at (831) 335-5355.*

Commission Members:

Alex Leman (Chair of FDAC/First District)

John Willett (Second District)

Donita Springmeyer (Third District)

Vacant (Fourth District)

Arnie Wernick (Fifth District)

Nancy Carr-Gordon (Santa Cruz County, Deputy Director of General Services)

Jennifer Hutchinson (Santa Cruz County, Planning Department)

Chief Paul Helm (Operations/Deputy Chief for CAL FIRE/County Fire)

Mike Coryell, (Volunteer Company Officers/Vice Chair of FDAC)

Ian Larkin (Fire Labor Organization Representative)