

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, February 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Jensen at 8:31 a.m. Present were Director Jensen, Director Venable and Director Newquist. Others present at the meeting: D. Bensen, B. Brown, E. Hvolbøll, K. Johnson, J. Langhorne, C. Lim, S. Pfister, T. McElwee, G. Simmons, C. Vincent and K. Wallace.

1. There was no public comment.
2. On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the minutes of the January 16, 2007 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as amended.
3. On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the minutes of the January 24, 2007 Special Meeting were unanimously approved as amended.
4. After a brief explanation of costs associated with payments made to Tom Morgan and printer service fees, the warrants and claims for the month of January 2007, were unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen.
5. Chief Wallace advised that the District needs to enter into an agreement with Santa Barbara County to provide IT services as part of the CAD system to connect to the Sheriff's department. Mr. Hvolbøll advised that he had reviewed the agreement, and had several suggestions. He advised that if board wants to approve the agreement, they state that their approval is conditioned to final language being acceptable to Fire Chief and District Counsel. He added that a Board member could also be a part of the review process. Director Newquist advised that he would like to participate in the process. On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the Board approved entering into an agreement with Santa Barbara County to provide specific IT services upon final approval of contract wording by the Fire Chief, Director Newquist and District Counsel.
6. Chief Wallace introduced Sheriff Bill Brown to the Board. Sheriff Brown thanked the board for the invitation, and reviewed his previous experience, including Inglewood, Lompoc, and Pacifica in the Bay area. He advised that he was also a paramedic in the Glendale/Burbank area prior to entering his career in law enforcement. He advised that he looks

Minutes of February 20, 2007 Regular Meeting

forward to strong working relationship with Montecito Fire and hopes to have an open dialog to enhance public safety in Santa Barbara County.

The Board thanked Sheriff Brown for responding to their request for an introduction.

7. Chief Wallace provided a tour of the Station One remodel, which included: dispatch, a new firefighter dorm, storage expansion, and office expansion for the BC's.

The Board took no action.

8. Chief Wallace explained that at the last meeting, the Board directed him to develop an ordinance to charge a fee for all Heartsaver CPR classes that would cover costs associated with providing the class.

There was a public notice announcing a public hearing scheduled for date of February 20, 2007, regarding the District's intention to adopt an ordinance to establish fees for provision of Heart Saver CPR classes published in the Santa Barbara News Press on February 5, 2007 and February 12, 2007. The District has received proof of publication which is on file.

Director Jensen opened the public hearing at 9:45 a.m. There was no public comment. Director Jensen closed the public hearing at 9:46 a.m.

On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen the Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2007-01, as read by title only, "Ordinance of the Governing Board of the Montecito Fire Protection District establishing a fee for Heart Saver CPR Classes", and be authorized the Fire Chief to file a Notice of Exemption, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	R.J. Jensen, J. Venable, D. Newquist
Noes:	None
Absent:	None

Mr. Hvolbøll advised that the ordinance will be effective on March 22, 2007 if it is published in full within 10 days.

9. Chief Wallace advised that the District's audit is currently done by the Santa Barbara County Auditor. We have continued to use the Santa Barbara County Auditor because it is reasonably priced, and they are familiar with our practices. However, the County often gets new employees that need to meet certain requirements before they can become a CPA, this seems to cause a high turn over in that department.

Minutes of February 20, 2007 Regular Meeting

This has been problematic because we lack continuity, and the District accountant must explain our processes each year. Director Newquist suggested that we consider an outside firm to do our audit next year. Chief Wallace reported he has begun researching this.

Director Hvolbøll advised that some public agencies change auditors every few years to get a fresh perspective, and considers this regular change a safety measure.

Director Newquist asked how did the District did overall in this audit, Chief Wallace advised that it was a good report overall. They spent a lot of time reviewing the workforce housing policy and how it was implemented because it was new to the auditors.

The Board directed Chief Wallace to research other firms that could provide audit services next year.

10. Chief Wallace reviewed the report provided by Victoria Green, which indicated that the property on the corner of East Valley and Ortega Ridge it is a usable site, but will be difficult due to the presence of site constraints. He advised that he recently spoke to a property owner on Sheffield about a potential site, and soon after, a neighbor came in to complain about the possibility of our presence. He speculated that wherever we build will bring complaints. He advised that he has contacted our realtors who are now actively looking for other property in the proposed areas.

The Board took no action.

11. Chief Wallace advised that we have a subcontract with AMR for stopping the clock for them on responses into our District. Our revenues from them will be increasing because they are raising their rates as allowed in their contract with Santa Barbara County.

The Board took no action.

12. Chief Wallace reviewed the PERS retirement system including a research brief that explained the difference between defined benefit and defined contribution. PERS is a defined benefit plan.

He advised that PERS is the largest public pension fund in the US, and the 3rd largest public Pension fund in the world.

Chief Wallace advised that our plan pays the employee's contribution for the plan. He stated that the employers' costs spiked quite a bit when market dropped, but they have done some rate smoothing to eliminate

Minutes of February 20, 2007 Regular Meeting

the spikes.

Director Venable commented that he felt a defined contribution plan would be difficult to administer.

The Board thanked Chief Wallace for his presentation.

13. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wallace reported on several issues including: that Mr. Morgan accepted the District's offer and the matter is settled; USFS moved the air tanker base from Santa Barbara to Santa Maria; meeting with Sycamore Vista/Canon View residents regarding ongoing issues with the slide area and how they plan to stabilize the situation; Montecito Association reception for Mark Caruso; and the Annual Workshop planned for March 20, 21 at the Circle Bar B.

14. There were no additional agenda items requested the March 19th, 2007 Regular Board Meeting.

15. Director Jensen adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Roland J. Jensen

Dana Newquist