

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, April 21, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Jensen at 8:33 am. Present were Director Jensen, Director Venable, and Director Newquist. Others present at the meeting: E. Hvolbøll, J. Langhorne, C. Lim, T. McElwee, G. McLeod, G. Ventura, and K. Wallace.

1. There was no public comment.
2. Director Venable asked that the minutes be changed to reflect his attendance to the meeting. On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the minutes of the March 12, 2008 Special Meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
3. After a brief explanation of payments made for medical exams, background investigations, T. Angeles Roofing, the warrants and claims for the month of March 2008 were unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Venable and seconded by Director Jensen.
4. Chief Wallace asked the Board to approve temporary promotions for Bret Koepke, Drue Holthe Richard Lauritson, Jeff Villarreal and Evan Skei to accommodate vacancies caused by Chief Hickman's use of the Family Leave Act, and Captain Lee working with the probationary firefighter's academy. On a motion made by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Jensen, the Board unanimously approved temporary promotions for Bret Koepke, Drue Holthe, Richard Lauritson, Jeff Villarreal and Evan Skei.
5. Chief Wallace advised that the Forest Service has employee housing in the Santa Barbara Ranger District on Paradise Road, and the policy was recently reinterpreted. Director Newquist directed him to write letters to Lois Capps and Elton Gallegly to find out more information about the policy prior to this Board meeting.

Director Jensen questioned the District's involvement or concern with this policy. Director Newquist advised that it may reduce or limit the speed with which we get mutual aid from Los Padres at night if there are fewer employees living in the Paradise Road housing.

Brian Sexen , Captain on Los Padres Helicopter 528 advised the Board that he has lived in Forest housing for 6 years. With employees living in Forest housing, there are 2 fire engines that can be staffed quickly after hours for mutual aid responses. He advised that with the new interpretation of the Forest housing policy, local resources may diminish which may have an immediate effect on responses to Montecito Fire District. The new interpretation requires residents living in trailers to move their trailers off the property prior to sale and has time restrictions on their leases.

Director Venable and Director Newquist both advised that they support the efforts to retain Forest Service housing, concurring that if there are no employees to staff their engines quickly, we could be affected.

On a motion Director Venable, seconded by Newquist, the Board approved the appointment of Director Newquist to work with Chief Wallace to research the Forest Service housing policy as it may affect our District, and return with recommendations for the Board to consider.

5. Mr. Hvolboll advised that Director Newquist asked him to make revisions to the Housing Policy that involved some minor changes to the wording, and address how it relates to local affordable housing policies. In addition, Mr. Newquist had asked Mr. Hvolbøll to review the District's contract with the

property management company currently overseeing the employee housing units. Mr. Hvolbøll advised that the contract can't be changed until December and suggested that the Board review their performance and request any potential changes on the October or November agenda, so that actions can be taken at the December meeting if desired.

Chief Wallace reminded the Board that the auditors suggested that the District review the rents that are charged for employee housing. Chief Wallace advised that he does not have the language ready regarding any potential changes to rental rates for the Board to consider at this time.

Director Newquist suggested that the Chief schedule a review of the property management company at the November meeting. Chief Wallace advised that he will continue researching the rental rates, and he bring that back to the Board for consideration.

The Board took no action.

7. Chief Wallace advised that the Auditor suggested that we develop a policy for our budgeting and accounting policy, and presented it to the Board for approval. On a motion by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist, the Board unanimously adopted the Budget and Accounting Policy.

8. Chief Wallace advised that District guidelines require Board approval to sell excess vehicles that have not been fully depreciated. He explained that we typically offer these vehicles in a closed bid auction to employees, with minimum bids based on value estimates provided by local car dealers. On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Jensen, the Board unanimously authorized the auction of the 2001 Dodge Durango, and the 2003 Chevy Tahoe as excess vehicles.

9. Chief Wallace advised that he wanted to clarify how District political support is determined. He advised that he generated a letter of support for a State Bill that was introduced by fire districts, and asked if in the future such requests should be brought to the Board for the entire Board to consider.

He asked the Board to consider opposing Senate Bill 1617, which allows the state to charge fees for SRA lands. Forty percent of our district is in SRA lands. Everything above Highway 192 would receive a bill from the state, and none of those funds will go to our district. On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist, the Board authorized a letter of opposition to Senate Bill 1617 if the FDAC asks for one.

10. Chief Wallace reviewed the Evacuation Drill, advising that we made an extensive public outreach to educate the community. There will be a briefing is at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 26th to make sure that all participants understand the plan. The Incident Command post will be at Mt. Carmel Church, and the drill will begin at 9:00 am. Survey post cards have been mailed out to all residents in the Evacuation zone to critique the event. Director Venable advised that the walk and talk was well coordinated.

The Board took no action.

11. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wallace reported on several issues including the following: Structure fire at 2297 Featherhill; Update on a worker's compensation injury; Press Conference for new CAD system; FDAC conference in Tahoe; Legislation Day; one termination; and Station 3 presentation at May Meeting.

12. There were no additional items requested to be added to the May Board meeting.