

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

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road, September 21, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Jensen at 8:32 am. Present were Director Jensen, Director Venable, and Director Newquist. Others present at the meeting: T. Edwards, C. Hickman, J. Langhorne, C. Lim, G. McLeod, P. Purguy, T. McElwee, M. Manion, G. Ventura, 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 August 17, 2009 regular meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Chief Wallace began with clarification on payments for fire assignments and to M. Lee.

Director Newquist asked what oversight there was on expenses from Price Postel and Parma. Mr. Manion explained that the firm provides monthly detailed invoices, and all work performed by Price Postel and Parma is at the direction of the Fire Chief.

Director Newquist also questioned payments made to AMEC, as he believed that work performed by them was completed once the Station 3 Study was finished. Mr. Manion explained that AMEC has been utilized to further analyze the top two proposed properties suggested in the Station 3 Study for further consideration. He explained that a more detailed analysis of the properties are necessary so that the District can assure that zoning and other environmental considerations are addressed prior moving forward with any negotiations with property owners.

Director Venable advised that one of the properties previously in the properties considered had recently sold, and asked if that affected the properties being considered. Chief Wallace advised that it would not affect current actions being taken to analyze properties as it was low on list provided in the Station 3 Study.

With no further discussion, the warrants and claims for the months of August 2009, were unanimously approved on a motion made by Director Newquist and seconded by Director Jensen.

4. Chief Wallace advised that the Board had accepted a donation from Sergey Grishin last month in the amount of \$15,000 to the District to purchase 3 thermal imager cameras. He advised that Mr. Grishin returned to the District and donated another \$10,000. If accepted by the Board, Chief Wallace

advised that the funds would be utilized to purchase 2 additional thermal imager cameras.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist, the Board unanimously accepted the donation of \$10,000 from Sergey Grishin for the purchase of 2 additional thermal imaging cameras.

5. Director Venable advised that there are two administrators that the Board is considering for managing the District's post retirement benefits program: PERS and PARS. He stated that he felt that that PARS offers greater options, reasonable fees and a more flexible program.

He advised that if the Board chooses to go with PARS, we will need to coordinate with the District Accountant and the fund managers to develop the District's investment strategies.

Director Venable advised that he would recommend the District utilize PARS to administer the District's post retirement benefits program, and suggested that a member of the Montecito Firemen's Association be on the committee to assist in developing an investment strategy.

On a motion made by Director Venable, seconded by Director Newquist the Board unanimously approved utilizing PARS for the administration of the District's post retirement benefits program.

6. Chief Wallace advised that in addition to regular salaries and supplies, the 2009-2010 Fiscal Budget includes an increase in costs for the new engine; prefunding the District's post retirement benefits program; and the predicted transfer of monies that are expected to be taken by the State for Prop 1A. This amount could increase if other jurisdictions request hardship, as the county is responsible for the entire amount. The rest of the jurisdictions will have to absorb any amounts reduced by hardship requests.

On a motion by Director Newquist, seconded by Director Venable, the Board approved Resolution 2009-05 in the matter of adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2009-10 for the Montecito Fire Protection District by the following roll call vote:

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

7. At 9:05 a.m. the Board went into closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, conference with labor negotiator to review its position and instruct its negotiator regarding Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees: Battalion Chiefs. Present were Board Negotiator: J. Venable, Board

members R.J. Jensen, and D. Newquist, and Fire Chief k. Wallace and M. Manion.

8. At 9:32 a.m. the Board reconvened in open session. Director Jensen announced that the Board had reviewed its position with the Board Negotiator and the Board will continue this request indefinitely and include it in their final review of MOU.

9. Chief Wallace presented a letter written to Carpinteria/Summerland Fire District stating that Montecito Fire District is interested in submitting a proposal for their request to provide Dispatch services.

The Board took no action.

10. Chief Wallace advised that the Montecito Association had asked all three special districts make a presentation regarding district operations. The Fire District's presentation was given on September 8th and Director Venable attended. Chief Wallace explained the difference between enterprise and non enterprise districts and reviewed the services provided by the Fire District. Director Venable advised that a former Fire District Director voiced his objection to LAFCO, as he felt that they were taking actions to try to combine the three special districts. He felt that this would ultimately cause a loss of funds for local fire protection.

The Board took no action.

11. Chief Wallace advised that the community has expressed concern regarding the wildland fire threat. We have a lot of resources and technologies but the public needs to partner with the Fire District to prepare themselves and their properties for the worst.

The Fire District has partnered with the Montecito Association to present a Community Forum to discuss the wildland fire threat in the Montecito. The speaker will be Richard Halsey who is a botanist with firefighting background.

Director Newquist suggested that in addition to community forums, the District should consider duplicating the April 2008 Evacuation Drill in other areas of the community. He felt that the drill demonstrated that the District is proactive, and the community seemed to learn a lot from the drill.

Chief Wallace advised that if all Board members want to attend the Community Forum, we will have to call a Special Meeting. Director Venable felt it would be appropriate for all Directors to be present. Director Newquist concurred. Chief Wallace advised that we would take appropriate measures to call a Special Meeting for the event.

12. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wallace reported on several issues including: Pierce engine purchase; thank you received from the Station Fire; Ready! Set! Go! program; meeting with new Santa Barbara County Fire Chief; and a recent trail rescue on Cold Springs Trail.

13. There were no additional items requested for the October regular Board meeting. Director Newquist asked Chief Wallace to invite Salud Carbajal to a future meeting. Chief Wallace reminded Director Newquist that Supervisor Carbajal has a regular scheduled meeting that conflicts with our meetings, and he will be unable to attend as long as he has the conflicting schedule.

14. Director Jensen adjourned the meeting at 9:45 am.