



FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

131 Kirby Street, Felton CA 95018 831 335-4422

Special Meeting Minutes

Of The Board of Directors

September 23, 2024

Location: *Felton Fire Station Meeting Room*, 131 Kirby St, Felton California

1.0 Convene Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Anderson at 6:01 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call: Directors Jim Anderson, Norm Crandell, Mike Shults

Staff: Chief Blum, L. Dennis

Absent: none

Guests: Some Squad members, Christina Wise, Chief Maxwell, Assistant Chief Ayers, additional members of the public were in attendance.

1.4 Considerations of Additions to the Agenda: None.

2.0 Public Comment:

None

3.0 Unfinished Business:

3.1 Draft Agreement for Services with Ben Lomond Fire - update - Blum

Chief Blum stated we are still waiting to hear back from legal after their review of the agreement. Tomorrow there will be a discussion with board representative Crandell, two Ben Lomond board members and both departments' Chiefs to go over the draft agreement to answer questions or discuss any concerns. Chief Blum provided potential staffing models with corresponding costs. The model he would recommend would realize a savings of just over \$100,000 compared to the salary costs we had budgeted.

Director Shults asked AC Ayers how employees would integrate into their promotions method. AC Ayers responded that employees would need to meet the existing Ben Lomond requirements, which follow the National Standards and added further explanation. Chief Blum stated that these are an enhancement of what Felton has now.

Christina Wise asked about the difference between overnight and day shift staffing. Chief Blum provided an explanation of the day shift schedule and paid hours, and the night coverage with stipend pay.

3.2 TowerPoint proposal to buy-out AT&T Cell Tower Lease – discussion/ possible action

Director Anderson stated that the final contract has been sent to legal and is still under review. He said during conversation with Richard from TowerPoint he was told there could be some tax benefit to us. Some discussion followed regarding legal review and trying to expedite completing the agreement. Director Crandell made a motion that pending legal approval, we agree to engage in discussion for moving forward for the TowerPoint buyout. Director Shults seconded and all approved.

Public Comment:

Erica Schwanbeck stated she has concern that the lease buyout is short-sighted. She feels there is more available income in staying with the AT&T lease for the longer term.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Statement of Opinion regarding Ben Lomond Fire – Mike Ayers

AC Ayers thanked the responding squad members from Felton (Becca Mitchell) and Ben Lomond (Kevin Giannini) for their work on the complicated rescue on September 7th at the Garden of Eden, they both did a great job.

AC Ayers read some information regarding the Ben Lomond department and his history in the fire service. He referred to keeping in line with both the Grand Jury report and the last two LAFCO reports. He stated Ben Lomond has three state-registered training instructors. He does not feel this agreement with Felton and Ben Lomond is a consolidation or a takeover, but a temporary solution until Felton can rebuild their volunteers and get to a better financial position.

Public Comment:

Christina Wise asked about bringing people in and up in the ranks. AC Ayers stated that Chief Blum is working on volunteer recruiting and their intention is to bring it back.

Erica Schwanbeck stated that in her review of the agreement and her knowledge of contracts that some things are confusing. She feels that as it is written it allows for issues to arise for both Fire Districts.

5.0 Closed Session: None

6.0 The Good of the Order – Chief Blum requested to add a comment for the good of the order. He notified the board of his intent to offer each of the candidates seeking the Felton Fire board seats the ability to submit a 650-word statement that would be posted on our

website. The board members were agreeable. Chief Blum will reach out to the candidates to inform them.

7.0 Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

in person at the Felton Fire Station.

8.0 Adjourn: Director Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Jim Anderson, Chairperson

Attest: Laurie Dennis, Secretary