



SVFPD MINUTES September 14, 2023

Summarized MINUTES from a regular Board of Directors meeting of Scott Valley Fire Protection District, Greenview, California. Chair Larry Alexander opened the meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Present were Directors Kevin Hullquist, Kathy Williams, Scott Frick, and Greg Lindholm, Administrative Officer Nancy Salucci, and Assistant Chief Steve Poling. Kathy Williams was excused mid-way through the meeting.

**SCOTT VALLEY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**
A California Special District
Siskiyou County, California
P.O. Box 130, Greenview, CA 96037
(530) 468-2170 messages only

Location: Fire Hall, 317 Maple St.
Greenview, CA. 96037

<http://www.scottvalleyfire.com>

Chief Paul Buchter
530-598-7249 pbuchter@live.com

Assistant Chief Steve Poling
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Administrator Nancy Salucci
541 210-4618 joy@mind.net

Board of Directors:

Larry Alexander, Chair
Scott Frick, Vice Chair
Kathleen Williams
Kevin Hullquist
Greg Lindholm

Public Report Period:

Director Lindholm introduced Daral Wester who was present to answer any questions the Board might have regarding American Building's bid on the new training center metal building.

Greg Lindholm

Training Center up-date

Proposed building details: 30x35 metal bldg. Bid: \$21,761; deposit now due \$2062, with balance due upon completion. This bid includes a "man" door, five 36"x36" windows, and a 10x10 foot rolling equipment door. Lindholm needs to confer with Chief Buchter to determine if a wider door is needed. If so, the price will increase. Specifications need to comply with Special District Building Code, occupancy, building design, and load. The building will be classified as a storage unit or training facility with offices. The slab and footings will be a separate bid.

Lindholm will deliver the plan specs to the Siskiyou County Building Department's Building Plans Examiner/Building Inspector Seth Curry whose new goal is to have a two-week turn-around time on plan approvals.

We did receive two additional quotes that were higher and somewhat ambiguous on what was included.

Motion to accept the bid and give the deposit Motion: Williams/2nd Frick. All ayes, passed. A check for \$2062 was signed, but held by Lindholm until the door size is confirmed by Chief Buchter.

BOARD REPORTS

Larry Alexander, Chair pro tempore

Approval of August minutes Overlooked—see October meeting for approval.

Continuing/New Business Scott Valley Fire Safe Council is up-dating the County-wide Fire Protection Plan (CWPP) which is a high-level risk assessment project. If approved, it will be presented to SVFPD for review and approval.

Northern California Resource Center (NCRC) has been awarded several grants:

- CalFire grant for brush removal around the Town of Ft. Jones
- Feasibility Study for small scale production of bio char, poles, etc.
- 5,000-acre fuels reduction grant (award approval in 2024): NCRC and the Scott Valley Watershed Council will tie-in fuels reduction with existing fuel breaks. Director Alexander will confer with SVFPD regarding our needs at that time and says there may be jobs available for some of our volunteers.

Kathy Williams

Dalmatians Report Banner Bank: \$16-17,000 (statement not available yet), Edward Jones \$18,928.21.

Continuing/New Business Nothing new to report.

September 14, 2023

Kevin Hullquist

Short- & long-range Board plans—Hiring Firefighters for specific jobs

Director Hullquist noted that Yreka and Dunsmuir fire departments have been awarded nearly \$1million grants by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) to hire a “resiliency officer” for 5 years who will apply for the numerous hazard mitigation grants offered by the state and coordinate with other local organizations to prepare the area for the increasing threat of wildfire. Happy Camp received a similar grant last year. Hullquist also explained that Yreka FD is moving ahead from a part-time, volunteer department to a full-service department staffed by paid firefighters. Hullquist believes SVFPD should also be moving in that direction. This level of growth would require new funding sources, including a local tax initiative. A feasibility survey of Scott Valley residents would likely be the first step. “With the diminishing number of volunteer firefighters and medical-aid responders, combined with increasing wildfire threats and medical-aid calls, the transition from all-volunteer fire departments is inevitable,” said Hullquist. [Excerpts from Skip Descant/Siskiyou Daily News]

[Director Kathy Williams Excused from the meeting.]

Hullquist suggested we do a targeted public outreach, find a Joint Venture partner(s), and hire a marketing pro to do a feasibility study on the potential success of a local Scott Valley per-parcel tax. Directors Alexander and Lindholm would like the community’s input on a parcel tax. Alexander would like to be on a budget committee. A two-member Ad Hoc Committee with Director Lindholm and Director Alexander will meet and report on their findings/advice at the October meeting. Hullquist distributed a six-topic questionnaire for the Committee to complete and submit for discussion and decision-making at the next meeting.

Scott Frick (Fiscal Oversight)

Report on annual California Special Districts Association CSDA/SDRMA conference Director Frick inquired of SDRMA (our workers’ comp provider) and conference participants if they were aware of the recent shift from FASIS to FRMS forcing members into a new three-year contract. (Background: FASIS, our former workers’ comp provider, increased our rates to \$41,000/year, whereas SDRMA offered us a comparable policy for \$12,000. We attempted to opt out of FASIS, but are apparently obligated to remain with the new FRMS provider for three years.) Apparently “lots of others are in the same boat with FRMS,” explained Frick. Another written notification reiterating our desire to withdraw will be sent to FRMS.

Public Records Act Due to a recent public records act inquiry seeking firefighter and employee names and payroll, Frick queried Sarah Lastig at CSDA who affirmed we do not have to submit names, but we do have to respond within 14 days.

Salucci affirmed that the State Controller’s Office and Dana Barton, County Counsel both confirmed we do not have to submit names.

Investing Funds from outside of County Auditor While investigating options for investing our reserve funds for higher yields than the Siskiyou County Treasury and Investment Services provides, Director Frick learned of some options at the recent CSDA conference. He suggested inviting representative Bob Shull, Sr. Director from California Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (California CLASS—see attachment) to speak to the Board. In the meantime, we will ask the County Treasurer to explain who is the Siskiyou County fiduciary and investment policy details.

Continuing/new business Director Frick suggested we should reach out to COS for a training instructor. “Losing Mike Wilson was a huge loss. We need a trainer who can certify our firefighters. We’re losing volunteers.” Director Frick introduced the topic of the Whitworth Fire that began on Captain Josh Frick’s property but escaped to a neighboring property before being extinguished. Captain Frick was cited by CalFire for the “escaped burn” and required to perform community service. Director Frick asked if Captain Frick could complete his community service through SVFPD. It was noted that Captain Frick responds to more incidents than any other SVFPD member and has been Firefighter of the Year twice. The request was rejected by the Board out of concern that potential requests for an opportunity to perform service for the department could become a burden.

Operations reports:

Chief Buchter (Absent)

September 14, 2023

Assistant Chief Poling

Continuing/new business This year’s drill attendance has averaged eight personnel, with recent attendance down to 3 in September. Poling and Frick agreed that SVFPD’s lack of a trainer qualified to certify firefighters has a direct impact on attendance. Several SVFPD members now have joint membership with FJFD, attending FJFD’s trainings and responding to their incidents. Concern was voiced about SVFPD members being dispatched, but responding with FJFD and their equipment. Operations needs to actively seek a trainer via College of the Siskiyous. It was also noted that SVFPD was dispatched to only one CalFire strike team this season in spite of the numerous California wildfires.

Salucci inquired about three pending application and Poling confirmed they are all good candidates.

Administrative Officer Nancy Salucci

Annual audit 2021-22 from Smith & Newell Copies of the audit were distributed to all Board members.

Revenue/deposits: Whitworth fire payment from Cal Frie \$2179.45.

ACH Transfers: IRS Q3 \$1329.36; EDD Q3 \$117.02

Bills:

Paul Buchter	1137.52	Salary
Steve Poling	1137.52	Salary
Nancy Salucci	3302.84	Salary
Nancy Salucci	209.60	Mileage/office supplies/internet
Siskiyou Tel	92.70	Utility
Scott Frick	1153.30	Reimburse SDRMA conference hotel & miles
Smith & Newell	4050.00	2021-22 Annual Audit
Pacific Power	34.28	Utility
USBank	1497.96	Misc. equipment/supplies/fuel
Pacific Power	178.20	Utility
Scott Valley Auto Parts	197.19	Parts
Freightliner	9453.02	1534 tender repairs
Aftermarket Parts Supply	70.88	Parts
US Postmaster	66.00	Stamps
SVFPD	2062.00	Reimb Banner Bank acct for down pmt on new metal building
Cascade Fire	10369.85	Misc gear, hoses
Commercial Iron Works	95.00	Patch pipe on tanker

Motion to continue \$200 monthly payment to FJFD. Due to lack of a second, the motion was not carried.

The Board opted to not send \$200 to FJFD and asked that Chief Buchter and FJFD Chief Hess attend our October 19th Board meeting to discuss options. An up-date on the joint FEMA grant is also requested.

Motion to approve the bills Hullquist/2nd Lindholm. Four ayes, passed.

Adopted Budget 2023-24 Acceptance Resolution was passed with four ayes and one absent.

The proposed adopted budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 consisting of Authorized General, Specific and Investment Revenues of One hundred seventy-four thousand, two hundred forty-four dollars (\$ 174,244.00); Personnel, Operating [Services and Supplies] of and Capital Outlay Appropriations of Three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000.00) and Appropriations for Contingencies of Eight hundred twelve thousand, one hundred seven dollars is hereby adopted and shall be the financial plan for fiscal year 2023/2024 unless amended thereto by resolution or motion of the Board of Directors. Expenditures of the Scott Valley Fire Protection District funds are hereby authorized under this budget plan, titled “Scott Valley Fire Protection District Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget”.

August incidents

Vegetation Fires	Vehicle Accident	Structure fires	Other fires	Medicals	Haz Mats	Public Assists	Others	Dispatch Total	Response Total
7	1	1	9	16	1	3	1	39	8

September 14, 2023

Operations Data 2023

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Full Strength (goal)	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Active firefighters on roster	15	15	15	17	17	19	21	21				
Inactive firefighters	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2			
Firefighters removed from roster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
New applications received	3	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	1			
Applications pending	3	3	4	2	4	1	2	2	3			
Attended 1st Tuesday drill	15	8	10	7	9	7	6	7	3			
Attended 2 nd Tuesday drill	8	7	3	14	8	14	8	7				
Station Staffing: Greenview	6	6	6									
French Creek	3	3	3	4	4							
Callahan	1	1	1									
Moffett Creek	8	8	8	9	9							

Select Board member for “Personnel” oversight It was unanimous that Director Williams be asked to serve as the Personnel Liaison.

Approve P&P Manual § 2310,2320,2330 re Captains’ duties in absence of Chiefs Details submitted for review at the August meeting.

Motion to approve Frick/2nd Hullquist, four ayes, passed.

Continuing/new business

Salucci requested that the October meeting be moved from the 2nd to the 3rd Thursday of October. The Board agreed. We will also transition to winter hours, meeting at 5:00 instead of 6:00p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Frick/ 2nd Hullquist. All ayes, passed.

Date _____

Chair _____

Administrative Officer _____