

Clarksburg Fire Protection District
52902 Clarksburg Avenue, P.O. Box 513
Clarksburg, CA 95612

Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
March 5, 2020, 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Chairman Pruner called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members present:

Joe Gomes, Nancy Kirchhoff, Mark Pruner, and Bob Webber
Richard Bagby, Commission Secretary

Fire personnel present:

Chief Craig Hamblin, Assistant Chief Richard Bagby, Capt. Peter Hunn, and
Firefighter Joe Gomes.

Public Present:

Supervisor Oscar Villegas; Supervisor Gary Sandy; Mr. Patrick Blacklock, County
Administrator; Chief Gary Fredrickson, retired Fire Chief, Yocha Dehe Fire
Department; and Mr. Steve Pylman, local resident.

Additional Funding for Yolo County Fire Districts:

Following the introduction of all present, Chairman Pruner gave a brief history of
the Clarksburg Fire Protection District's funding sources. Included were property
tax revenue, a benefit assessment, developmental impact fees, and grant
revenue. The Chairman delineated the District's long history of providing effective
fire protection at a minimal tax rate, the adverse impact of Proposition 13 (1978),
and the subsequent tax formulas (AB 8 Factors) that locked the Clarksburg Fire
District into limited property tax revenue. Chairman Pruner chronicled the efforts
of the post Proposition 13 Boards that levied a number of benefit assessments
culminating in the passage of the District's Proposition 218 Benefit Assessment
of 1996. The Chair closed his introduction by delineating the unique needs of the
Clarksburg District as contrasted to that of career departments and districts.
Underscored specifically was our District's need to replace apparatus as
opposed to the funding of ongoing and increasing labor costs.

Chief Gary Fredrickson stated that he has been part of the adhoc committee
formed to identify additional sources of revenue for Yolo County rural fire
districts. The Chief stated that the committee has been gathering objective data
that can be used to formulate recommendations for additional funding.

Chief Fredrickson presented a brief history of the adhoc committee that has been gathering data to study the financial needs of Yolo County fire districts. Chief Fredrickson listed the data sources that assisted the committee and Carolyn Jhajj of the Yolo County Administrators offices in this study. The major statistical information delineated by the Chief was; call volume, response time, response personnel, apparatus age, apparatus inventory and the adequacy of the physical facility. The Chief distributed a graphic illustrating the county wide decline in volunteers and the increase in call volume in Yolo County during the period of 2008-2018. A copy of that graphic is included with these minutes and considered a part thereof. Commissioner Gomes asked the reason for the decline in volunteers. Chef Fredrickson stated that this is a national problem, most likely due to smaller communities becoming "bedroom communities" for the large cities.

Chief Fredrickson stated that, in addition to gathering information from within the County, the committee visited the counties of Amador and Sonoma in an effort to see how other counties have addressed the aforementioned issues.

The Chief closed his comments by complimenting the Clarksburg district for the level of service that they provide but noted the financial difficulty the District has in supporting the acquisition of new apparatus.

Mr. Patrick Blacklock, Yolo County Administrator, distributed a handout delineating the actual and projected Yolo County Proposition 172 revenue between the years 2016 and 2025. Mr. Blacklock noted that the Proposition 172 revenue is a somewhat limited pool of funding that will increase an average of 2.8 % per year. A copy of that handout is included with these minutes and considered a part thereof. Following, Mr. Blacklock suggested that an increase in County sales tax might be considered to provide additional funding to fire districts. In addition, Mr. Blacklock underscored the impact of Proposition 13 (1978) on California special districts and discussed the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) of 1992 that ultimately led to the passage of Proposition 172.

A discussion ensued focusing on the unique and different needs of Yolo County fire districts, local district autonomy, National Fire Prevention Association recommendations, the decline in volunteerism in other districts, and the difficulty in implementing change given these interrelated factors.

Chief Fredrickson emphasized that there is a goal of transparency and getting input from all County Fire Chiefs prior to formulating any specific recommendations on funding.

Chief Hamblin again expressed his concern regarding the lack of transparency in this process. The Chief called attention to the subtle elimination of representation by rural volunteer districts from the adhoc committee following the first meeting.

Chairman Pruner reminded those present of his communication with the County Administrator's office last December when he was told "the meetings (of the adhoc committee) are currently not structured as public meetings, thus (not) allowing for additional participants".

Mr. Blacklock offered his assurances that, as this project moves forward, the process will be transparent, the unique needs of the Clarksburg district will be addressed, solutions will be geographically based, the entire study conducted by his office will be reviewed by the County Fire Chiefs, and that no artificial timelines will be in place.

Agenda approval:

It was moved by Commissioner Webber and seconded by Commissioner Kirchhoff to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2020:

It was moved by Commissioner Gomes and seconded by Commissioner Webber to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the February 6, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the expenditures for the month of January 2020:

Following examination, it was moved by Commissioner Kirchhoff and seconded by Commissioner Gomes to approve the expenditures for the month of January 2020 in the amount of \$ 5,983.37. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Steve Pylman commented on the previous discussion of a decline in volunteerism suggesting that referrals from some of the younger firefighters might be a source recruits. Chief Hamblin stated that was a significant factor in the last group of "pinned" firefighters. In addition, the Chief noted that at least one current application is based on such a referral. The Chief segued into a brief discussion of NFPA standards as they relate to small special districts such as ours noting that the NFPA standards are suggestions, not mandates. These suggestions then allow departments and districts to implement training and standard operating procedures based on the real needs of their jurisdictions.

Reports from Commissioners:

Commissioner Kirchhoff reported on the Friends of the Clarksburg Services and Recreation (FCSR), a 501c3 community organization founded in 2019 for the purpose of establishing and supporting public park space in the North Delta region.

Commissioner Gomes reported that water is up in the Reclamation District canals.

Yocha Dehe Water Tender Grant Update:

Captain Peter Hunn gave a report on his progress in applying for grant funding from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Captain explained that his interest in this pursuit began when he observed the philanthropic activities of the Wintun Nation with the Yolo County Farm Bureau and other Yolo County fire agencies. Captain Hunn explained that he has applied for a grant to renovate the existing Water 40 with a new cab and chassis, effectively making it a new vehicle. A site visit is scheduled for March 12, 2020 by the grantor. Captain Hunn reported that we will know more following the site visit. There was an extended discussion regarding the various benefits of the proposed renovation of Water 40.

DWR Single Tunnel Project:

This item was tabled until the next Regular meeting.

Water Conveyance Scoping Comments:

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Chairman Pruner prepares Scoping comments to be submitted to this Board of Commissioners and, if approved, submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Water Conveyance District Status as a Coordinating Agency:

Following a discussion of the role, status, and public perception of a Coordinating Agency, it was moved by Commissioner Kirchhoff and seconded by Commissioner Webber to appoint Chairman Pruner to apply for District status as a Coordinating Agency. The motion passed unanimously.

CPR/First Aid Classes:

Chairman Pruner reviewed the finance structure adopted last year to conduct community CPR and First Aid classes. It was the consensus of the Board that this project would benefit from more general publicity in the community as well as direct contact with community groups.

Revised Public Draft of the Yolo County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance:

This item was tabled until the next Regular meeting.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant, EMW-2016-FO-0611 Closeout:

The Secretary reported that, as of last week, the District has submitted all required documents to close out the FEMA grant of 2016 that replaced the District's structure turnouts.

Bulky Item Pick-up in Clarksburg:

Chairman Pruner expressed his interest in re-establishing the program whereby the County of Yolo would, on designated dates, pick up bulky waste items in the community. The Chair stated that he has contacted Marissa Juhler, Waste Reduction and Sustainability Manager at the Yolo County Integrated Waste Management Department in an effort to accomplish this. The Chairman queried as to whether the District could support or participate in this effort.

Public Health Preparedness:

In response to the recent spread of the novel corona virus (COVID -19), there was a discussion of the role our District might play in event of the spread of this virus to our area. Assistant Chief Bagby cited the preparedness of our District to render first responder service to residents and the various updates from the Yolo County Department of Health and Human Services on COVID-19. The Assistant Chief stated that he routinely forwards this information to our firefighters.

Membership:

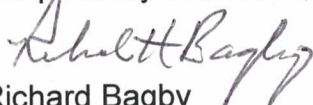
It was the consensus of the Board that Steve Pylman be encouraged to apply to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors to be appointed to the position recently vacated by David Merwin

Chief's Report:

Assistant Chief Bagby reminded all of the "Old Timers Dinner" that will take place on Saturday night.

With no further business before the Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Webber and seconded by Commissioner Gomes to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Bagby
Secretary to the Board