

# MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held at Montecito Fire Protection District, 595 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 on September 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Director van Duinwyk called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:** Director van Duinwyk, Director Lee, Director Easton, Director Dougherty, Director Powell. Chief Neels and District Counsel Mark Manion were also present.

- 1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District. (30 minutes total time allotted for this discussion.)**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

- 2. Report from the Finance Committee. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

- a. Consider recommendation to approve Resolution 2023-07, Adoption of the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-24.**

Accountant Nahas and Director Lee highlighted items within the Final Budget. Motion to approve Resolution 2023-07, Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 made by Director Easton, seconded by Director Lee. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: P. van Duinwyk, M. Lee, S. Easton, S. Dougherty

Nays: J. A. Powell

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- b. Consider recommendation to approve July and August 2023 financial statements.**

Accountant Nahas provided a report regarding the July and August 2023 financial statements. Motion made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Lee, and unanimously passed to approve the July and August 2023 financial statements.

- c. Review PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for July 2023.**

Director Lee provided a report regarding the PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for July 2023.

**3. Consider recommendation for approval of the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

**a. Staff report presented by District Accountant Nahas.**

Accountant Nahas provided a staff report regarding the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report. Motion to approve the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report made by Director Dougherty, seconded by Director Lee, and unanimously passed.

**4. Consider approval of Resolution 2023-08, fixing the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for employees and annuitants. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

**a. Staff report presented by District Accountant Nahas.**

Accountant Nahas provided a staff report regarding the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act. Motion to approve Resolution 2023-08 made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Dougherty. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ayes: P. van Duinwyk, M. Lee, J. A. Powell, S. Easton, S. Dougherty  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**5. Consider approval of Resolution 2023-09, Establishing Appropriations Limit under Article XIII B of the State Constitution of the State of California for FY 2023-24. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

**a. Staff report presented by District Accountant Nahas.**

Accountant Nahas provided a staff report regarding the Appropriations Limit for FY 2023-24. Motion to approve Resolution 2023-09 made by Director Easton, seconded by Director Powell. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: P. van Duinwyk, M. Lee, J. A. Powell, S. Easton, S. Dougherty  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**6. Report from the Fire Station Location Planning Committee.**

Chief Neels provided an update regarding the progress of the archeological review of the site. He stated that the owners of the property provided a Letter of Intent, and under the direction of Committee members, as well as legal advice, a financial company will review the terms of the agreement. He stated that the Architect has developed a timeline. He noted that the Fire Station Location Planning Committee will meet again on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Regular Meeting.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 Regular meeting made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Powell, and unanimously passed.

**8. Fire Chief's report.**

Chief Neels provided an update regarding the County Board of Supervisors' unanimous vote in support of Santa Barbara County ambulance transport. He stated the go live date is March 1, 2024. Chief Neels indicated that department personnel left for Wisconsin for a final inspection of new Engine 92. The Chief highlighted the updated story map regarding Prevention Programs. Chief Neels recognized the Montecito Firefighters Charitable Foundation for their donation to seventeen firefighters impacted by the recent wildfire in Maui. The Chief highlighted a letter from Supervisors Hartman and Williams regarding the ring net project. Chief Neels stated that this Thursday, at 1 p.m., a tree will be planted in the garden in honor of all individuals that have served with MERRAG.

**9. Board of Director's report.**

There were no items to report at this meeting.

**10. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the October 23, 2023 Regular Board meeting.**

Director Powell suggested an item regarding budget surplus allocation be included on the agenda.

**11. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 (d) (2):  
(One potential case)**

The Board reported out of closed session at 4:10 p.m. with no reportable action.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

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President Peter van Duinwyk

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Secretary Sylvia Easton