

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 November 25, 2024 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.)**

Santa Barbara County Supervisor, Das Williams, gave a public comment to pay tribute to Director Powell's service at the Montecito Fire Protection District. Supervisor Williams presented Director Powell with a certificate on behalf of Santa Barbara County.

- 2. Recognition for 12 years of service: Director John Abraham Powell.**

Chief Neels recognized Director Powell's twelve years of service as a Board Director highlighting Director Powell's leadership in the community and always serving with his heart with the firefighters. Chief Neels acknowledged the attendance of Director Powell's family: Christie Powell, Jessica Powell, Pamela, and Steve.

Director van Duinwyk presented an award on behalf of the Montecito Fire Department and the Board in recognition of Director Powell's dedication to the community for the last twelve years serving on the Board.

Director Powell expressed his thanks to the firefighters of the Montecito Fire Department and reflected on the Board's progress over his years of service. He highlighted the strengthened connection between the Montecito Fire Department and the community.

President van Duinwyk called for a ten minute break for a photo with Director Powell.

President van Duinwyk resumed the meeting at 2:22 pm.

Director Lee spoke in recognition of Director Powell's many years of service.

- 3. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-08, 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 Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas.**

Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas presented Resolution 2024-08, which sets the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for employees and annuitants. The resolution authorizes an increase in employer contributions to \$3,075 effective January 1, 2025 as outlined in the District's Memorandums of Understanding.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-08, fixing the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for employees and annuitants made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Easton.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a Trade Services Agreement with Cuyama Lamb, for a maximum annual cost of \$100,000. (Strategic Plan Goal 2)

a. Staff report presented by Chief Briner.

Chief Briner presented a proposal to contract with Cuyama Lamb grazing services for vegetation management. The Board discussion addressed grazing area selection, concerns about over-clearing and ecological restoration, future mitigation costs, the department's role in maintaining private properties, and the importance of data collection for effective fuel management.

Motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a Trade Services Agreement with Cuyama Lamb, for a maximum annual cost of \$100,000 made by Director Easton, seconded by Director Lee, and unanimously passed.

5. Review Emergency Communications Study Proposal Requested by Director Dougherty (Strategic Plan Goal 1)

a. Report presented by Fire Chief Neels and Director Dougherty.

Director Dougherty presented the Emergency Communication Study Proposal, focusing on Montecito's unique geographical challenges and the need to enhance public communication access during emergencies. He proposed hiring consultants to evaluate current systems, recommend improvements, and develop an implementation plan. The Board discussed the proposal and inquired about the fire monitoring camera system in Santa Barbara and the importance of the human-to-human contact and readiness in vulnerable areas.

6. Approval of Minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting made by Director Dougherty, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously passed. Director van Duinwyk abstained.

7. Fire Chief's report.

Chief Neels recognized Division Chief Travis Ederer for his upcoming retirement and invited the Board to the celebration in his honor at Station 91 on December 19. Chief Neels announced the Unity Shoppe Food Drive event scheduled for December 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. Chief Neels reported regarding the establishment of the Emergency Medical Care Committee to address the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical System. Firefighter Ryland McCracken was selected as a representative to the committee and Chief Neels will serve on the committee as the President of Santa Barbara County Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, newly elected Supervisor Roy Lee is working to identify a community representative for the committee.

8. Board of Director's report.

There were no items to report at this meeting.

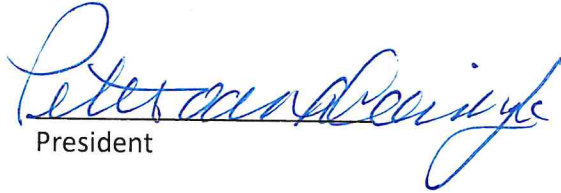
9. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the December 23, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

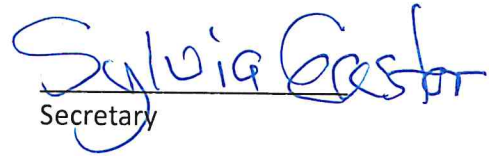
Director Dougherty requested that the Board add an item to the December Board Agenda: to authorize the Fire Chief to engage with consultants to identify potential gaps

in the communication systems during emergencies and recommend practical solutions. The Board Directors agreed to have this item added to the December Board Agenda. There were no additional suggestions from the Directors.

Director van Duinwyk introduced Joe Pennino who will be seated on the Board in December.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:27 p.m.


President


Secretary