

LOCKWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

23141 Shake Ridge Road Volcano, CA 95689

Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes - October 23, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Station 151 - 23141 Shake Ridge Rd., Volcano CA 95689

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86091148620?pwd=VDhob0ZWTDRubS9YSzFoaUQ4Wm1xdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 9114 8620

Passcode: 881553

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

1. Call to order and reading of the mission statement.

LFPD CREED: The principal purpose of this district is the protection of its citizens through the prevention and extinguishing of fires and the protection of life and property. May each action taken by this board be for the benefit of the district and for no other purpose – self-serving or otherwise.

2. Establish quorum-roll call

President called roll, all present. Quorum established.

Staff Present:

ustin Yelinek, AFD Battalion chief

3. Closed session. Closed session Authority:

According to the California Government Code 54957, the Lockwood Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to hold a closed session for consideration of real property negotiations, pending litigation, threats to public buildings or public access and personnel matters. **No Closed Session.**

4. Public Comments:

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Discussion items only, no action to be

taken. Any person may address the Board at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Lockwood Fire Protection District; however, any matter that requires action may be referred to staff and/or Committee for a report and recommendation for possible action at a subsequent Board meeting.

- a. One member of the public questioned when Chief Withrow addressed AFPD's intention to terminate the JOA between AFPD and LFPD, and whether it was referenced during the discussion of item 7d. After reviewing the recording of the meeting, it is confirmed this discussion took place during the discussion of item 7d (approximately 50 minutes into the meeting). This discussion did not take place *after* the break and 7-d was not reopened. Board President Hewitt specified it is the portion of Chief Officer Services addressed in the JOA that is being canceled, which is Addendum B.
- b. A member of the public asked what LFPD's net worth is. Board President Hewitt replied this will be investigated in the LAFCO process.
- c. One member of the public expressed hope that Fire Departments aren't neglected to the extent county roads have been.
- d. Tommiete Rey expressed concern to Board President Hewitt about not including her opinion on parcel tax increase, sent via email on 8/27/23, in public comment or in the minutes from our previous Board Meetings. It was later verified that approximately 1 hour and 37 minutes into the August 28th, 2023 Board Meeting, Secretary Megan Watts read this email verbatim. This was also reflected in the minutes from the August 28th Board Meeting, and the email attached to the minutes.
- e. Director Don Dowell read a letter from Sylvia Schofield. (See attached)

5. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of October 9, 2023

Motion to accept minutes after suggested amendments from Board: Director Don Dowell moved to approve.

Motion 2nd: Director Stevens

Yeas 5 No Absent Abstain

6. 30-day Cancellation notice by AFPD of Addendum "B" of Lockwood/AFPJ Joint Operating Agreement which covers Chief Services - Battalion Chief Yelinek, Amador Fire:

On October 17th, AFPD voted to cancel JOA with LFPD for Chief Officer Services. This cancellation will take effect November 17th.

One member of the public asked if training would look different without the JOA. Battalion Chief Yelinek replied that they would, somewhat, but that there would still be training with LFPD in some form less frequent than a weekly basis.

Laura O'Brien asked if LFPD will pay for EMR certifications. Engineer Randy Binz

replied that LFPD would pay for EMR certifications.

Jackie Vaughn asked over Zoom if LFPD will hire a new Fire Chief. Board President Hewitt responded that this would be a long-term point of discussion for the Board, and that Engineer Binz was willing to stand in as Interim Fire Chief. Board President Hewitt and Director Stevens expressed gratitude for Chief Withrow's leadership of, and contributions to, LFPD.

7. Presentation by Jan Hewitt & Joanne McLachlan of preliminary analysis of future operating costs and the potential increase on parcel tax amount to keep LFPD solvent.

(See attached handout)

8. Action Items:

a. Approve a resolution for the Lockwood Fire Protection District to request the Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to initiate proceedings for a change of organization to the Amador Fire Protection District and dissolution of the Lockwood Fire Protection District.

Motion to approve this resolution: Director Stevens moved to approve.

Motion 2nd: Director McGee

Yeas 4 No 1 Absent Abstain

b. Approve insurance renewal with the George Petersen Insurance Agency not to exceed \$30K

Motion to approve insurance renewal: Director Don Dowell moved to approve.

Motion 2nd: Director McLachlan

Yeas 5 No Absent Abstain

9. Discussion Items:

a. Treasurer Vacancy - Determine whether to hire an individual or a firm for a part-time treasurer position

Director Dowell suggested a Board Member could do this job, and it doesn't need to be a paid position. Director McLachlan nominated Director Dowell to be Treasurer. The Board agreed that Director Dowell would most likely be the best candidate. Director Dowell will discuss this with President Hewitt at a later date. President Hewitt mentioned it would be worth paying the person to accept this position. It was noted that Amador Fire is handling this for LFPD in the interim, until the end of November.

A member of the public suggested the scope of work should be made available to the public.

b. Board Secretary Vacancy

A search has been initiated for a replacement Board Secretary, as Board Secretary Megan Watts has announced her departure. Due to Board Secretary Watts' pre-existing positive work relationship with Auxiliary Secretary Zidane Golightly, Board Secretary Watts has invited Golightly to shadow tonight's meeting to get an idea of the scope of work before accepting the position.

10. Treasurer's Report

(See attached)

11. Chief's Report (by Chief Yelinek):

- 23 Calls for month of September
- Firefighter Rich Fugere is newly EMR certified, having taken and passed the course.
- A local resident donated an old house for use in November's multi-company structure fire drill.
- Engine 6520 needs new tires. Jackson Tire quoted \$6,000 for a set of 4 tires.

Board Director Hewitt added that this Friday, October 27th, is Firefighter Tom Tomlinson's last day with LFPD. Gratitude was expressed for his time and effort put into LFPD and into educating new and existing firefighters. Firefighter-Paramedic Steve Clark will be assuming his position.

12. Committee Reports

Grants - Nothing to report

Fiscal/Planning - Nothing to report

Policy/Procedures - Update needed in Operations Policy Manual

Building - Nothing to report

Comm/Outreach - Board Secretary Megan Watts gave her departure notice, and intention to train Zidane Golightly for the position. Golightly is a former LFPD volunteer firefighter, current Secretary of the Auxiliary, and additionally has experience in social media and website management, graphic design and computer work.

13. Auxiliary Report

(See attached)

14. Adjournment

Motion to approve adjournment by Board Director Dowell. Seconded by Director Stevens.

Motion 2nd: Director Stevens

Yeas 5 No Absent Abstain

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Next Board Meeting: November 27, 2023

To whom it may concern :

The pros and cons of LFPD consolidating with AFPD are many.

My concern is that we residents who live in the District to be affected have not been informed of the alternatives ... only the pros of consolidation as seen thru the eyes of Chief Withrow ...who does not live in the district of Lockwood Volunteer Fire Protection District but in Jackson. There is no question that he has rebuilt LFPD during the time that we were assisted by Cal Fire and the last couple of years as we have returned to our independence without Cal Fire. But his leadership towards Consolidation appears to have been one sided and without community involvement. I feel that the move to consolidate with AFPD needs to be evaluated independently, pros and cons publicly debated and then voted on by the people who live within LFPD.

This has not been done. Please as the LFPD Board ... do not vote on this important decision without giving the Community the opportunity to be informed, alternatives considered, and the community allowed to vote on this important decision.

Thank you ... Sylvia Schofield ... former Board Member of LFPD and member of the Auxiliary of LFPD.