

**HAMILTON BRANCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

1) Fire Board President, Norman Sollid, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

2) Fire Board Members Present: President Norm Sollid, Vice President Ron Damsen & Secretary John Seipert. Staff present: Fire Chief Gary Pini, Battalion Chief Andy Courtright & Secretary Holly Coons, Public present about 10.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

President Sollid led the pledge of allegiance.

4) Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

President Sollid asked the Fire Board if they had any questions or changes to the meeting minutes.

There being none, President Sollid called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for July 8, 2020 & August 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes.

Upon a motion by Vice President Damsen, seconded by Secretary Seipert, the minutes were approved unanimously.

5) Approval of the Agenda:

President Sollid asked if the Fire Board had any changes to the Agenda for September 16, 2020.

There being none, President Sollid called for motion to approve the agenda.

Upon a motion by Vice President Damsen, seconded by Secretary Seipert, the agenda was approved unanimously.

6) Public Comment:

President Sollid welcomed the public and thanked them for attending.

There was no public comments.

7) Old Business:

A. Fire Board Vacancies:

Chief reported two vacancies on the Fire Board. He said if anyone is interested, all that is needed is a letter of interest and they must be a registered voter with in Hamilton Branch Fire District.

Chief said a quorum is needed to conduct business for future Fire Board meetings.

8) New Business:

A. Monthly Expenditures for July – Fiscal Year 2020/2021:

Chief Pini answers questions regarding CalPERS Unfunded Liability payment.

President Sollid called for a motion to approve the expenditures for July.

Upon a motion by Vice President Damsen, seconded by Secretary Seipert and a unanimous vote, the expenditures for July were approved.

B. Monthly Expenditures for August – Fiscal Year 2020/2021:

President Sollid called for a motion to approve the August Expenditures.

Upon a motion by Vice President Damsen, seconded by Secretary Seipert and with a unanimous vote, the expenditures for August were approved.

C. Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo):

President Sollid informed the citizens attending the meeting that when Measure - A did not pass, consolidation was researched and discussed for the purpose of employing two Firefighters. He said consolidation is not what we are looking for at this point in time, pending another special tax election for addition funds in the spring.

After Measure - A did not pass. Sollid stated, this District has a shortage of volunteers and only one Firefighter on duty. There is not much one Firefighter can do by their self. Waiting for mutual aid from other fire departments could take a while.

D. Special Tax Assessment:

The Fire Board of Directors are considering running another election to increase our special tax to employ two Firefighters. President Sollid expressed his concern for educating the public prior to another election.

Chief Pini informed the citizens attending that all the planning for newspaper articles, flyers for door to door interaction came to a halt because of Covid-19.

The votes collected and counted by the County of Plumas Elections Department came up short by about 9 or 10, YES votes. The increase request was for \$175.00 to bring the total up to \$283.00 per year.

The Fire Board answered question from the citizens.

There were some very good suggestions for re-writing the information that went out to the public, it was suggested to be more specific in the wording for understanding where the extra funds will be used and why the funds are needed.

There was a discussion regarding insurance premiums. Insurance costs will most likely increase more than the requested increase in the special tax for the fire department.

There were questions and answers about the Fire District's revenue and the amount needed to increase the special tax for two Firefighter on duty 24 hours seven days a week. There has been an increase in emergency calls, so the demand for services will keep increasing.

Chief Pini explained the revenue and budget amounts for the Fire District.

The Fire Board is considering another special tax election for the extra funds in the spring. The last election cost the district \$3,600.00.

The draft resolution for emergency medical services, fire prevention & prevention was discussed.

Chief explained that county council needs to approve the resolution wording.

Chief explained that during the summer months we had two Firefighter on duty 24/7. He is concerned with tapping in to the Districts reserve to continue these wages.

Chief said we want to provide the best equipment and staffing for the citizens in this district. The increase of \$175.00 per year will staff two Firefighters and keep the district on track financially.

Chief said the last tax assessment for the Fire District was thirteen years ago, in 2007.

There was a discussion regarding wildland fire insurance and concerns about an increase in our current Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating and land values, along with slowing real estate markets.

There was a discussion regarding mail outs to the registered voters explaining the pros and cons of the special tax assessment increase.

Chief Pini stated any input or guidance from the citizens is greatly appreciated.

There was some good input by the citizens attending the meeting, which was noted.

Chief Pini encouraged the citizens to become a Board of Director, he said we need two more to complete the Fire Board.

There was a discussion regarding the wages for two Firefighters 365 days.

Chief Pini said there could be up to 10 t 12 Firefighters rotating 24 hour shifts. The funds will accommodate each Firefighter that works for this District.

There was a discussion regarding whether or not the fire station will close if the tax assessment does not pass again. Chief said we can stay at \$108.00 per year, with only one Firefighter, then property insurance may increase and might be more than \$283.00 per year.

Chief reminded everyone that the fire board meetings are on second Wednesday of each month at 4:00PM.

9) Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Pini reported 29 emergency calls in July. 12 medical Aids, 9 fire calls & 8 public assists.

Chief Pini reported 26 emergency calls in August. 13 medical aids, 7 medical aids, 5 fire calls & 1 public assist. We are up to 110 responses, which is the most for this District. He said he thinks the increase in emergency calls will continue.

Chief reported that the fire engines and pumper truck had their annual pump tests, the costs to Burton's Fire was \$900.00. All engines passed inspection.

Chief reported on the Fire Belles parking lot sale, they brought in about \$2,000.00.

B. Fire Board of Director's Reports / Comments:

President Sollid called for reports or comments from the Fire Board.

There was none.

10) Correspondence:

None.

11) Future Agenda Items:

1. Monthly Expenditure for *September* – Fiscal Year 2020/2021
2. Special Tax Assessment
3. Fire Board Vacancy

12) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:

Wednesday, October 14 2020, 4:00 PM, in Hamilton Branch Fire Hall, 3791 Big Springs Road, Lake Almanor Ca. 96137.

13) Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business, President Sollid thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted by *Holly C. Coons*, Secretary. The meeting minutes for *September 16*, was approved on *October 14, 2020*.

X 

Norman Sollid

Fire Board President