

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

November 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order:

Fire Board President Brett Hurff called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2) Roll Call/ Quorum:

Fire Board Members Present: President Brett Hurff, Vice President Norman Sollid, Secretary James Lee, and Director Suzanne Mueller.

Absent: Director Ronald Damsen

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray, Administrative Assistant Holly Coons-Price, and Firefighter Nick McBride. **Public Present - 4**

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

President Hurff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Approval of Minutes – *October 9, 2024:*

President Hurff asked if the Fire Board had reviewed the *October 9, 2024* meeting minutes and if they had any corrections. There was none.

President Hurff called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice President Sollid moved to approve the October 9, 2024, minutes. Secretary Lee seconded the motion, which was carried.

5) Approval of the Agenda:

President Hurff asked if the Fire Board had reviewed the November 13, 2024, agenda and if they had any corrections. There was none.

The agenda was approved unanimously after Director Mueller made a motion, which Vice President Sollid seconded.

6) Public Comment:

President Hurff called for public comments.

The Fire Belles stated that the paint in the Fire Hall looks beautiful and asked if the window blinds could be replaced. After a brief discussion, the board suggested cleaning the current blinds before purchasing new ones.

7) Old Business:

A. Station & Grounds-Up-Date:

President Hurff called on Chief Gray to report on building & Grounds up-date.

Chief Gray reported that the interior painting is almost completed. The new ceiling fans will be reinstalled.

B. Shared Services with Almanor Basin Fire Agencies:

President Huff called on Chief Gray to report on Shared Services with Almanor Basin fire agencies.

Chief Gray informed the fire board that after many meetings, the Chester board and the Peninsula board agreed on an application to annex the Chester area, meaning Chester Fire would be Peninsula Fire. He explained that the Peninsula Fire's special tax will be the same for Chester Fire on top of what the residents already pay. He said the money they have been paying will be used to pay back Chester's debt. Chief said there are two stipulations (A. Peninsula Fire will not go into debt at all, and B. Peninsula's services we already provide will not be compromised at all).

Chief Gray explained that we also agreed upon Peninsula staffing the Chester area in a building, but we will be responding from the peninsula until we receive some special tax funds, which could be up to a year. Once we receive the tax fund we will staff a paramedic and an EMT in Chester. The location is to be determined. We are still discussing a lease agreement with CPUD. We will have one ambulance and a fire truck in the area they will be working from. Chief said he is looking forward to having two more people in the basin ready for mutual aid, along with an ambulance and a fire truck available.

There was a question regarding a vote on the annexation. The chief said there is no vote on an annexation. There will be a protest period. If there is a twenty-five percent protest, then it will go to an election. If the election does not pass by two-thirds, then Chester is on their own.

There was a question regarding a protest process. Chief explained that the resolution to annex Chester had been submitted with an application to LAFO.

Once LAFO receives our application, they start their process, which will be public hearings. If citizens submit a written protest, LAFCO is in charge of this process being the leader we are just along for the ride now.

Chief explained the application was a pretty heavy lift on a short time line.

Chief informed the fire board that he has created a special page on Peninsula web site explained the whole process with supporting documents including most frequently questions to help the public. He said he will post all the LAFO hearing dates as he receives them.

Chief confirmed that at the Plumas County Board of Supervisors meeting he asked for up to \$50,000.00 to help with all the fees to annex in the Chester area. A loan was offered and Chief's response was no because we do not want any debt.

The chief said that, as it turned out, LAFCO was able to pull the annexation maps for Chester, which saved around \$25,000.00. LAFCO's first public hearing was posted at the incorrect time and place, so we are waiting for them to reschedule it. The chief said there will be a few thousand in administrative fees.

There was no further questions.

Chief Gray said he will keep the fire board informed.

8) New Business:

A. Surplus Fire Equipment – Mobile Water Pump (Red Pump)

Chief Gray stated he was told that Brian Turner is interested in purchasing the mobile water pump. After researching its value and/or restoration, Chief said it could be worth a lot.

The chief said that with the fire board's approval, he would offer Brian a trade to grade and apply road base to the extension of the district's property to HWY A-13 in exchange for the pump. We could also try to get the pump running, restore it, determine its value, and sell it. The chief said he is willing to put some time into the pump, and if it works, we could sell it for \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

After the discussion, the fire board approved that the Chief talk to Brian to gauge his level of interest before moving forward.

Chief said he would talk to Brian and report back to the board.

B. Monthly Expenditures for October – *Fiscal Year 2024/2025*:

President Hurff asked the Board if they had reviewed the bills for October and if they had any questions.

There was a question regarding fuel charges. September fuel reimbursement and charges ended up on October's bill list. Administrative Assistant

Coons-Price explained that Diesel and Gasoline are separated, and the reimbursement for fuel was from September.

There was a question regarding the ESO Solutions charge. The chief stated this is the new record time management for fire calls. The chief said the system offers much more than we will be using, so we have negotiated a credit to the account.

There was a question regarding canceling Frontier Communications with the internet phone system. Chief said that we were getting ready to switch the phone system and having problems with Starlink internet. So once we get Starlink straightened out we will move forward with the new system to save funds.

President Hurff asked if there were any more questions regarding the October bills. There being none, he called for a motion to approve them; upon a motion by Director Mueller, seconded by Secretary Lee, and with a unanimous vote, the motion was carried.

9) Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Gray reported 5 Fire Calls, 5 EMS Calls, 2 Public Assists, and 1 Hazardous Material Call in October.

The chief informed the fire board that PG & E was working at 1520 HWY 147 on a pole line and found what looked like hazardous material. They called it in as a HAZ MAT. We inspected it and found the material to be 15 to 20 pounds of vegetable oil. Someone illegally dumped it; no cleanup was required because it was an organic substance.

Chief reported that all vehicles passed the annual pump testing. Chester vehicles did not pass.

The chief reported that he has not heard from the KBK Foundation regarding their grant request yet. He will keep the fire board informed.

The chief reported that he is still waiting to install the new phone system and hopes to complete the process by next month. We have had some internet issues, and we want to make sure the issues are fixed before setting up the internet phone system with Nextiva and canceling Frontier Communications.

Chief reminded the fire board that after our meeting last month we talked about Fire Prevention & Extinguisher training. He said he was invited to attend the Fire Belles meeting the next day. Chief said he provided them

with information on how to use a fire extinguisher, the different types, how long they last and where to purchase them. He talked about smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors also. He said there were some very good questions and he was glad to be able to educate the belles.

Director Mueller stated Chief did a very good job.

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

President Hurff called for Fire Board of Directors reports or comments.

Administrative Coons-Price stated she will be sending the board packet by email and a printed copy will be handed out at each meeting.

10) Correspondence:

The Fire Board received a new copy of the Final Budget.

11) Future Agenda Items:

A. Surplus - Old Water Pump

12) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 1:00 PM

13) Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business, President Hurff thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 1:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by *Holly C. Coons - Price*

The November 13, 2024, meeting minutes were approved on December 11, 2024.

X 

Brett Hurff, Fire Board President