

Lockwood Fire Protection District

Board Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023

Board Meeting: 6:04

Board Attendees: Kelly McGee, Jan Hewitt, JoAnne McLachlan, Cookie Stevens, Don Dowell, Tim Worny. Chief Withrow and Megan Watts were in attendance as well.

Public Comment:

Lee Gravesen spoke to the recent Auxiliary Bingo and Tri-tip dinner fundraiser- said it was one of the best dinners, for the best price, he's had in many years.

Jan Hewitt spoke to the question brought up at April's Board meeting, exploring whether or not there was a conflict of interest in regard to the Chief Officer services provided by Amador Fire Protection District, set forth in the JOA between Lockwood and AFPD. LFPD's legal counsel, Best, Best & Krieger, responded that as long as it is accurate to state that the \$3,500/month paid by Lockwood to AFPD does not directly result in additional compensation to Chief Withrow, there is **no incompatible activity problem under Government Code sections 1125 and 1126**. Similarly, although this does not seem to have been raised by the public commenter, we can preemptively advise that there is **no issue under the Political Reform Act** here (salary paid by government agency, i.e. AFPD, does not qualify as "income" for purposes of a conflict of interest) and that although Government Code section 1090 (applicable to agency contracting) does apply here, as long as Chief Withrow does not participate in any contract processes that would result in an impact to his financial interests (such as an increase in salary from AFPD resulting from his work with Lockwood) then **he is not in violation of the law**, and the two districts can continue to work together under the JOA.

Action Items-

a. Approval of Direct Assessment Agreement (LFPD - County of Amador)

Motion to approve - CS Second - JM All in (5) Absent (0)

Approval of April minutes with amendment: (suggested amendment: the radio tower foundation was actually *not* poured as stated, as granite was present and posed a problem, and hasn't been completed as of yet)

Motion to approve with amendment - JM Second - KM All in (5) Absent (0)

Treasurer's Report-

March numbers are available (see attached)

Annual budget has been worked through and Tim and Chief Withrow are ready to meet with the rest of the committee. Will schedule meeting after this meeting. Possible approval of budget at next month's Board meeting.

Chief's Report-

- Call Volume for April - 18 total (3 fires, 9 medical aids, 1 vehicle accident, 4 public assists, 1 other)

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- Control burn escapes are happening in the district, nothing too extreme as of yet. Great responses from our volunteers!
- Staffing at 151 - Jack White is covering behind Tom Tomlinson while he's in the Academy - goal is to have at least one volunteer firefighter staffed 24/hr
- 152 has had volunteers responding out of the station
- RTU 130 - certified training needing completion to be able to respond to wildfires - almost wrapped up with LFPD's training
- Training attendance has been spectacular
- Approved transfer of 1964 GMC Water Tender

Public Questions for Chief Withrow:

What is the max capacity of volunteers? - Chief Withrow replied 20, we are maxed

How much are turnouts? - 5k-6k for full set

How often are turnouts replaced? - NFPA says 10 years unless protective abilities have been compromised

Grant committee-

Still waiting on 50/50 grant application with Cal Fire, should hear back around Sept./Oct.

DD submitted an AFG grant for a plethora of items, including apparatus.

Fiscal/Planning-

Working on annual budget, should be meeting shortly.

Policies/Procedures-

All Board members need to be current with their training - sexual harassment; etc. JoAnne will look into the status of required training for Board members. Line staff/volunteers also participate in required training both online and via other platforms.

Building Committee-

As money allows, Chief Withrow would like to include living quarters and a dorm room to the right of the building.

Communications/Outreach-

Residents reaching out regarding "burning" procedures, MW has been responding.

Website is doing well, Engage tool is working fantastically and reaching many residents, all over the county.

Advertising for events, Facebook ad for Bingo reached over 5k.

Jan Hewitt wants Measure M information added to the website.

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Public question:

Explain Measure M please: Chief Withrow responded with the Measure M process

Why is it limited only to salaries and benefits? - Chief Withrow responded that that was how it was designed and proposed to the voters. Reimbursement for staff during lengthy extreme storm events, etc. and extra staffing is not in our budget, so Measure M money helps LFPD a lot in this regard

Auxiliary Report -

See attached

Public Comment -

Dave Peckinpaugh from Rancho Canyon Rd. is requesting any kind of help LFPD may provide in regard to a neighbor who has put up a gate across Rancho Canyon Rd., stating he owns the portion of Rancho Canyon Rd. and is refusing to remove it. This gate is prohibiting residents of utilizing the road as a critical option for evacuation. - Chief Withrow responded he will speak with Dave regarding their situation after the meeting and he will be more than happy to help, within the legal limits of LFPD's capacity.

Lockwood Neighborhood Radio watch will have to work with an engineer in regard to pouring foundation for the radio tower, as the foundation process was halted due to the presence of granite. Suggested amending the April minutes to reflect current status.

Adjournment (6:46): *Motion to approve- DD Second- CS All in (5) Absent (0)*

Next Board meeting: June 26th @ 6:00pm