



**MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
3150 MAIN STREET
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546**

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2008

- 1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – *The meeting was called to order at 14:10, all Commissioners were present: Tony Colasardo, Rick Terrell, Richard Good, Richard Blanco, and Jeff Boucher. Mammoth lakes Fire Protection District personnel present: Fire Chief Brent Harper, Division Chief Thom Heller, Firefighter/ Inspector Brett Reed, and Admin Aid Jody Holl. Engineer Scott Walker represented the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department Association. MLFD Engineer David Renner was present for participation in agenda item 6a. Commissioner Boucher had to leave the meeting early at 16:00.*
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *The April 15, 2008 meeting minutes were approved by Commissioner Good, seconded by Commissioner Boucher, all in favor.*
- 3) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - *None*
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENT - *None*
- 5) OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Pay package consideration for full and part-time personnel – *Engineer Renner representing the full time engine staffing crew request for an increase in their salary. He presented the Board with statistics, charts, and graphs comparing salaries of other fire districts to ours. Fire fighter Brett Reed said their (full time firefighters) first request would be to have the District pay for their 9% PERS Contribution, thus giving them a 9% increase in their salary. The Board informed Renner and Reed that they needed to negotiate with Chief Harper before coming to them with their requests. Chief Harper hopes to get a short term contract in place within the next few months. Then with more time, work on a long term (3-5 year) contract.*
- 6) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Cash compensation for members not using health insurance.
 - i) One of our new hires has health insurance through his wife and has requested an increase in his paycheck for not participating in health insurance through the department. – *The District would reimburse the employee at the single rate premium; it would be added to their paychecks as taxable income. Commissioner Terrell expressed the positive side of this option: the fact that if it were a couple or a family the District would be saving money, because you only reimburse at the single rate. Commissioner Blanco was against the idea that it would end up being more*

trouble than it was worth. Commissioner Colasardo in agreement with Richard Blanco adding that health insurance is a benefit and should not be part of the salary package. Admin Aid Jody Holl stated that Mono County, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and California State employees all have the option of forgoing their health benefits. All 3 employers have different rates of reimbursement. The District would be following in line with the County's policy. The Board requested to see a copy of the County's policy before making a decision on this request. Will follow up further at next month's meeting.

- b) *Fine schedule for failing to develop defensible space – Chief included a copy of the County of Riverside ordinance on defensible space for reference in the agenda packet. Generally in Mammoth we would give the property owner 2 summers after they received their inspection letter, to complete their clean up. After 2 summers, if work is still not complete we will fine the property owner \$500.00 for the first offense. Second offense will be \$1,000.00.*
- c) *Start work on "lien" process for those that refuse to clean up - After that time the clean up would be contracted out and the cost would be added to the owner's property tax.*

7) BUDGET

- a) *Determine Cost of Living and other raises for personnel – Chief Harper has requested and budgeted for a 3% COLA for all employees for the new fiscal year*
- b) *Approve preliminary budget for 2008-09 – Chief Harper gave a detailed report of the new fiscal year budget. Commissioner Terrell motioned to approve the FY 08/09 Budget; Commissioner Blanco seconded the motion, all in favor.*
- c) *Approve grant expenditures for fuels modification/defensible space – The \$99,999.00 grant we received from Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be used to purchase: chainsaws, pole saws, a pickup truck, and wages for the Fuels Reduction and CDF crews.*
- d) *Request to purchase 1/2 ton pickup replacement for old expedition – This half-ton pickup will be used as a travel vehicle. It would replace our 1999 Ford Expedition which has 80,000 plus miles on it. Motion to approve request for purchase was made by Commissioner Colasardo, seconded by Commissioner Good, all in favor.*
- e) *Request to purchase 1 ton pickup for fuels crew (part of grant) – This is budgeted for with our SNC Grant money and is needed to haul the chipper. Motion to approve request for purchase was made by Commissioner Colasardo, seconded by Commissioner Good, all in favor.*
- f) *Request to purchase combination all-steer four wheel drive "Bobcat" for fuels crew and snow removal – After reviewing a variety of light weight loaders we have decided upon the Bobcat 5600 Turbo for a total cost of \$55,662.75. \$30,000.00 is budgeted for in Capital Outlay Equipment in our 07/08 budget, and \$10,000 is budgeted in the fuels*

program. The remainder would come from fiscal 2008 surplus. Division Chief Rooks would like to wave the bidding requirement for purchases over \$10,000 and purchase from Bobcat of Reno as a sole source provider. Bobcat is the only manufacturer of this specific type of vehicle. Motion to approve request was made by Commissioner Good and seconded by Commissioner Colasardo, all in favor.

- 8) REPORTS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR BOARD REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND ACTION – *Chief Harper suggested separating capitol items from general budget, with a stipulation that we would be required to have a 4 out of 5 Board approval on expenditures.*
- 9) DISTRICT CHIEF COMMENTS
 - a) Update on full-time engine – *We sent Engine 3334 and C3302 with crews to assist at the Humboldt Fire in Butte County near Chico from June 12th – 17th.*
 - b) Discussion concerning statue for front of station – *The Chief presented two drawings for a full sized (6'-7') bronze statue for in front of Station 1. The Board gave their opinions. The TOML has an “art requirement” for new buildings and the statue would fulfill the requirement. The Town Arts Commission has approximately \$50,000 allocated for this project..*
 - c) Discussion concerning new engine to be replaced in 09 – *MLFD will begin the process and create a new committee for our next apparatus purchase in 2009.*
 - d) Discussion concerning striping of the rear of apparatus – *Division Chief Thom Heller presented the Board with a new standard on all Fire/ Rescue apparatus set by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) to take effect on January 1, 2009. The new standard will require all new apparatus to have fluorescent yellow/green striping on the rear of the vehicle. Any apparatus sold after 1/1/2009 will have this striping put on it at the factory. Chief Heller requests the Board to approve the striping on all of our current apparatus as well. Chief Harper stated he would rather stay with the current red and white striping.*
 - e) Meet with Governor's Office and Cal Fire concerning fuels program in MLFD district. –
 - f) Preliminary Housing Diagrams – *Chief Harper passed around some preliminary architectural drawings by Woodward Architecture for future employee housing on the property where the tent now sits. The residences would house single or couples, but would not be suitable for families.*

10) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

11) LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

12) ANNOUNCEMENTS

13) ADJOURNEMENT/SET NEXT MEETING DATE – *Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Rick Terrell, seconded by Richard Good. Meeting was adjourned at 16:40. The next meeting was set for Monday, July 7, 2008 at 2:00 pm, Station 1 Conference Room.*

Approved:

Chairman Tony Colasardo

Date

Vice Chairman Rick Terrell

Date