



## VISTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2023

These minutes reflect the order in which items appeared on the meeting agenda and do not necessarily reflect the order in which items were considered.

### REGULAR AGENDA

President Elliott called to order the regular meeting of the Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 10:00 AM at the “Smart Space” conference room located at 450 South Melrose Drive, Vista CA.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative Manager Rannals led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. Roll

Directors Present: Elliott, Fougner, Gomez, Miller, Ploetz

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Karlena Rannals, Administrative Manager; Roy Palmer, Fire Chief, Mark Vierow, Assistant Fire Marshal; Steve Wecklich, Battalion Chief; and Fred Pfister, Legal Counsel

#### 3. Motion waiving reading in full of all Resolutions/Ordinances

MOTION BY DIRECTOR GOMEZ, SECOND BY DIRECTOR ELLIOTT, and CARRIED 5 AYES; 0 NOES; 0 ABSENT; 0 ABSTAIN to waive reading in full of all resolutions and/or ordinances.

#### 4. Special Presentation(s)

- a. *Bonsall Oaks Development*: Assistant Fire Marshal Vierow gave a presentation and update on the development approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Construction has begun on a 456-acre property on Gopher Canyon Road across from the Vista Valley golf course. This area will be served by both North County Fire Protection District and Vista Fire Protection District. In the first phase of development, there will be 164 homes, and phase two will add 89 homes. The project will also include a vineyard and winery. The surrounding land will remain as open space. Board members conveyed their concern for the increased traffic to Gopher Canyon Road and questioned whether or not a traffic study was required. AFM Vierow noted that he had an upcoming meeting with the Fire District Fire Marshals and will communicate the board’s concern for conducting a traffic study. *The project notes that the developer will widen Gopher Canyon Rd. to four lanes in front of the length of the development only, then it will return to one lane on each side of the road.* He responded to questions from the Board.
- b. *Emergency Response Statistics*: Battalion Chief Wecklich gave a presentation discussing how information is collected for the emergency response times. All member or contract units within the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system at NorthComm have Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL), and the CAD looks at where the unit is located when the call comes in to assign and dispatch the closest unit. There are numerous factors that are taken into consideration; however, a factor not considered is traffic. Chief Wecklich reported that it is time to produce the annual report and he sought feedback from the Board on what it should include, and how the monthly report can be modified to contain more useful information. At the conclusion of the discussion, the annual report should be reflective of information

showing trends, “are things getting better, or worse” over a period of time. The consensus was that the monthly report was useful from the contract compliance perspective. Chief Wecklich will attempt to modify the monthly report, noting that since the CAD is not yet dynamic enough to consider traffic a factor in calls exceeding 10-minutes, he will try and provide additional information. Chief Wecklich responded to questions from the Board.

President Elliott, on behalf of the Board conveyed his appreciation to both Assistant Fire Marshal Vierow and Battalion Chief Wecklich for their time and informative presentation.

*10-minute recess*

5. Open Discussion with the Board (Public Comment)

No one requested to speak to the Board.

6. Consent Calendar

MOTION BY DIRECTOR PLOETZ, SECOND BY DIRECTOR FOUIGNER, CARRIED 5 AYES; 0 NOES; 0 ABSENT; 0 ABSTAIN to approve the consent calendar as submitted:

a. *Board of Directors Minutes*

- Board of Directors minutes April 12, 2023
- Board of Directors minutes April 26, 2023

b. *Payroll Register*

•	Payroll paid on May 5, 2023	\$3,822.50
•	Payroll taxes paid on May 8, 2023	<u>292.43</u>
	Total	\$4,114.93

c. *Accounts Payable*

•	Accounts Payable Check 4051 thru 4062 paid May 10, 2023	\$1,139,129.61
•	Auto withdrawal(s) paid on Apr 3 – May 2, 2023	<u>901.95</u>
	Total	\$1,140,031.56

d. *Receive and File*

- i) Fire Department Reports
  - (1) *District Fire Inspector*
  - (2) *Fire Marshal*
  - (3) *Fire Chief*
  - (4) *Fire Department Performance Report – March 2023*
- ii) *Administrative Manager’s Report*
- iii) *Correspondence - Incoming*
  - (1) *LAFCO – Independent Special District Election Results | Appointment of Regular and Alternate Representatives*
- iv) *Correspondence – Outgoing*
  - (1) *Letter of Support – AB40*

7. Oral Report(s)

a. *Fire Chief* – Chief Palmer reported in addition to the written report submitted the following:

- Community WildFire Protection Plan (CWPP): The Fire Safe Council of Vista application was approved. The committee's next step is to meet and create the rules for the council to operate. Ms. Morgan Graves has offered to come to north county to assist in an organizational meeting. He is also working with Chief Butz to modify the CWPP into the County template. He noted that two streets, Buena Creek and Gopher Canyon Road, have already been added to the grant program. He met with Chief Silva from CalFire and some of the area within the two roads added have waterways which can't be touched; however, they will abate and get done what they can. He also noted that in September 2022, the CWPP was submitted to CalFire for signature, although it fell through the cracks.
- Fire Chief Recruitment: May 31 is the target date for stakeholder interviews. There were 27 applicants, that was trimmed to 7 for the next phase.
- Deputy Chief Recruitment: in progress. Interviews are pending;
- BLS Ambulance(s): The City Council approved the purchase of two (2) BLS Ambulances. The target date for placing in service is July 1, 2023 for the first; and January 1, 2024 for the second.
- Reported on a structure fire within the District boundaries.

b. *Fire Marshal – No report*

c. *Administrative Manager – Ms. Rannals*

- She reminded the board members of the meeting change for the June meeting from June 14 to June 21<sup>st</sup>
- She also reminded the board members that should a board member accept a ticket to the Hop Highway Brew Off sponsored by the Vista Firefighters Association Local 4107, based upon its value, it must be reported on the annual Form 700.

d. *Legal - Mr. Pfister* – there are no pending issues to report

e. *Fire Safe Council of Vista – Update:* Director Gomez conveyed his appreciation for everyone's help in the Council's establishment.

f. *Board of Directors*

- *Elliott – Report on meeting with City of Vista City Manager John Conley* – he along with Vice President Ploetz met with the City Manager on May 1<sup>st</sup> and reported that it was a productive meeting. The City Manager assured them that there will be office space included in the design of a new fire station. He also offered to lend their staff grant writer to assist the District should a grant of interest become available. He noted of the District's special interest in the selection of the Fire Chief. They agreed to meet quarterly.

*Five-minute recess*

8. New Business

a. *Article XIIIIV California Constitution Appropriation Limit*

Ms. Rannals summarized the staff report provided. She reported that she recommends that the Board of Directors select the following formula to calculate the District’s new appropriation limit for the 2023/2024 fiscal year:

1. Change in California per capital personal income (4.44%) for the Cost-of-Living Factor; and
2. Change in population within San Diego County unincorporated (.00%).

MOTION BY DIRECTOR MILLER, SECOND BY DIRECTOR GOMEZ, and APPROVED to accept staff’s recommendation for calculation of the District’s appropriations limit on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Elliott, Fougner, Gomez, Miller, Ploetz  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

b. *Resolution No. 2023-04*

Ms. Rannals informed the Board that this resolution required by the State of California reflects the Board’s action of selecting the formula to calculate the District’s appropriations limit.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR PLOETZ, SECOND BY DIRECTOR FOUGNER, and ADOPTED Resolution No. 2023-04 *entitled* a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Vista Fire Protection District Determining the 2023/2024 Appropriations of Tax Proceeds on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Elliott, Fougner, Gomez, Miller, Ploetz  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

c. *Budget Authorization*

Director Ploetz distributed a quote from Aztec Landscaping, Inc. for \$1,477.20 to remove vegetation encroaching onto the access road on Fabry Lane and requested budget authorization for the expense.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR MILLER, SECOND BY DIRECTOR GOMEZ, CARRIED 5 AYES; 0 NOES; 0 ABSENT; 0 ABSTAIN to approve and authorize the expense to remove vegetation on Fabry Lane for \$1,477.20.

9. Continuing Business

a. *Emergency Access Roads*

President Elliott led the discussion informing board members that he was in receipt of recommendations made by Deputy Chief Usher prior to his retirement. Deputy Chief Usher acknowledged that the access roads were worth retaining and maintaining; however, he recommended that the number of inspections be reduced to every other month, ensuring also that there is appropriate signage.

Vice President Ploetz' s reply included the value of the inspections, alerting the District to vandalism and graffiti. Since Aztec Landscaping is scheduled the last week of each month, he suggested to modify the District's Inspector schedule to drive through after Aztec has completed their monthly work. In addition, he noted that the quality of the maintenance by Aztec has been excellent.

Director Fougner reminded the board that there are written easements or licenses for the roads. Gates were added to alleviate the property owners' concerns that the access routes would become an attractive nuisance by inviting trespassers. The District should maintain a strong effort to maintain the roads to the suitability to the District.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the consensus was to retain the monthly emergency access roads inspections, with an adjustment to the timing of the inspection.

10. Directors' Announcements & Written Communications

None

11. Closed Session

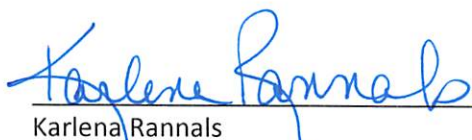
Pursuant to the following section, the board met in closed session from 1:13 pm – 1:30 pm, and discussed the following:

- a. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 54957.6:  
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
Agency Negotiators: President Elliott  
Unrepresented Employees: Administrative Manager  
Under Negotiation: Successor Contract  
*All board members listed, Administrative Manager Rannals and Fred Pfister (Legal Counsel) attended and participated in the discussion.*

Upon reconvening, President Elliott reported that direction was given to the Administrative Manager to amend language within the contract. The employment contract between Vista Fire Protection District and Karlana Rannals will be approved at the next regular meeting scheduled for June 21, 2023.

12. Adjournment

President Elliott adjourned the meeting at 1:31 pm.



Karlana Rannals  
Board Clerk



James F. Elliott  
President