

JACKSON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

***MEETING MINUTES ***

Date: February 12, 2025

Location: Jackson Valley Fire Protection District Firehouse

Address: 2701 Quiver Drive, Ione, CA 95640

Time: 7pm

I Call the Special Meeting to Order

- a. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Herfel.

Board members present: Jake Herfel, Jared Fedena, Katie Scott and Robert Milligan.
Director Thompson was absent.

Staff present: Chief Randy Makemson, Firefighters Gabriel Fedena and James Engstrom,
Engineer David Gibson, and District Office Manager Jo English

Others in Attendance: Christi Engstrom, Rick Clark

II The Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III Approval of Agenda

- a. Director Milligan motioned to approve the agenda. Director Fedena seconded the motion.

All in favor – 4 ayes.

IV Public Matters not on the Agenda

- a. Chief Makemson told the board that Christi Engstrom, mom of Firefighter James Engstrom, was going to be taking over and heading up the Jackson Valley Firefighter Auxiliary. Chief Makemson stated there was \$610.00 left from the last pancake breakfast and it would be passed on for the next event. Chairman Herfel asked if there would be Dues for joining the auxiliary. Christi said not at this time. DOM English stated that the first event was going to be scheduled for March 15th for a green pancake breakfast and that signage and emails would follow.

V Approval of Minutes

- a. January 15th, 2025, Minutes – Motioned to approve by Director Milligan, Director Fedena seconded. All in Favor, 4 ayes
- b. January 28th, 2025, Minutes – Motioned to approve by Director Fedena, Director Milligan seconded. All in Favor, 4 ayes

Open Business

VI Chief's Report: Suggested Action, Discussion and Action

- a. Incident report from previous month
 - i. Chief Makemson Reports 38 calls for the month. He said there was a discrepancy with what NFIRS is reporting and what he had calculated. He stated this was the first time he had approved reports and was working through some difficulties with it.
- b. Volunteers and Coverage
 - i. Station 171 was covered 2-0 for the entire month. Chief states one volunteer has moved, but we still have a couple of active volunteers who are coming to training.

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- c. Training Events
 - i. None
- d. Apparatus Updates
 - i. 6135 is in the shop for warranty work.
 - ii. 6131 is also in the shop for ladder rack work.
- e. Grants
 - i. Chief Makemson said he spoke to Mr. Reed at McClintock's office. He was inquiring about receiving a grant for personnel but was told the request would be on hold due to a Federal funding freeze. He was told when funding opened again to make contact, and the office would see what they could do to help.
 - ii. DOM Jo states that there is indeed a freeze, as she was notified by AFG that all grant funding would be on hold until further notice. She states she also put in for the Firehouse subs grant but did not expect to hear results until the beginning of April. Chief Makemson states we will also apply for the CalFire grant again this year.
- f. Chief's Meeting
 - i. Chief Makemson states that the topic from the last chief's meeting was mostly about new technology that allows responders to push a button when arriving on scene without having to use voice coms to report. He also mentioned that Buena Vista gas station is now operational. He also attended the TAC committee meeting regarding a cell tower going in on Curran Rd.
 - ii. Chief also had a meeting with Harrah's regarding a call we got dispatched to. He said the responders had a hard time finding the correct room because the rooms were not numbered. The casino was evacuated for "about an hour" as they searched. He stated that they will be taking corrective action to address this issue. Chairman Herfel asked if there was ever a walkthrough with our staff and the Casino. Chief said there was, and that there have been some trainings there as well.

VII Financial Report: Suggested Action, Discussion and Action

- a. Payroll and Bills
 - i. DOM Jo went over the monthly bills and pointed out that payroll was the biggest expense due to Strike team pay for the Eaton Fire. She said we are still pending payment from the Bridge Fire Incident, and she has been in contact with OES and was told that payment was on hold, but it should be released soon. All documents for the Eaton fire have also been submitted.
 - ii. DOM JO states for the month we spent approximately 81,000 between wages and bills
 - iii. Chairman Herfel made a motion to pay the bills. Director Scott seconded. All in favor – 4 ayes.
- b. Budget Expenditures FYTD 24/25
 - i. SCBA Purchase or resolution

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1. Chairman Herfel asked if there has been any SCBAs purchased. Chief Makemson said we were waiting to see what happened with the grants but that he also looked at buying refurbished SCBAS.

- c. Budget Committee Update

- i. Director Fedena spoke and stated that the budget committee had met and requested a vote to enter a closed session for personnel negotiations. Director Fedena made a motion to enter a closed session for personnel and contract negotiations. Director Scott seconded the motion. All in favor – 4 ayes.

VIII EMERGENCY CLOSED SESSION LABOR NEGOTIATIONS 7:16 P.M. (may be called for labor negotiations (pursuant to Government Code §54957.6), personnel matters (pursuant to Government Code §54957), real estate negotiations/acquisitions (pursuant to Government Code §54956.8), and/or pending or potential litigation (pursuant to Government Code §54956.9).)

IX REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING BACK IN SESSIONS 7:52 PM

- i. Chairman Herfel called the meeting back in session and stated that no decisions were made at this time.

- b. Audit 2023/2024 Progress

- i. DOM English stated that the Audit is still in process.

X Station Events and Planning: Suggested Action, Discussion and Action

- a. None Planned

- b. Chairman Herfel asked if we required additional insurance when there are public events at the firehouse. Chief Makemson stated it is required for some events. Christi Engstrom asked if the Auxiliary would be required to have additional insurance. Chief Makemson stated that the Auxiliary would be considered an extension of the firehouse and should not require additional insurance.

XI Structure/Property Report: Suggested Action, Discussion and Action

- a. Firehouse Updates

- i. Chief States that on Friday the compressor for the generator would be serviced by Generac.

XII Hydrants and Accesses: Suggested Action, Discussion and Action

- a. Flint Trail Hydrant – in service but leaking
- b. Jackson Valley Rd. Hydrant – Out of Service

XIII Personnel: Suggested Action; Discussion and Action

- a. Personnel Policy Updates

- i. DOM Jo states that the updated personnel policy was sent out to all personnel. She also stated that she had not received acknowledgements from most of the personnel and that she would be sending a second email requesting acknowledgement.

- b. Staff Evaluations – Due June 2025

- c. Personnel Hiring Updates

- i. Chief Makemson states that Firefighter Jayson Ochoa was currently completing his driver training. He said he also had 2 applications that were turned in. He will invite both candidates to volunteer.

XIV Department Matters: Suggested Action; Discussion and Action

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- a. Vacant Board of Directors Seats
 - i. DOM English said she received notification from the county that both Chairman Herfel and Director Milligan were confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, and she passed them their confirmation letters.
- b. Building Impact Fees
 - i. DOM English states there were no building fees last month. She states that she was able to track down information on when the building fees were established, and it was sometime in the mid-1990s.
 - ii. Nexus Study Updates
 - 1. Chairman Herfel asked if there was an update on the Nexus. DOM Jo said she returned the executed resolution and had not heard anything back from SCI Consulting since.
- c. Parcel Tax Increase/Special Ballot Measure
 - i. Chairman Herfel mentioned adding a Special Ballot Measure to increase parcel taxes in the district. Current taxes have not seen an increase since 1999. Director Scott stated that she thought a tax increase at the current time would be a “no go.” Chairman Herfel stated that in order to continue to provide the services and pay fair wages the district needed to make a move to secure an increase in funding. Chief Makemson mentioned that he thought a “Town Hall” Meeting would be a good idea. Chief Makemson said that he felt it was something the Board needed to move to do for the longevity of the district. Chairman Herfel asked that this item be left on the agenda so the district can begin the footwork to start a special measure.
 - ii. The discussion continued regarding ISO ratings in lone. Chief Makemson mentioned that lone has an ISO rating of 1, and people were still being dropped from their homeowner’s insurance. Firefighter Fedena mentioned that one question he gets asked is if doing work to create defensible space will help insurance rates. Engineer Gibson chimed in and stated that insurance companies are not using ISO ratings and are completely pulling out of the state. Chief Makemson states that having more funding for additional personnel would be a benefit to the district and enable a better response to Fire incidents – but that the community needed to be presented with the understanding that there is a separation of the district and the state. Chairman Herfel stated that his fire insurance went from \$2000 to \$5000 annually and his deductible increased to \$26,000. Chief Makemson said that a clear presentation on the ballot would be necessary as the fee would most likely go from \$30 annually to \$60 annually and then a small percentage increase yearly from there.
- d. Map Submittals/Approvals
 - i. None
- e. Camanche III B
 - i. Chief Makemson said that Camanche IIIB is now called “Golden Oaks”
- f. Joint Powers Meeting Update
 - i. No Update

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g. Interagency Communications

- i. DOM Jo said she reached out to our insurance company GSRMA regarding engine coverage if being rented to CalFire. The insurance company strongly urges that JVFD have a working contract with the renter stating that they would cover any losses while in their possession – but ultimately, the engine would be covered if there was not. This would increase our insurance rates which is why they state to contract.

XV New Business – Discussion Only

- a. None.

Director Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Director Fedena seconded.

All in favor, 4 ayes.

Adjournment to the Next Regular Meeting on: March 12th, 2025

Adjournment to a Special Meeting on _____