

Santa Margarita Fire Protection District
22375 El Camino Real
Santa Margarita, CA 93453
805-438-3185

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

5:00 PM at the Fire Station

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Reading/Approval of previous Minutes
3. Action Items:
 - A. Funds: donations and disbursements-
 - B. New Weed Abatement Policy
 - C. New Fee Policy for Services
 - D. Update- sale of Engine 7852
 - E. Proposed New Station Status
4. Chief's Report
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

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SMFPD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

MINUTES:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 5:03PM Present: Chief Bob Murach; Deputy Chief Bobby Guy; Directors: John Wilkins, Joel Switzer; Absent: Beth Gorrill
2. Warrants and expenditures were reviewed and approved
3. The March Minutes were read and approved
4. Action Items:
 - A. A donation mentioned in March minutes in the amount of \$1000.00, was deposited and will be designated to the UTV fund. We also received disbursement from Ambulance services, which was deposited.
 - B: The new draft of Weed Abatement Policy was discussed and is posted in front window for public review, (see attached). Acceptance will be voted on at the May board meeting.
 - C. The new Fee Policy for Services discussion was tabled until May.
 - D. Engine 7852 has not sold yet.
 - E: New Station: We are still waiting for County Septic Report acceptance.
5. Chief's Report: Chief Murach presented the proposed budget for FY 2024/25. It shall be posted in the front window for public perusal for 30 days and be presented to the board with any public comments for action from the Board at the May 10th meeting.

Chief Murach requested a resolution authorizing he and Deputy Chief, Bobby Guy as agents of the department in regard to the January 9, 2023 flood item DR4683. John made a resolution to authorize said department agents; Joel seconded and it was resolved with a vote of 2 ayes and no nays. Resolution #2024-0410.

Chief Murach presented a draft letter to Congressman Salud Carbajal and to SLO County 5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold, to gain support for funding for a new fire station. The Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council also gave a letter of support for same. Chief Murach will request CSA 23 for similar. Joel moved to approve the letter; John seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 2 ayes and 0 nays.

Chief Murach, in an effort to secure communication and compliance with Union Pacific Railroad Co. in the area of weed abatement along their property through town, presented a letter requesting cooperation in this matter.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM at the Fire Station.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Gorrill", written in a cursive style.

Beth Gorrill, Board Secretary

Santa Margarita Fire Department

Post Office Box 67 Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Message Phone 805-438-3185

Salud Carbajal
1411 Marsh St., Suite 205
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Mr. Carbajal,

The Board of the Santa Margarita Fire District is sending you this letter of support for the funding of a replacement Fire Station in Santa Margarita.

The Santa Margarita Fire District is the last all Volunteer Fire Department in San Luis Obispo County. The Volunteers from Santa Margarita not only respond to the Community of Santa Margarita, but also the County of San Luis Obispo, and the State of California. Most recently you would have seen the Volunteers at the Caldor Fire Complex and The Six Rivers Fire Complex.

The Fire District was formed in 1921, and re-certified in 1958.

The Volunteers operate out of a building that was funded by the community in 1964. Unfortunately, the building is in a 100-year flood zone and has endured 3 flooding events, 1995, 2001 and the most recent January of 2023. FEMA has determined that the station be moved out of the flood zone.

The Santa Margarita Fire District has purchased a vacant lot that is out of the flood zone.

We support the efforts of our Congress to provide financial support to the Santa Margarita Fire District for the construction of the new Station Building.

Sincerely,

John Wilkins, President

Beth Gorrill, Secretary

Joel Switzer, Member

Santa Margarita Fire Department

Post Office Box 67 Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Message Phone 805-438-3185

April 10, 2024

Union Pacific Railroad Co.
1400 Douglas St. Stop 1640
Omaha NE 68179-1640

To Whom it may concern:

Re: Weed Abatement Violations

This letter is to inform you that the Union Pacific Railroad properties in the Santa Margarita Fire District, 069-073 and 069-064.002, have not had the required weed abatement performed in 2023. There were multiple complaints and phone calls to your service center and police requesting assistance with this nuisance. The Santa Margarita Fire District takes fire safety very seriously and there is a San Luis Obispo County Weed Abatement Ordinance to ensure compliance. As such since no abatement took place in 2023 the Fire District is getting quotes on commercial mowing equipment to remedy the situation. The ordinance provides financial relief to the Fire District by allowing us to bill for all costs to remedy the nuisance. The current projection of costs are \$80,000. It should be noted that if the invoice is not paid the costs will be attached to the next tax bill. I am asking that someone in charge of weed abatement reach out to me as soon as possible, as the 2024 season starts on May 15, 2024.

Sincerely,

Robert Murach,
Fire Chief
Santa Margarita Fire Department
805-438-3701