



West Plainfield Fire Protection District

24901 County Road 95, Davis, CA 95616

(530) 756-0212

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES July 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Held at
24905 County Road 95, Lillard Hall
Davis, CA 95616
and via Zoom

1. **Call the Meeting to Order and Establish Quorum (President McMullen)**

Meeting called to order at 1900 hours. Board Clerk Hall called roll and confirmed there was a quorum.

Present were:

Commissioners: James McMullen, Jim Yeager, Emily Amy, Beth Stiles, and Warren Roos

Department Members: Chief Cherie Rita, Assistant Chief David Stiles, Captain Scott Bravo, Captain Patrick Fish, Captain Dave Bellerive, Firefighter and Association President Jon Lee, Hall Manager Ned Sykes, and Board Clerk Carly Hall

Guests: Jeanette Hynson, SCI Consulting Group; Chief Marcus Klinkhammer, Willow Oak Fire Protection District; Chief Curtis Lawrence, Esparto Fire Protection District; Ed and Carol Beoshanz; Mora Metz; Julia Findley; and Cork Mclsaacs

Joined via Zoom: Department Member Captain Tom Stiles

2. **Public Comment**

President McMullen advised the Board and members of the public that there would be an opportunity for public comment specifically relating to the Levy Assessment and called for public comment relating to any items other than the Levy Assessment.

Julia Findley, Fletcher Family LLC, advised that the assessment has a major impact on small farmers and leased landowners. She noted that the assessment can be increased each year over five years, resulting in a levy assessment of more than 34% during that five-year period.

President McMullen reiterated there would be an opportunity for public comment specifically relating to the Levy Assessment and called for any additional public comments not relating to the Levy Assessment. None were heard.

3. New Business

a. Discussion / Action – Proposed Assessment

i. Open Public Hearing and Consideration of the Levy of Assessments for the Proposed West Plainfield Fire Protection District and Emergency Response Services Assessment (President McMullen)

1. Introductory Comments and General Overview (President McMullen, Board Clerk Hall, Staff, and SCI Consultant)

Chief Rita requested Jeanette Hynson, SCI Consultant, provide an overview of the Levy Assessment. Ms. Hynson provided an overview of the assessment, the balloting timeline, and the ballot requirements for the assessment to pass.

Cork Mclsaacs said they were disappointed there was a lack of outreach. Ms. Hynson and Chief Rita advised him that there were three public outreach meetings prior to the ballot being mailed out. He advised he would have liked to have a meeting after the ballot came out.

Julia Findley advised that she attended all three meetings and advised she was told there was no interest in hearing her ideas for other ways to fund the District.

Cork Mclsaacs advised the assessment benefits homeowners, not farms. Farm landowners don't even live in the District. Going forward, he would like to see more outreach from the District.

Commissioner Roos requested a show of hands from members of the public that did receive all outreach and balloting items that were mailed. Most hands were raised.

Chief Rita advised members of the public she would verify his address information for outreach.

2. Public Hearing Procedures (President McMullen)

President McMullen reviewed the public hearing procedures for the Board and members of the public.

3. Open Public Input (President McMullen)

President McMullen opened the Public Input portion of the meeting and called for members of the public to approach the podium. He advised that all ballots must be dropped in the ballot box before Public Input is closed.

Mora Metz advised she is voting no and wanted to explain why since this was not an anonymous ballot. She advised she loves the Fire District but with the unstable economy and uncertain times, she does not believe taxes without end are a good idea.

Julia Findley advised she inherited the land and leases it out. They just received a large water bill and believe with Proposition 13 we don't need additional assessments. She attended all the meetings and felt like she was being blackmailed by the way the information was being presented. She advised she wrote her County Board of Supervisor and believes that the County should be providing adequate funding. She understands the District provides valuable services but believes regrouping to come up with a better funding plan is necessary.

Ed Beoshanz advised he was a volunteer firefighter in the District for 64 years. He advised he received training and attended multiple incidents over the years. He advised he's voting no because he gave his time and didn't ask for anything in return and this will cost him over \$1,000 a year.

Mora Metz advised that the state provides funding for roads and advised there may be funding we can apply for from them.

Captain Bravo thanked Assistant Chief Stiles, Chief Lawrence, and Chief Klinkhammer for all their hard work and time to attend the meetings with the County. He thanked Assistant Chief Stiles for keeping the District running and keeping the equipment maintained for free. He thanked Captain Fish and Associate President Jon Lee for providing IT service for free. He added that the Levy Assessment is what's necessary to keeping the District funded.

President McMullen asked Chief Rita if she had any responses to the public comments.

Chief Rita responded to Ms. Findley's comments and apologized if Ms. Findley felt like she was being blackmailed, but, as bluntly noted in the community meetings, without this additional stable funding the District will end up consolidated and result in reduced service to the residents.

Julia Findley advised she isn't arguing with the need of the District, but advised she pays a lot of state and county taxes, and they should be providing the District with adequate funding, not taxpayers. She expressed that most of her

feelings about being blackmailed came from the County's dictation regarding the matter.

Chief Rita advised that the Levy Assessment is a result of working with the County over the last five years to try to get additional funding. Without going through this process, our District wouldn't be eligible for any of the additional funding the County offered up at the last minute if a District can pass it's ballot measure.

Cork McIsaacs advised if the County has \$1.5 million in funding, they should just give it out.

President McMullen called for any additional public comments, but none were heard.

4. Last Call for Submittal of Ballots (President McMullen)

President McMullen put out the last call for submitting ballots.

5. Close Public Input (President McMullen)

President McMullen announced that the Public Input portion of the session was now closed.

6. Board Discussion

Vice President Yeager advised that he's been with the District since 1972 and had 40 years as a volunteer and eight as a Board member. In that time the equipment has become more sophisticated, the mandates by the state are increasing, along with insurance requirements. As with everything else, the District's expenses have increased over time, and we only have enough funding to keep one paid employee on duty at a time. There are no new volunteers applying and no other assistance is being provided by the County or State. Having the additional stable funding for more District resources could be the difference between life or death for our residents.

ii. Close Public Hearing Regarding Levy of Assessments (President McMullen)

President McMullen advised that the Public Hearing was now closed, and the ballots would be tabulated.

President McMullen requested to continue the Board meeting during the ballot tabulation and asked for any objections. No objections were heard, and all Board members agreed to move forward.

Chief Rita took over minute duties while Board Clerk Hall assisted with ballot tabulation.

iii. Tabulate Ballots and Provide Results to Board President (Board Clerk Hall, Staff, and SCI Consultant)

This item was heard after Item 7(b).

After the ballots were tabulated, the results were provided to President McMullen.

iv. Announcement of Ballot Tabulation (President McMullen)

President McMullen read the results of the ballot tabulation to the Board and members of the public. The Levy Assessment passed with 58.87% yes votes.

Commissioner Roos questioned if the vote was weighted, and Ms. Hynson confirmed that it was.

v. Discussion / Action (if Measure Passes) – Adopt Resolution 23-06 – A Resolution Approving Engineer’s Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment, and Ordering Levy of the West Plainfield Fire Protection District, Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment for Fiscal Year 2023-24

President McMullen advised since the measure passed, he would hear a motion regarding Resolution 23-06.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 23-06 – A Resolution Approving the Engineer’s Report, Confirming Diagram and Assessment, and Ordering A Levy of the West Plainfield Fire Protection District, Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Motion By: Yeager

Second By: Stiles

Vote (by roll call): President McMullen – Aye
Vice President Yeager – Aye
Commissioner Amy – Aye
Commissioner Stiles – Aye
Commissioner Roos – Aye

b. Discussion / Action – Adopt Resolution 23-07 – A Resolution of the West Plainfield Fire Protection District Identifying the Terms and Conditions for Fire Department Response While Away from Official Duty Station and Assigned to an Emergency Incident (Chief Rita)

This item was heard after Item 3(a)ii and before Item 3(a)iii.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 23-07 – A Resolution of the West Plainfield Fire Protection District Identifying the Terms and Conditions for Fire Department Response While Away from Official Duty Station and Assigned to An

Emergency Incident
Motion By: Yeager
Second By: Amy
Vote (by roll call): President McMullen – Aye
Vice President Yeager – Aye
Commissioner Amy – Aye
Commissioner Stiles – Aye
Commissioner Roos – Aye

c. Discussion / Action – Volunteer Applications (Chief Rita)

Chief Rita advised there were no new volunteer applications.

d. Discussion / Action – Standing Committees – Reports

i. Personnel Committee – Amy, Yeager

No meeting; no report.

ii. District Funding and Development Committee – Yeager, Stiles

No meeting; no report.

iii. Lillard Hall Committee – Amy, Roos

1. Manager Report (Hall Manager Sykes)

Hall Manager Sykes advised that the parking lot light will be repaired on Thursday. He advised he is going to start light marketing for meetings and discussed rates for members of the public.

2. Approval of July 12, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve July 12, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion By: Amy

Second By: Roos

Vote: Approved unanimously

iv. Budget and Benefits Committee – Stiles, Roos

1. Update Regarding QSEHRA Offering (Chief Rita)

Chief Rita advised she had answers to the Board questions but did not yet have a contract for the Board to review. Chief Rita indicated she hoped to have for the next meeting so that the contributions can be switched from the current taxable benefit of cash to this non-taxable benefit option.

e. Discussion / Action – Ad Hoc Committees – Reports

i. LAFCO – Yeager, Roos

Chief Rita advised she will try to set up a meeting in the next few weeks.

Vice President Yeager advised once they meet to review their report, they will sunset the ad hoc committee.

ii. Solar – Stiles, Roos

Commissioner Stiles advised they haven't heard back on the grant decision yet and advised we may need to start looking into other options.

Assistant Chief Stiles advised that he spoke with a Sun Run sales manager and they have a program where they provide the solar equipment, and the District would provide a location and we would pay so many cents per kilowatt.

President McMullen advised the Committee to research this option.

f. Discussion / Action – Liaison Reports

i. Fire Prevention / Investigation – McMullen

Assistant Chief Stiles advised there were no new investigations to report.

ii. Training – Yeager

Vice President Yeager advised we will start training with Willow Oak Fire Protection District.

Chief Rita advised that Captain Osborn has taken over District training as the point of contact.

iii. Large Equipment / Facilities – McMullen

Assistant Chief Stiles advised there was nothing new to report.

g. Discussion / Action – Policies and Procedures Updates (Chief Rita)

Chief Rita advised that this project has been on hold until the ballot measure process is complete. She advised that all staff and members also need to be caught up with reviewing and acknowledging the previously presented policies and procedures. She will bring a new set to the Board meeting in August for review and adoption.

4. Old Business

a. Update – Weed Abatement (Chief Rita)

Chief Rita advised a lot of residents have been cleaning up and making progress and President Jon Lee will start re-inspections soon.

b. Yolo County Fire Sustainability Committee (Assistant Chief Stiles)

Assistant Chief Stiles advised nothing new to report; we are waiting on the County to finalize their budget process which should be August.

5. Fire Chief's Report (Chief Rita)

Chief Rita advised nothing additional to report. She added that there's no financial

report in this Board packet due to the County changing accounting software and hopes to have reports at the next meeting. She advised that the fiscal year won't be closed in the County system until late August; Board Clerk Hall confirmed.

6. Fire Fighter's Association Report (President Jon Lee)

Chief Rita advised there was nothing new to report.

7. Clerk's Report

a. Discussion / Action – West Plainfield Fire Protection District Bill Review / Approval

Motion: Approve the payment of bills totaling \$175,675.66

Motion By: Amy

Second By: Stiles

Vote: Approved unanimously

b. Approval of June 20, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve June 20, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes with the amendment

Motion By: Amy

Second By: Yeager

Vote: Approved unanimously (three ayes, two abstentions)

8. Open Forum

NONE

9. Next regular Board meeting on August 15, 2023, unless another date is agreed upon

President McMullen confirmed the next meeting date as August 15, 2023.

10. Meeting Adjourned (President McMullen)

Motion: Adjourn meeting


By: Amy

Second By: Roos

Vote: Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2049 hours.

Minutes approved: August 15, 2023


Board President James McMullen
Board Clerk Carly Hall