

**EAST DAVIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
625 COURT ST STE 204
WOODLAND, CA 95695-3490
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD April 15, 2021
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

PRESENT: Commissioners John Lindsey, Bill Weisgerber, Michael McMahon, David Robert, Tad Henderson

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Rich Reed, Assistant Supervisor, Joe Tenney, Davis Fire Department Chief

Chair Weisgerber called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

MINUTES

Weisgerber summarized the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting for the Board. Robert then moved to approve the minutes. Lindsey seconded. McMahon, Lindsey, Robert, Henderson, and Weisgerber voted to approve the minutes.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Reed asked if there were any questions from the Board and said that he would have information to add to some of the other items on the agenda. There were no questions from the Board so this item was closed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Tenney updated the Board on the status of the equipment and personnel at the Department. Tenney said that one Engine is due for replacement so the Department is working on specifications for that Engine. Once the specifications are set, the Engine will be ordered and delivery approximately 12-14 months later. Chief Tenney then reported that the Ladder Truck funding has been approved and that Department staff are visiting other cities to see their Ladder Trucks in order to determine which manufacturer and specification to order.

Chief Tenney then said that there are two Firefighter positions and two Captain positions that the Department is trying to fill. The Department is also looking to hire a financial analyst to replace Marc Rotteveel who left the Department to take a job in West Sacramento.

Tenney then updated the Board on the status of the trailer and technical rescue gear funded by the District in 2020. The trailer has been purchased but needs an estimated additional \$18,000 of woodwork and lighting to be fully functional. Tenney said that the Department currently has the technical rescue equipment located on other vehicles but that it will be on the trailer once all the cabinets and other mountings are finished. Chair Weisgerber then asked Tenney about some personnel changes and recent retirements.

PROPOSITION 218 DISCUSSION

Weisgerber said that this topic is meant to serve as a reminder that the property tax assessments need to be done soon. Weisgerber told the Board that Theresa Kenui from the Fire Department will be helping to prepare the analysis and rolls. Chief Tenney said that the Department has a goal to hire a new analyst by 7/1/21 but that Theresa Kenui can help in the interim. Before the data is submitted the Board will have to decide whether to enact the allowed 3% increase or to keep the rates as they are. Weisgerber said that the data has to be submitted to the County by 8/10/21 so the discussion on any potential increase must happen before then.

WEED ABATEMENT

Weisgerber said that the inspections have been completed by Fire Marshal Patrick Sandholdt and that all of the documentation for mailing and publication of any noncompliant properties is ready to go. Robert asked if we needed to publish the notices and Weisgerber said that the Fire Department would handle that and then bill the District for the publication fees from the Davis Enterprise. Reed then asked if he could add some properties and areas to the list. Reed said that he would like to add the City Greenbelt from Cowell to El Macero, the vacant sites at the Davis Creek Mobile Home Park, and the North Fork Channel of Putah Creek. Reed will get the API numbers to Weisgerber so that he can include them. Reed also added that there is dry grass along the side of the road on Montgomery Avenue and South Mace Boulevard that could be a hazard and should be cleared.

Weisgerber then said that the public hearing where cited landowners can contest their violation notices will be at the May 20, 2021 Board Meeting. McMahon then moved to declare the weeds a nuisance that has to be abated and Robert seconded the motion. McMahon, Lindsey, Robert, Henderson, and Weisgerber voted to approve the motion. Robert then moved to set the public hearing date for May 20, 2021 and Lindsey seconded the motion. McMahon, Lindsey, Robert, Henderson, and Weisgerber voted to approve the motion.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Theresa Kenui from the Fire Department was not able to get the invoice for the annual City fire service prepared in time for the meeting so the invoice will have to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.

PUTAH CREEK/FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Reed then updated the Board on the current status of brush clearance and the potential ownership transfer of parcels from the County to the City. Reed said the ownership transfer has still not taken place but that he is trying to work on this issue at the staff level instead of at the Supervisor/City Council level. If this approach doesn't work, this issue will be elevated to that level. Weisgerber asked if this has stalled the brush clearance work and Reed said that the County was proceeding with the work using General Fund money. There is a hand crew scheduled to do the work but there is a concern with being able to do the work while adhering to the City's habitat requirements. Weisgerber said that he would try to contact some resources he has with the County and the City to possibly help move the parcel ownership transfer forward.

Weisgerber told the Board that he attended a meeting in March about setting up a Fire Safe Council (FSC) for Yolo County. The County Resource Conservation District (RCD) will be managing all of

the administrative aspects of the FSC and will also write grants to Cal Fire in order to get funds to perform fire safety work in Yolo County. Weisgerber said that the North Fork Putah Creek Channel clearance would be a great shovel-ready project and that he will try to get a grant that would cover that work when it is needed so that the County and the City would no longer have to pay for the clearance work. There will be a public training session on 5/26/21 and then another meeting of the potential FSC stakeholders on 5/28/21 focused on training for grant submission. Lindsey and Weisgerber will be working on this project to try and set up a local Willowbank FSC unit and will submit a clearance plan when the FSC is ready. Funds should be available in 2022. Reed then said that the RCD is an independent agency not managed by the County and that all the funds would come from the State to the RCD. McMahon then asked why the District is taking this approach and also inquired why property owners would not pay for clearance as they have in the past. Reed noted that the property owners are still responsible but that these funds could make clearance easier as the City and the County would not have to find budget funding for the work. McMahon then asked if the property transfer issue is keeping the clearance from being done and Reed said that even though the property transfer is not done that the brush clearance will still proceed. Weisgerber then added that the FSC will still be very helpful even if the property transfer is executed.

BUDGET PREPARATION

Weisgerber said that spoke with Mark Krummenacker and that he will be ready to present a suggested budget at the May 20, 2021 meeting. The Board will then review the budget and approve it in June. Weisgerber asked if another Board Member would like to shadow the process for succession purposed and Robert volunteered to work with Weisgerber on this project.

UPDATE: YOLO CO. RURAL FPDS

Tenney said that the Yolo County Fire Chiefs met this week to discuss how to improve service and funding for Rural Fire Districts (RFD) that are struggling because of insufficient funding. There was a hope that the RFDs could get funding from the Proposition 172 money and there was a discussion that the less funded districts should get a larger proportion than well-funded districts like East Davis. Tenney said that he is concerned that these RFDs could overwhelm city fire departments if they are unable to respond on their own so this funding is very important for them. McMahon suggested that the chiefs organization possibly can pursue Proposition 218 funding to help districts like No Man's Land that currently rely on DFD for help.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Budget review
- Proposition 218 Resolution
- Reimburse DFD for weed abatement notices and annual fire service
- Fire Safe Council update

NEXT MEETING

May 20, 2021 via Zoom meeting or in person depending on State health guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Robert, seconded by McMahon, to adjourn the meeting; approved unanimously at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
John W. Lindsey
Board Member