

**EAST DAVIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
DAVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 33  
425 MACE BOULEVARD  
DAVIS, CA 95618  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD February 17, 2022  
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Davis Fire Department Chief Joseph Tenney, Christine Crawford (Yolo County LAFCO), Marcus Klinkhammer (Willow Oak FD), Curtis Lawrence (Esparto FD), Eric Zane (Springlake FD), Deputy Supervisor Sheila Allen

Chair Weisgerber called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

Weisgerber said that the minutes from the last meeting had not been circulated for review but he will send them out prior to the next meeting.

### **COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

Sheila Allen introduced herself as Supervisor Provenza's new Deputy and told the board there was nothing new to report from the Supervisor's office but that she would listen and then relay any questions or concerns back to Supervisor Provenza. The Board welcomed her to the meeting and the members said they were looking forward to working with her.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Tenney that the Department is moving forward with the purchase order for the new ladder truck and that the build will start soon. Chief Tenney said that six new firefighters will start on March 21 and that Emily Lo had been promoted to Battalion Chief and that Blas Ayala had been promoted to Captain. The Chief also reported that Bobby Wiese has retired. Allen asked when the retirement party would be and Chief Tenney said that he would let her know when it was scheduled.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Weisgerber asked for a motion to hold the meeting virtually per Assembly Bill 361 for another 30-day period. Robert moved to continue Board meetings virtually for the next 30 days and until the next meeting. Lindsey seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

### **LAFCO MSR PRESENTATION**

Christine Crawford presented a series of slides to the Board that summarized LAFCO's study and recommendations for a potential revision of the Yolo County fire districts in order to improve service in districts that are currently struggling or unable to provide consistent fire service. The data for the

study was collected in 2021 and presented to the LAFCO Board in December. The study was then presented to local Fire Chiefs in February and is now being presented to the fire districts. Crawford said that the recommendations in the study are not in the final form and are not “fully baked” for final recommendations.

Crawford then explained the study recommendation for the geographical area that the District would be placed in which is Area 4. The recommendation for Area 4 would be to consolidate the Elkhorn, Springlake, Winters, No Man’s Land, and East Davis in some way. Advantages of this combination would include economies of scale, less administration costs, and consistent fire service contracts for districts that are contract districts. Crawford said that challenges would be how to merge fund balances, how to handle current contracts, and also how to address the UC Davis fire service area. The suggested structures for fire service in county areas would focus on “zones of benefit” centered around the nearest city to them. The next step in the process is to have more meetings with the fire districts and then hold public meetings in April.

Lindsey asked if there would be an issue for the District if the current contract which expires in 2029 would be effectively breached if this process moved forward. Crawford said that this has not been considered and that legal review would be needed but that this usually is not an issue as the contracts simply are continued or dissolved.

McMahon then asked what would happen to the District’s reserves and fund balances if it were absorbed into a new district or if other districts were added into the area covered by the District. Crawford said that this has not been resolved and would have to be addressed.

Weisgerber then asked about seeing expenses for the other districts to better understand the basis for the recommendations. Crawford said she would provide these to the Board.

Robert asked how the areas in the recommendations were formed. Crawford said they were formed by looking at geography, span and control, and who responded to dispatches in those areas.

Weisgerber said that he understood the motivation for the proposed redistribution of the districts but said that he was concerned about issues with the District’s Proposition 218 limits and funding as well as having to subsidize the other districts that currently are underfunded via revenue from the District. Crawford answered that if there was not a protest from the District there would be a vote held among all registered voters in the area of the District and the other areas that are being proposed to be annexed. If the vote was between 0-10% opposed nothing would happen, between 10-50% there would be an election held, and if the opposition was over 50% the plan would be dropped.

Weisgerber then asked what would happen if the District objects and Crawford said the County could force the process to happen despite that objection. Lindsey then asked about why registered voters and not property owners were voting on the potential revision and Crawford said this was covered in the state codes that govern special districts. Allen then asked who would implement the process and Crawford said that LAFCO was only recommended this revision but that the County would have to implement it. Crawford then added that the current contract the District has with the City of Davis is unfair and that the District is getting overcharged compared to what the Springlake District is paying the City for fire service. She said this was an example of how common contracts would help. Weisgerber asked for more information about this potential disparity and Crawford said she would supply it to the Board. McMahon commented that he was concerned that the perception that the District is overfunded is driving this recommendation. Crawford replied that this was just a study and that the Board should not be too concerned at this point as LAFCO is just asking for comments on

the study. The Board thanked Crawford for her presentation and took an action item to schedule a future meeting to ask more questions and get more information.

### **PUTAH CREEK/FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Weisgerber then updated the Board on the Putah Creek brush clearance project. Weisgerber said there was approximately \$1.5M in funding available from Senate Bill 129 and that Pete Hartnett had created a chart that showed the FSC that all current projects could be funded for that amount. However, there were some previous earmarks that would probably take all the funding available before this project could be funded. However, Weisgerber said that Dana Carey from Yolo OES and Elisa Sabatini are helping to pursue another grant from Cal Fire and FEMA that could possible result in more money being available for the project that could also cover an education component for the project and for future brush clearance education. McMahon asked about the timing of the grant and Weisgerber said that he hoped to learn more by April and that this grant could potentially come in before the S.B. 129 funding which still has not been awarded to the County. Weisgerber added that Supervisor Provenza has been very helpful in trying to fund the project and that he was very positive on the Cal Fire grant coming through.

### **ADDRESS CHANGE**

Weisgerber said that he is still working with USPS to get the change done and that he may ask for some help to complete the process.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

McMahon asked about how the Board could get more clarification and information about the LAFCO study. Tenney added that he also had questions about the recommendations and said that he will try to get more information at the next Fire Chiefs' meeting. Weisgerber said that he will try to set up a meeting with Christine Crawford for the Board to get more information and ask further questions about the plan recommendations.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Begin budget process
- Schedule meeting for follow up on LAFCO study

### **NEXT MEETING**

**March 17, 2022** via Zoom meeting per A.B. 361.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was then a motion by McMahon that was seconded by Robert to adjourn the meeting; approved unanimously at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
John W. Lindsey  
Board Member