

**NORTH CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

District Board Chair Mr. Ken Abrahamian called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Cheryl Belluomini, Ken Abrahamian and Mr. Rusty Souza. Mr. Keith Koligian and Mr. Rusty Nonini were absent.

Also present were Deputy Chief Rich Cabral, Deputy Chief Todd Tuggle, Mr. Ken Price, and Mr. Joe Barcelos.

2. INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Mr. Barcelos and the flag salute was led by Chief Cabral.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments

4. CONSENT TO AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of April 27, 2017.

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 27, 2017, as submitted.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Souza

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0

6. PRESENTATIONS – CORRESPONDENCE – REPORT/FIRE CHIEF

A. Fire Chief General Update

1) April Incident Report – Information only

Chief Cabral called the Board's attention to the April incident report. He went through the report and asked the District Board if they had any questions. There were no questions.

2) General Updates – Information only

Chief Cabral reported on the activities of the Fire Department. During this season we are looking at mutual aid requests which have already begun. This past week the department had a request for a water tender into the Coalinga area to help fight a large vegetation fire. The City received a request for mutual aid from Madera for a large fire in Madera.

Mr. Souza asked if North Central responded with any mutual aid equipment to any of these incidents. Chief Cabral replied we had a North Central water tender respond to the Coalinga incident as well as some command officers.

The Department is ramping up our training and I can turn this over to Chief Tuggle and he can discuss some of the training we are doing in anticipation for wildfire types of requests.

Chief Tuggle reported the department has already completed our wildland training modules which consist of sending resources to work closely with our surrounding agencies such as Fresno County Fire and Fresno Kings Unit. The department is also working on interoperability to make sure we can all talk on the same radio channels, do we have common radio channels and are we able to get over to their radio channels. Another thing we consider during training is how we get the right resources dispatched out to the incidents.

So there are a lot of considerations to work on this time of the year when we cover about a four to six month period of time where these types of incidents are relatively high risk but occur at a relatively low frequency. The department saw some of the fruits of this training come out with water tender 21 going out to Coalinga. The department also responded to an incident the second week of May at McKinley and Blythe where a large field caught fire due to an individual trying to clear his field and a backfire occurred from his weed eater that started about a 20 acre fire. The open field was surrounded by houses on the eastern side of the field. Between the North Central and City resources we responded with about fourteen pieces of equipment and the good news is that no structures were lost.

The other training item I would like to bring up is the increase water levels in the San Joaquin river and the canals. We have already seen this year a significant threat level in the rivers. Compared to last year, or maybe even years before that, the river levels were at historic lows and a lot of the canals were dry. This year we've had water level flows we haven't seen since 1997. All the canals are full and the projections are they will continue to be full with a snow pack hovering around 200 percent. The department expects the responses to increase this year due to the level of the river. In response to this, we have increased our training in the swift water and rescue boat operations significantly. The department just put 22 people through swift water training and another 15 through the rescue boat operations. The department has already responded to an incident in the river and one in a canal.

Chief Cabral mentioned I think it is really important for us to communicate the hazards of our rivers and canals. The department is developing signage in multiple languages for areas such as Scaggs Bridge to warn people of the dangers of the river. Mrs. Belluomini mentioned the District can put an announcement on the radio station using the District's tower in Biola.

7. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

A. Tranquillity Tower

Mr. Barcelos reported the District received a notice from the Fresno County Office of Education regarding needed upgrades to the Tranquillity Tower. Mr. Barcelos and several Fire Department staff have attended two meetings to gather information on the upgrades. In the first meeting, the upgrades were estimated to be \$175,000 and the Office of Education staff suggested this cost be split three ways. The Office of Education would pay one third, the District and County of Fresno would split the other two thirds of the cost. The District and the County are the only agencies currently using the tower.

At the second meeting, staff was informed the Golden Plains School District where the tower is located was awarded a grant for high speed internet and some of the grant monies can be used to upgrade the tower. Preliminary estimates show the grant could cover most of the upgrades leaving an estimated \$60,000 left for the District and County to split. All of this is preliminary information so District staff will keep the District Board updated as this project moves forward.

B. Water Tender 23

Mr. Barcelos reported new water tender 23 was placed into service yesterday. The District received CDBG grant monies to help with the purchase of this water tender. Mr. Barcelos reported water tender 23 was received the first week of May. The tender then went through some testing, had decals placed on it and communications equipment installed.

Mr. Barcelos explained he needed to add something to this item that just came up after he talked to the CDBG folks with the County of Fresno on Tuesday of this week. They explained that most of the CDBG projects are construction projects and at the end of the project a walk-through is done, a punch-list is created if anything is not done per specifications and after the punch-list has been completed, a Notice of Completion is signed and turned into the CDBG division to go in the file for the CDBG project. Because the District's CDBG project is not a construction project and the folks with the CDBG Division would like the equivalent of a Notice of Completion in the project file, they asked me to have the District Board make a motion accepting the water tender as completed.

Mr. Price explained since this information became known to the District after the posting of the agenda, the District Board can make a motion to add an item to the agenda as long as the District Board votes unanimously to add the item. Once the item is added to the agenda, the District Board can consider the action to accept the new water tender.

Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion to add this item to the agenda since it became aware to the District after the posting of the agenda.

Motion: To add an action item to the agenda in regards to Water Tender 23 and the request made by the CDBG Division of the County of Fresno.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Souza

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0

Mr. Abrahamian asked Mr. Barcelos to explain what was requested by the CDBG Division. Mr. Barcelos explained that in order to complete the file the CDBG Division is keeping for the Biola Station Water Tender CDBG Project, the District Board has been asked to make a motion accepting the new water tender project as completed acknowledging all applicable testing has been completed and all equipment needed to place the water tender in service has been installed.

Motion: To accept Water Tender 23 as completed acknowledging all testing has been completed and all emergency equipment has been added to place the water tender in service, and to authorize Mr. Barcelos to complete and turn in all necessary forms to the CDBG Division of the County of Fresno for the acceptance of this project.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Souza

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0

C. Solar Power Review

Mr. Barcelos suggested since Mr. Koligian requested this report and he is absent tonight, this report can be presented at the next District Board meeting. The Board Members agreed so this item will be moved to next month's meeting.

8. PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND LIST OF ABATEMENT NOTICES

A. Public Hearing

Mr. Abrahamian opened the floor for the public hearing for public comments on the 2017 weed abatement season at 6:10 p.m.

There were no public comments. Mr. Barcelos reported before tonight's meeting started two District residents came to the meeting to ask questions about the notices of violation they received in the mail from the District. Mr. Barcelos answered their questions so they decided not to stay for the closed session but Mr. Barcelos wanted to report to the Board the reason the two property owners came to the District meeting.

The first property owner wanted to know why I did not put the date we inspected his lot but instead put the first week of May. Mr. Barcelos explained the engine companies are assigned certain lots to inspect in their area when they have time to do the inspections. I do not know the exact day they inspect a particular lot because it could have been inspected by any of the three shifts. I do know that it

was inspected in the first week of May because that is the time frame the engine companies were given to do the inspections.

The second gentlemen asked if it was Ok to just disc a 30 foot clearance on his fenced in lot around the perimeter of his parcel so he can leave some vegetation in the middle for his mules to eat. Since this is allowable in the District's abatement standards, Mr. Barcelos told him it was OK. Both residents did not know they could just call to get answers to these questions since they had never received a violation notice before this year. They both thought they had to attend the meeting and ask these questions in the public hearing so they left after their questions were answered.

Mr. Abrahamian closed the floor for the public hearing for public comments on the 2017 weed abatement season at 6:15 p.m.

B. Review list of properties sent "Notice to Destroy Weeds" – information only

Mr. Barcelos called the District Board's attention to the list of properties that received a notice to destroy weeds. He mentioned he has mailed out 118 notices this year compared to only 57 notices last year. Mr. Barcelos explained because of all the rain this year, there are more weeds and the contractors in the area that disc lots for property owners are behind schedule. So many of the lots sent notices have been disced since they received the notice because the abatement contractors are starting to catch up. After tonight's public hearing, these lots will be re-inspected and those not abated by the property owner will be assigned to the District's abatement contractor.

Mr. Abrahamian asked Mr. Price if there is anything we can do to get Cal-Trans to remove the tall weeds along Highway 180 in the District. Mr. Price asked if the District can fine Cal-Trans. Mr. Barcelos mentioned the District is authorized in the Health and Safety code to have a weed abatement program. This code section allows us to recover abatement program costs by placing a lien on the property and adding the costs to the County tax rolls. But the area along the highway is not assigned an APN so there are no property taxes paid on this strip along the highway. Mr. Barcelos talked to the County last year about this and they told him this area is maintained by Cal-Trans which was confirmed when a phone call was made to Cal-Trans.

Mr. Price asked Mr. Barcelos to send him a copy of the notice mailed to Cal-Trans and he said he would look into possible ways to remedy this problem.

9. LOPERENA ANTENNA AGREEMENT RENEWAL – OWENS MOUNTAIN

A. Action item – Consider and approve a five-year term extension of the Loperena Antenna Sites Agreement.

Mr. Barcelos reported the District has a five-year agreement with Loperena Antenna Sites which is equipment on a tower and in a room next to the tower on Owens Mountain. He mentioned there is a clause in the agreement that allows us to extend the contract for another five-year term if both parties agree. Mr. Barcelos called Mr. Loperena and he would like to extend the contract for

another five-year term and mailed me a letter stating his intentions which is in your board packet. Also in the agreement is a clause stating Mr. Loperena can increase the rate annually by the CPI which he has not done in the previous five years so he wants to increase the term by the CPI and he explains all this in his letter. The rate increase would become effective at the start of the extension which is June 1, 2017.

Mr. Price mentioned he will provide a lease extension for Board Chair Abrahamian and Mr. Loperena to sign to extend this agreement for another five-year term.

Motion: To approve the five-year extension of the Loperena Antenna Site Agreement.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Souza.

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration and Approval of Disbursements List for April 2017.

Mr. Abrahamian asked about the repair of the parking lot lights. Mr. Barcelos explained a few of the parking lot lights here at station 21 were not working and the photo cell needed to be replaced because the remaining lights were staying on during the day. Since the other lights were as old as the ones that quit working, the District hired someone to replace all the lights, to clean the lens covers and replace the photo cell.

Motion: To approve the April 2017, disbursements from the West America general account in the amount of \$69,056.62.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Abrahamian.

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0

B. Review and Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports

- 1) Fresno County: Cash Balances – All Funds – No Comments
- 2) Budget Report: YTD Expenses Compared to Budget – No Comments
- 3) Revenue and Reimbursement Report – No Comments
- 4) P G & E Report – No Comments.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

13. CLOSED SESSION

A) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Gov. Code §94956.9(d)(4).) Number of Cases: 1 *North Central Fire District v. City of Fresno.*

Closed Session Report: There is no action to report from closed session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:13p.m.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Mr. Souza.

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Koligian:	Mr. Nonini:	Mr. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Absent	Absent	Aye	3/0


Cheryl Belluomini, Board Secretary
North Central Fire Protection District


Date