

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
**SLEEPY HOLLOW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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April 30, 2009

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A duly noticed Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District was convened at 7:30 p.m. on April 30, 2009 at 70 Crane Drive, San Anselmo, California. A quorum was achieved by the presence of each of the three Directors of the District, namely, Frank Berto, Thomas Finn, and Richard Shortall. Frank Berto, as President, presided as Chairman and called the meeting to order. Thomas Finn, as Secretary, recorded the proceedings.

Public Discussion

There was no request from any member of the public to address the Board regarding items not on the meeting agenda. The Board welcomed Sleepy Hollow Homes Association president Carolyn Goodman to the meeting.

Fire Pumps Program

The Board unanimously approved the purchase of five (5) additional portable fire pump units, bringing the total number of pumps to 33. Director Finn previewed the upcoming pumps training/demonstration scheduled for May 23.

Website Update

The Board unanimously approved the implementation of changes to the District's website operations, including the incorporation of functionalities that will allow the District to perform its own updates, thereby reducing third-party support costs. Director Finn was instructed to coordinate the process and report back to the Board as circumstances warrant.

SHFPD Membership in RVFD JPA

Director Finn delivered a status report on the progress of negotiations concerning a possible new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement for the Ross

Valley Fire Department (RVFD), including recent meetings of the JPA Subcommittee and his meetings with the RVFD Fire Chief and the RVFD Firefighters Union representative.

The Board reviewed and discussed the progress on the three issues that the Towns recently requested be re-negotiated, namely, (1) a requested SHFPD contribution to Station 20 maintenance, (2) a requested modification of the initial cap on the SHFPD's financial obligations, and (3) a requested disposition and/or contribution to the JPA's current Unreserved Fund Balance. The Board also discussed the details of the provisions regarding protection for the SHFPD from unfunded JPA pension obligation increases or acceleration.

Director Finn expressed his concern that the Towns may be reluctant to accede to any further changes to the draft Agreement that could potentially entail additional expense for them. He stated his belief that the Towns might discontinue negotiations if the District pressed its current positions on these issues.

Director Berto suggested a counter-proposal for the Board's consideration. The gist of his counter-proposal was to simplify the current draft Agreement by eliminating those provisions dealing with the initial cap, the Unreserved Fund Balance, and the pension protections, in exchange for which the District's share of the RVFD budget would be reduced to 15.2% (equal to one-half of Fairfax's share) from 16.7% as currently proposed.

The Board discussed the merits of Director Berto's suggested counter-proposal in detail. Director Shortall advocated informing the Towns that the District wished to continue negotiations and was prepared to make reasonable concessions, if necessary, to conclude an Agreement. He stated that securing an acceptable Agreement would allow the District's to undertake other activities beneficial to the District.

Director Berto indicated that he did not believe the Towns are willing to reconsider their positions and that they may terminate negotiations unless the District offers a simplified counter-proposal along the lines he suggested.

Director Shortall suggested that the District ask the Towns to specify in writing which issues remain to be resolved so that the District could respond accordingly.

Director Berto requested that he participate in a meeting with San Anselmo Mayor Breen and Director Finn in advance of the JPA Subcommittee's next meeting in order to present his suggested counter-proposal. Director Finn mentioned that Director Berto's attendance might implicate the Brown Act.

Following further discussion, the Board adopted the following positions and instructed Director Finn to present them to the JPA Subcommittee at its next meeting and to report back to the Board:

1. Request that the Towns specify in writing which issues they consider to be unresolved and how they would propose to resolve them.
2. If resolution is not reasonably imminent, then negotiations should be suspended until sometime after the May 19 election.
3. If an Agreement cannot thereafter be concluded, then District residents and others should be accurately informed as to why the effort to obtain full JPA membership was unsuccessful.

Since there was no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Thomas J. Finn, Secretary