

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

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May 19, 2011

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District was convened at 7:30 p.m. on May 19, 2011 at 1317 Butterfield Road, 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 presided as Chairman and called the meeting to order. Thomas Finn, as Secretary, recorded the proceedings.

Open Time for Public Input

There was no request from any member of the public to address the Board regarding items not on the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

The Minutes of the Board's February 17, 2010 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) and Related Matters

Chairman Berto reported on the status of the ongoing labor negotiations between the RVFD Board and RVFD personnel bargaining units. Chairman Berto stated that RVFD Board members representing the Towns of Fairfax and San Anselmo had taken the lead in negotiations on behalf of the RVFD. The negotiations have focused on the nature and magnitude of certain givebacks in firefighter compensation and benefits (e.g., by asking firefighters to begin contributing up to 5% of the RVFD's CalPERS payment obligations, which the firefighters have not contributed to under prior collective bargaining agreements). Director Shortall noted that the Towns' goal is to keep their RVFD costs flat for the coming fiscal year. Chairman Berto stated that he would report back to the Board as circumstances warrant.

Chairman Berto next reported on the status of discussions between the RVFD and the Town of Ross regarding the possible combination of the RVFD and the Ross

Fire Dept. (RFD). Those discussions have been carried on by RVFD Chief Meagor and RVFD Board members Kroot and Tremaine and the Ross Town Manager.

Chairman Berto first expressed his dismay that the negotiations were being kept confidential, and stated that the process should be more public, including disclosure of the RFD's finances for comparison purposes.

Director Shortall stated that the possible overall savings to the RVFD and the Town of Ross from such a combination could be as much as \$1 million if the Town were to continue to spend the same amount as it is currently spending for its fire protection by, e.g., elimination of the RFD's fire chief position.

Chairman Berto noted that Ross and Sleepy Hollow contain roughly the same number of houses, but that Ross' total assessed value is roughly double that of Sleepy Hollow's and, coincidentally, Sleepy' Hollow's assessed value is roughly equal to Fairfax's. Chairman Berto stated that if Ross were to join the RVFD Joint Powers Authority (JPA), then all members' contribution percentages could and should be reviewed and adjusted.

Director Finn expressed his reservations about the possibility of re-opening the JPA at this stage and instead allow Ross' potential membership contribution to be established based on an independent negotiation. Director Shortall concurred.

Chairman Berto stated that the SHFPD should endeavor to obtain some financial benefit from any such combination as a matter of principle, given the efforts and concessions that were made by the SHFPD to secure its JPA membership.

Director Finn suggested that a buy-in be considered as a component of the RFD's membership in the JPA but only if the matter arises in the course of future discussions, and not as an up-front demand by the SHFPD or the RVFD as a condition of Ross' membership.

As a separate matter, Chairman Berto suggested that the Board invite Chief Meagor to present a proposed Sleepy Hollow Fire Code to the Board for its consideration. Chairman Berto said that Chief Meagor had been revising his earlier draft of such a Code to comply with recent changes in State law. Chairman Berto said that he would inquire as to Chief Meagor's readiness and availability to make such a presentation.

#### Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) Matters

Director Finn reported that the renewal of the RVPA tax levy for FY 10/11 was passed unanimously by the RVPA Board. He also reported that the BLS transport pilot

program had been approved is underway. Director Finn stated that he would report back to the Board as soon as the initial data from the pilot program becomes available.

Director Shortall noted generally that per the Brown Act, whenever the scope of service in the EMS system is proposed to be changed, the proposed change in service must be put out to bid.

summarized the status of the fire break project implemented by the Marin County Fire Department's (MCFD) Tamalpais Fire Crew and the RVFD on Triple C Ranch. Director Finn proposed that the District consider providing a financial contribution to defray a portion of the cost of the project as the project directly benefits the District and is part of a larger, County-wide effort to create strategic fire breaks in selected locations. Director Finn noted that the property owner has committed to contribute a substantial amount to the project and that the District could match or exceed that amount. Director Shortall concurred.

Following an extensive discussion of the project's benefits to the District and its residents, the Board unanimously approved a contribution in an amount to be determined after consultation with the MCFD and RVFD.

### Financial Matters

Treasurer Shortall presented (i) a District Balance Sheet as of February 17, 2011, together with a Year-to-Date summary of budget progress; (ii) a District Profit and Loss Statement as of February 11, 2010, together with data for Fiscal Year 2009 for comparison purposes, and (iii) various warrants for the payment of normal District expenses. Treasurer Shortall noted that, pursuant to the Clubhouse Rental Agreement, provision had been made as of April 13, 2010 for the payment of \$20,000 to the Sleepy Hollow Homes Association. Copies of these documents are attached hereto. The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the financial reports, warrants, and budget update presented.

Treasurer Shortall recommended that the District explore the possibility of placing some of the District's financial reserves in a deposit account at a commercial bank, as such banks are currently paying a higher rate of interest than the District's reserves are currently earning from the County of Marin. Directors Berto and Finn concurred, and Director Shortall, as Treasurer, was requested to explore the matter and report back to the Board.

### Fire Pumps Program

Director Finn reported on the status of the District's Fire Pumps Program, including prospective training/demonstration dates to be confirmed with the RVFD.

### Next Meeting

It was tentatively agreed that the next Regular Meeting of the Board shall be held on November 18, 2010.

Since there was no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Thomas J. Finn, Secretary