



Quincy Fire Protection District

Board of Commissioner's Minutes

Special Meeting November 19, 2020

Feather River Bulletin Conference Room

- I. Chairman Taborski called the meeting to order at 7:30 am with Commissioner Johnny Mansell (Via phone), Chief Cassou, Assistant District Secretary Jennifer Taborski present.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Commissioner Mansell made a motion to approve the September 29th special meeting minutes, Chairman Taborski second the motion, motion passed.
- IV. Financial Report:
 - a. Chairman Taborski reviewed the financials and they appeared to be in order. Chairman Taborski asked if Chief Cassou had anything to add. Chief Cassou stated that there will be some, out of the ordinary purchases over the next month including the purchase of radio equipment and wildland gear as per our CalFire Volunteer Firefighter Assistants 50/50 Grant. Purchases under the grant will eventually be in the area of \$38,000. Once purchases have been made, we will submit invoices to CalFire for reimbursement up to 50% of the total project cost.
 - b. We have, and will be purchasing COVID19 prevention supplies including masks, face shields, safety glasses, gowns, gloves, thermometers, and cleaning supplies such as disinfectant wipes, sprays, hand sanitizer, and dispensers, etc. Costs are expected to be in the area of \$3,000.
 - c. Chief Cassou pointed out that on his previous two emergency response vehicles, he personally purchased all of the emergency lights, markings, and radios equipment for both cars. Chief Cassou purchased his present vehicle nearly two years ago. In previous talks with the Board, there was discussion about the District purchasing lights, siren, and radio equipment for the new vehicle. Chief Cassou stated that after the busy year we have had, it has become evident that now is the time to make these purchases. Chief Cassou estimated the cost to be between \$7,000 and \$8,000. After some discussion, Chairman Taborski and Commissioner Mansell both agreed that the purchase of these emergency response items was warranted.
 - d. No Claims to be signed.

V. Fire Chief's Report -Chief Cassou

- a. As part of the Plumas Under Burn Co-op, Captain Matt West has been sponsoring several weekend classes and events to help community members safely perform broadcast burning on their properties to help reduce fire danger. Captain Schmid has participated in several along with some others using Engine 8176 to provide fire protection.
- b. 11/14/2020 - Sophia Becwar-Berry, Kaylee Chandler, Parker Carey, Deirdre McCarthy, Josh Mundy, and Robbie Cassou participated in a training exercise at Long Valley Fire. The class was to prepare students for the upcoming live burn training in Reno. Topics included SCBA use, personal protective clothing, and transitional fire attack.
- c. 11/08/2020 - Sophia Becwar-Berry, Kaylee Chandler, Parker Carey, Deirdre McCarthy, Josh Mundy, and Robbie Cassou participated in an all-day live fire training exercise using the 6-story training tower at the Washoe County Regional Training Center. Students participated in live (propane powered), interior, and exterior fire attacks in multi-story structures. They also practiced some downed firefighter rescue techniques. Aside from participating in the training, Kaylee Chandler served as an EMT to medically monitor firefighters and instructors throughout the day.
- d. 11/09/2020 - Quincy Fire responded to a large trash fire at the transfer site on Abernathy Lane. Some of the students from the weekend's live-fire training exercise got their first opportunity to fight an uncontrolled fire in a structure. With the help of a frontend loader, firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire with minimal structural damage to the building.
- e. On 11/10/2020, Chief Cassou Participated in the Local Emergency Services Study Group Meeting at the Portola City Hall. The group is exploring the possibility of combining six different departments and districts into one fire authority. Chief Cassou informed the Board that he had been involved in a heated discussion with a Sierra Valley Fire District Board Member and that he eventually escorted the board member from the premises. The meeting continued without any further incidents.
- f. 11/11/2020, Quincy Fire Responded to a fully involved wooden storage shed fire at 760 LaPorte Road. Volunteers responded with three structure engines, a water tender, and the rescue squad. Due to its proximity to the forest, the Forest Service also responded. The fire was quickly extinguished and overhauled.
- g. 11/13/2020 – Captain Correira and Firefighters McCarthy, Pierson, and Parker Carey responded with Engine 8124 on a mutual aid request for a structure fire in Crescent Mills. Kevin Griffin and two others responded with Support 81 to provided support services to firefighters from three different departments.

- h. 11/19/2020 – Chief Cassou will be calculating the occupant load for the Feather River Fitness Center to help them establish their 10% of occupant load requirement for COVID19 compliance. Chief Cassou has had several similar requests from local businesses and expects many more as the COVID19 restrictions increase.

Chairman Taborski asked how the occupant load was calculated. Chief Cassou explained that there is a chart in the California Fire Code which breaks down different categories of occupancy and assigns a value based on the square footage required per person. Chief Cassou explained how one occupancy may have multiple calculations based on the actual use of the floor space. He further explained how Quincy Fire's and the Plumas County Building Department's figures may vary and why.

Chairman Taborski asked if the District assumes any liability related to COVID19 requirements based on our calculation. Chief Cassou explained that we only calculate the occupant load of the structure during normal operations. The Health Department enforces the requirements and compliance issues with respect to COVID19 protocols.

Chief Cassou also informed the Board that after calculating an occupant load, he provides appropriate signage for the business. If a structure changed its occupancy classification then a new calculation would be required.

- i. On 11/12/2020, Quincy Fire will be holding nominations for the election of captains for 2021. Unfortunately, Captain John Gay will be retiring at the end of December leaving a huge hole in our organization. Captain Correia is now living in Nevada but will still be available for calls during the day during the week and will spend Tuesday nights in Quincy to attend training. Quincy Fire does have a policy that allows members to live outside the District provided they are available to respond to emergencies a minimum of 30 hours a week and attend required training. With Chief Windle's impending retirement in 2021, we expect some significant changes in our officer pool.
- j. 12/08/2020 – Officer's elections will be held.
- k. Drills:

10/06/2020 - Officer's Meeting

10/13/2020 – Ropes, knots, and scene lighting - Captains Gay and West

10/20/2020 – Mass casualty incident management and S.T.A.R.T. Triage – Chief Cassou

10/27/2020 - Salvage and overhaul – Captain Schmid and Assistant Chief Carey

11/03/2020 – Officer's meeting

11/10/2020 – Chimney fires – Deputy Chief Windle and Captain West

11/17/2020 – Cold weather emergencies – Wendy Markowitz (Care Flight)

11/24/2020 – Fire sprinklers and fire dynamics (basic fire behavior) – Chief Cassou

Chairman Taborski asked if we are doing a good job of protecting our people from COVID during these training exercises. Chief Cassou explained that we are screening members at two points where they enter the building, our tables and chairs are set up with six feet of separation and all participants are required to wear masks or other face coverings.

Chairman Taborski elaborated that with the surge of cases we are now seeing, we need to be extra careful protecting our personnel. Chief Cassou went on to say, that with the recent increase in COVID19 cases in Plumas County, we can expect that our State Severity Level will climb from Red to Purple, (the highest level). When this happens, we will not be holding drill nights rather we will be providing online materials and continue to encourage the use of the online Firefighter 1 program we purchased last May. officer's meetings will be conducted on Zoom.

i. Holiday Party cancelled due to COVID19

Chairman Taborski asked if we were planning on canceling our Installation of Officers function in February. Chief Cassou said unless something miraculous happens, the Installation awards ceremony will be canceled as well.

m. Calls for September and October

In September we had 2 community service calls, 38 EMS calls, 6 fires, and 1 Support Team mutual aid call, for a total of 47 responses.

In October we responded to 35 EMS calls and 5 fires for a total of 40 emergency responses.

VI. PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff) Generator Grant – Chief Cassou

Chief Cassou gave an update on the State Office of Emergency Services PSPS Grant submission. The QFPD's grant application was accepted and is now going through the vetting process. If funded, the grant will provide \$41,939 to purchase and install a 46kw, propane-powered generator to supply our facility at 505 Lawrence Street (Station 1). The projected cost of the generator is \$19,611.00. Once acquired, the electrical installation will cost approximately \$14,750.00 with the remaining funds going to a propane tank, fuel, installation, and permit costs. Grant awards will begin in July of 2021.

VII. Fire Prevention Officer's Report – Steve Fowler
Report postponed due to COVID concerns.

VIII. Other Business