

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
November 27, 2006
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:04 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine (6:15 pm)	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonkers	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Markleeville Resident
Buck McLelland	Fire Chief	Woodfords Fire Department

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of October 30th meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Shirley Taylor Second: Al Moss

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business

- a. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.
David Griffith reported that Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director, had walked the River Ranch/Hwy. 88 site and concluded that there are no major problems with that location. Griffith stated that Cardoza has a sketch of the land area needed for a water tank, fire station, and parking. Griffith has not seen the sketch. Brees reported that the entrance to the site will likely be off Hwy. 88 rather than River Ranch Road due to the wetlands issue. After some discussion, Griffith agreed to speak to Cardoza regarding access to the property from River Ranch versus Hwy.

88. Brees reported that the Board had approved the additional funding for the water tank for Woodfords Fire Department and the fire hydrant at Gansberg's property. Kim Chatfield questioned whether the money for the fire hydrant at Gansberg's property would come from the \$90,000 from Molines. Don Jardine confirmed that the additional funds were approved by the Board of Supervisors and would pay for the balance needed for the tank at Woodfords and for the fire hydrant at Gansberg's property. The money is coming from County Contingency funds.

- b. Update on Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision and proposed project additions.

Brees stated that he is waiting for maps from Clint Celio. The Bear Valley portion of the CWPP is on hold at this point, as the County has not found the money that was set aside for the Bear Valley CWPP. Griffith suggested to Brees a trail for the County in helping to trace the funds.

- c. Update on committee to promote implementation of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.

Griffith reported that the committee had met and finalized a suggested draft job description for a fire chief for Eastern Alpine County. Jim Haen was instrumental in drafting the job description. Haen and Griffith will meet with Supervisors Gunter Kaiser and Skip Veatch and present the job description. Once they have their feedback the committee will send a letter to the Board of Supervisors. The committee will be suggesting that the minimum requirement allow members of the community to apply for the Fire Chief position. Shirley Taylor questioned whether the Board of Supervisors will be funding the Fire Chief position rather than a special assessment. Al Moss stated that the committee's proposal is for the County Board of Supervisors to fund the position through internal sources, and after the new Fire Chief is in position, that person could work on a program for a special assessment to implement to all households to expand the system. Griffith stated that the maximum amount they felt they could ask the public for was about \$200 per year and, even with assessment of public buildings, a contribution from the tribal community, and an increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax, they cannot get close to the money needed for the Fire Services Plan. If they can get a Fire Chief in position, they can move the Fire Service Plan forward and build a case for asking for more money from the property owners. Moss stated that the Fire Chief can work on reducing ISO ratings and find grants to add to the program. Griffith said that ISO rating reduction can save property owners a significant amount of money on fire insurance and increase the likelihood that they would contribute more money to a special assessment. Griffith spoke with Todd Carlini, Fire Chief in Douglas County who went through the process of reducing their ISO ratings a few years ago. Griffith reported that Carlini found in preliminary reports that a reduction in ISO ratings in Douglas County would save the community \$1.8 million/year in

fire insurance. The East Fork Fire Department got approval from the Douglas County Commissioners for a program to put money into the fire department to reduce their ISO ratings. They were re-rated about 6 months ago and they met their targets. They have been receiving feedback from the community and the savings from the insurance agencies are coming through. Griffith stated that they can be confident in telling the community that if they put money into fire protection, then over time, a reduction in the ISO ratings will lead to a savings in fire insurance for the community. Griffith and Jardine will be meeting with Beverly Caldera, new chair of the Woodfords Indian Colony to begin the communication regarding their participation in a Benefit Assessment District.

- d. Update on the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.
Brees spoke with the State Park as he had not gotten his questionnaire back from them. They have a new supervisor so there has been some delay. Brees stated that Mark Hoffman felt that they would agree to alternative access out of the State Park. Brees is waiting for official confirmation at this time. Brees is on the agenda for the next Disaster Council meeting and he will meeting with the Sheriffs.
- e. Year-end report for the Turtle Rock Park Burn Pile.
Brees stated that the Volunteer Fire Departments had burned the pile. Brees reported that 61 participants in the spring brought 108 tons, and in the fall 88 participants brought 59 tons. Overall, Brees stated that they had a good rate of participation in the community. Brees has not received an invoice from Public Works, but the Fire Safe Council can expect to pay half of the costs to man the burn site.
- f. Update on County Fire Marshal position.
Jardine reported that they were waiting on a proposal from Bill Smith so they could get the Fire Marshal plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors and hire for the position.
- g. Review and comment on draft envelope design and educational packets.
Brees distributed a draft design for the educational packets. The envelope will contain educational materials to be distributed at the Building Department, Library and County Administration Building. It was agreed that Brees would place an order for 1000 envelopes.
- h. Update on Revised County Driveway Standards.
Brees stated that Mark Demaio had emailed the draft standards. Demaio had incorporated the approval of the emergency agencies into the approval process. Griffith stated that Demaio had accepted the consensus at the last Fire Safe Council meeting and incorporated them into the draft driveway standards. The draft will go before the Planning Commission on

Thursday. The Board of Supervisors will vote whether or not to pass the ordinance. Griffith suggested that before it goes before the Board, the Fire Safe Council and the Fire Departments should confer and send a letter to the Board weighing in on the draft standards.

V. New Business

a. Discussion regarding volunteer timesheets.

Taylor suggested that there be a reminder to the Board members to complete their timesheets, possibly on the agenda. Griffith stated that many grants require a matching contribution and in most cases volunteer time counts. Volunteer time is valued at \$18.00 per hour. Griffith suggested that Kerry Radelfinger check the time sheet as she gets them to ensure time spent at Board meetings is included. Taylor suggested there be a reminder to fill out the time sheets. It was agreed that Radelfinger would keep volunteer time sheets and distribute them at the meetings for Board members to complete.

b. Staff Reports

Radelfinger reported that she had filed for an extension of the Burn Pile grant and Coordinator grant from the Forest Service and was granted a 6 month extension on both grants.

Brees made a presentation on Conservation Camps at the November 7th Board of Supervisors meeting. He did not get much response, but topic was put before the Board..

Brees reported that BLM will be burning across from Turtle Rock Park, at the corner of Airport Road in the spring. The Forest Service will be doing some mastication work at the top of Pleasant Valley Road this fall. Brees has been in contact with Steve Howell, the Forest Service Fuels Specialist, about possible stewardship projects in Alpine County. The Forest Service will be doing some work on 75 acres adjacent to Turtle Rock Park this spring, so there is a possibility of working with them at that time. Brees has been working on getting the environmental documentation in order in the event an opportunity presented itself to get some work done on public lands in the short term. Brees met with Chris Waters with CDF and walked the campground at Turtle Rock Park. Brees talked to them about mastication work around the campground and how CDF could be involved. Brees stated that Waters said they can come back and burn the area off, as they have done in the past, as well as some tree thinning.

Brees attended a Tahoe Regional Chiefs meeting at Squaw Valley. During the meeting the passage of Proposition 84 was mentioned. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy received \$54 million out of that, which is a potential funding source for Fire Safe Councils. Steve Yonker stated that he had spoken with the Tahoe Conservancy and it was suggested that the Fire

Safe Council should work through local assemblymen and senators, preferably before the budget meetings in January. After some discussion, it was agreed that January was too soon to get the Board of Supervisors to do any more than look into the possibility of a camp. Jardine suggested that Brees talk to Molnar about putting a letter together for the Board of Supervisors asking them to explore the possibility of a Conservation Camp and getting a letter of recommendation from CDF who has been down this path before. Brees will follow up on the issue. A motion was made to encourage the Board of Supervisors to pursue the possibility of getting a California Conservation Camp in the county.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.

Moss commended Haen and Griffith for all their work on putting together the job description for the fire chief position. Moss asked that Board members to express their appreciation to Haen if they see him. Kim Chatfield suggested the Council write thank-you letters to the volunteer fire department in appreciation of their service to the community.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Tentatively set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday December 18th, pending need to meet.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.