

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
November 26, 2007
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:12 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Tom Sweeney	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident
Nancy Thornburg	Interested Citizen	Markleeville Resident

Absent:

Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
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I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of October 22nd meeting.

Motion to approve.

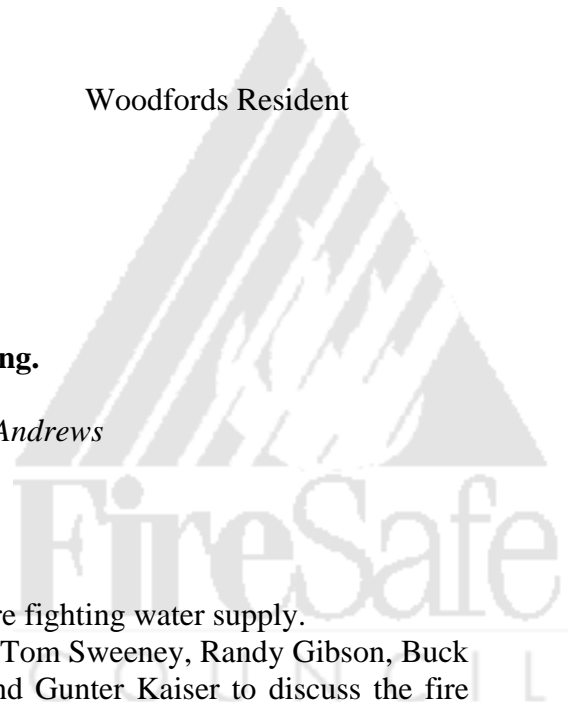
Motion: Don Jardine Second: Jerry Andrews

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.

Moss said he attended a meeting with Tom Sweeney, Randy Gibson, Buck McClelland, Jim Haen, Rob Levy, and Gunter Kaiser to discuss the fire



fighting water supply issue for the Mesa. At the meeting, they prioritized the water needs for the Mesa. The first priority was to finish the water tank and hydrant set-up and well issue at the Woodfords Fire Station. The second priority, to be completed in the first year to year and a half, was to secure another water tender to provide additional mobile water. The third priority, within the next two to five years, was to secure property in the Mesa for placement of a water tank. The fourth priority, their five to ten year plan, was to resurrect the Mesa Vista/River Ranch Engineering Study and install a tank on the Mesa. Moss said there was discussion about the possibility of housing the old water tender from Woodfords at the fire house at Hung a Lei Ti. If that is not possible, then they would seek a location on the Mesa to store the tender where it would be accessible for service. The long term solution for providing water to the Mesa is to build the infrastructure for a water tank. Don Jardine said he had spoken with Larry Ford regarding approximately 2 acres of land on the corner of Emigrant Trail and Foothill Road and negotiations are in the works with Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director, who would be meeting with County Counsel to move things forward. Jardine also said he spoke with DeAnn Roberts, Woodfords Community Chair, regarding access across tribal land to the old dump site off Emigrant Trail. Jardine said she was interested in talking about the issue and Jardine said it may be possible to create a dedicated easement for access to the dump site. Moss said the subcommittee put the proposal together to give to the Board of Supervisors, and eventually to the County's Chief Administrative Office. This proposal would give a direction to the water issues in the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area. After much discussion, Moss asked if the Fire Safe Council would support writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors outlining the proposal. Moss will bring the draft letter back to the Fire Safe Council for review at the next meeting.

- b. Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the expenditure of the \$100,000 designated for unspecified fire department projects.

David Griffith reported that a subcommittee met on the issue and it was learned that there was \$55,000 designated for fire department projects, not \$100,000. Moss stated that the Woodfords and Markleeville Fire Departments had met prior to the meeting to put together a list of items for their departments where they would like the money to be spent. Moss said they discussed EMS services in Alpine County, it was agreed that there was a need to move the EMS program forward. Jeff Brees stated that the Lake Valley proposal required capital outlays to make it work and with the EMS program being their highest need, the money was needed to get an EMS program in place. Brees said there is another meeting on Tuesday, November 27th at 10:00 at Health & Human Services. Nancy Thornburg questioned whether the money was originally designated for the fire services or fire and emergency services. Brees confirmed that it

was designated for both fire and emergency medical services. Griffith stated that he recognizes that EMS needs some help, but he does not want to give up on the Defensible Space Inspector position. Griffith said that a lot of money had been put into fire suppression in the last couple of years but not into fire prevention. Griffith would like to see a push for the Defensible Space Inspector. Griffith said after the Acorn fire, one of the recommendations from a consultant hired to see what had gone wrong was the reinstatement of the Fire Marshal position because of defensible space. Brees said he had heard that Randy Gibson, Building Official, and County Counsel had met to address the issues of the job description, but he had not heard the outcome of the meeting. Jardine said he would follow up on the issue. Nancy Thornburg read a letter she wrote to the Fire Safe Council in support of a part-time Defensible Space Inspector position. Griffith asked Jardine whether it would make a difference for the Fire Safe Council to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting action on a Defensible Space Inspector position, with the support of the fire departments. Jardine agreed that was a good idea and he would check on the status of the job description. Tom Sweeney suggested identifying a house in the community that exhibits proper defensible space for community education. Griffith said that defensible space laws do not require clearing 100 feet around the house and the homeowner has multiple chances to comply with the citation. Shirley Taylor agreed that Sweeney's idea of providing the community members with sample houses that exemplify good defensible space in different areas of the community was a good idea. It was agreed, that with the help of the Forestry aides doing the inspections, they could identify a few houses in the community that could be used as samples, with the homeowner's permission. It was agreed that the Moss, Brees, Griffith, and anyone else interested would meet Wednesday at the Woodfords Fire Station to discuss the Defensible Space Inspector position with the fire departments. A motion was made to send a letter, along with the fire departments if in agreement, to the Board of Supervisors in support of a Defensible Space Inspector position.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.

- c. Update on Evacuation Plan for Woodfords.
Brees stated that Kerry Radelfinger mailed out the Evacuation Plans. He had received one positive email on them, which he forwarded to the Board. Brees said there is about \$6,000 remaining in Title III funds that were budgeted for the Evacuation Plans. Brees will draft project ideas and a budget for discussion at the next meeting.
- d. Update on community education displays.
Brees distributed the new community education packets at the Administration Building and Building Department. There will also be a

display at the Library. Griffith said he had a few comments from community members looking for local contractors, the list which is available on the Alpine Fire Safe Council's website. Griffith suggested mentioning the resources available on the website at community meetings.

- e. Update on defensible space inspections by CALFIRE aides.
Brees said the CALFIRE aides have completed over 100 inspections. Brees estimated they had about 3 or 4 more days of work left to complete the Woodfords area and Blue Lakes Road. Brees said there was an informal complaint to the Grand Jury about the inspection program, so he met with them and educated them about the program. Brees said it has been three years since the last inspections and there has been good feedback. Andrews said some houses still have the bags from the inspections hanging from the doors, which broadcasts an absentee owner. Andrews thought it would be a good idea to remove the bags. Brees will do a clean-up of those still hanging on the door and place them under the door mats.
- f. Update on request to the Alpine County RAC to restore original Title II Coordinator grant amount.
Brees said that Franklin Pemberton, Forest Service, is still waiting on responses from the RAC committee regarding the request to restore the original Title II Coordinator grant amount. Brees asked if members of the Board would be interested in calling committee members asking them to respond. Griffith and Moss agreed to call the members who had not responded. Brees will email them with the original email and contact information.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to promote the use of reflective address signs.
Moss said someone had suggested that the fire departments take on the project of selling reflective address signs as a fundraiser. Moss said reflective address signs at the street assist fire departments and emergency medical services in finding houses in the event of an emergency. Brees stated his support of reflective address signs, as it is very frustrating as a firefighter not being able to find the house, especially in time critical situations. Griffith said that it should be part of the County ordinances, with the County requiring property owners to have a reflective address sign. Griffith said this is primarily an EMS problem and it does not affect wildland fires. Moss suggested that the fire departments discuss whether they want to put the program together. Moss also recommended that the Fire Safe Council send a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to make reflective address signs a part of their ordinance detail. Griffith suggested that Brees speak with Randy Gibson, Building Official, as he will know what the current regulations are and the regulations of other

Counties who have tried this type of ordinance. Griffith did not think the Fire Safe Council should be involved in funding the program, but if EMS is in favor of it and willing to sign the letter, then the Fire Safe Council should support them. Brees said there has been talk of doing a Fire Day and the reflective address signs could be incorporated into the program.

- b. Discussion and possible action to assist the fire departments with pre-planning assessments and notifications.

Brees said there was an issue with poor access of West Fork Lane, off of Hwy. 89. There are other similar problems in the County, including Douglas Way and Upper and Lower Manzanita Lane. Brees asked if the Fire Safe Council would be willing to assist with pre-planning and notifying neighbors that the road is inaccessible to the Fire Departments. Griffith said that when the Fire Safe Council was formed, they told the Fire Departments they would be willing to take the political heat for the things that they would like to get done. Brees felt that it needed to be part of a bigger pre-planning assessment program. Griffith stated his support of the project. Brees will meet with Buck McClelland to create a plan and a budget for the project.

Brees asked the Council for a letter in support of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Griffith said that as a non-profit organization, the Fire Safe Council cannot choose a side on a political issue. Griffith said that individual members of the Board can send letters. Brees will email a form letter and contact information to the Board.

- c. Staff Reports

Brees attended the General Plan Amendment meeting. He said the chief concern was the growth limits. Brees said there was no remark on the Fire Element.

Brees attended the Nevada Fire Safe Council's Douglas County Chapter Meeting where he networked. In attendance was the head of the Nevada Fire Safe Council and one of the Fire Chief's from East Fork Fire and Paramedics. Brees said there is a new chapter starting up in Sheridan.

Brees attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on October 20th and commended the Road Department on their work on Hot Springs Road where they took out some small trees along the roadway.

Andrews questioned the status of the Burn Pile. Brees will be meeting with Dennis Cardoza and the Forest Service. They will discuss plans for the Burn Pile location and disposal. Brees hopes to have more information at the next meeting, as well as the end of the year report.

VII. Adjournment

January 7, 2008

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- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Wednesday January 2nd.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jerry Andrews Second: Al Moss

All ayes. Motion carried.