

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

## Approved Minutes

July 28, 2008

6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:10 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

### Present:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Residents
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Les Allert	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident
Jill Allert	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident

### Absent:

Joyce Devore	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
John Super	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident

### I. Call to order

### II. Introductions

### III. Approve minutes of June 30, 2008 meeting.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker*

*Second: David Griffith*

### IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

### V. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding enforcement of defensible space inspections.

Moss said there was concern that the \$40,000 allotted for the defensible space inspections did not include funds for reinforcement or follow up inspections. Moss said he spoke with Pam Knorr, the county's Chief

Administrative Officer who would be meeting with the Planning Department, County Counsel, and a representative from Board of Supervisors on August 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the defensible space inspections. Moss said she had suggested the Council address a letter to Board expressing their concerns. Griffith made a motion to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors, copying Pam Knorr and Brian Peters, thanking them for the defensible space motion and expressing their concern that there be sufficient funding for follow up inspections and that the program be funded on an annual basis.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: David Griffith            Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Moss said he will contact Knorr to see if there is an opportunity for Brees and himself to be present at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the program. Andrews questioned if there were any response to the notification card regarding the inspections. Brees said he had received about 5 calls, mainly from absentee homeowners and one email from a Sierra Pines resident concerned about the pine needle piles on the property. Brees has notified the Lake Valley Fire Department to make them aware of the issue on that property. Taylor read an email quote from Nancy Thornburg – *“I hope you will convey to the Council for me at their next meeting how thoroughly annoyed and discouraged I am that the Supervisors have whittled down this whole thing to where there is no built-in enforcement from the inspectors. As I understand it from attending their last meeting they expect CDF to do the enforcement. It is CDF which has had the legal responsibility for years and years and has refused to do the inspections OR enforcement and I see no reason to think their attitude has changed. Without enforcement built in to the contract with Lake Valley the whole thing is, in my opinion, a waste of time and money. Thanks, Nancy.”* Moss said that once the inspection program is in place, then they can work on getting the follow up inspections and enforcement in place. Brees said that Lake Valley relies on CalFire to handle the enforcement side, and he has been trying to get in touch with Mary Hugging with CalFire to find out the details. Taylor suggested that they get a count on the number of people who call the Lake Valley line to request an appointment and the number who respond by calls to Brees. Andrews asked if there was a report on the inspections done last fall. Brees said he had put together a report and passed it on to Lake Valley to help them with their inspections.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Discussion of reflective address signs.**

Taylor said that she met with Tom Sweeney and put together a plan of action for the reflective address signs. Taylor said they will give the program 6 months to get public involvement. Taylor will have a more

defined letter of agenda at the next meeting. Taylor said she will be going to the fire chiefs to see if they would like to participate in the program. Griffith suggested Taylor talk to the EMS Chief. Moss said there isn't an EMS Chief presently; it would be Pam Knorr by default. Jill Allert questioned how the program would work. Taylor said there will be an application form that residents will complete and then they will either make the address signs or have a company make them. Griffith expressed concern over the aesthetics of the reflective address signs fitting into the neighborhood setting. Moss said Taylor and Sweeney can set the standards on how they will look and the detail to put the program in place. Taylor said she contacted Cloverdale and Escalon Volunteer Fire Departments who have promoted the program in their community and they told Taylor the address signs have sold themselves. Taylor said the community leaders would have samples on their properties for residents to view and order. Taylor and Sweeney will attend various community meetings including the senior club, the school, library, and historical society to push the program. Taylor will update the council as information is available.

b. Review of second quarter financial statements 2008.

Radelfinger distributed copies of the first and second quarter financial statements for review. Radelfinger also announced that the Burn Pile grant was closed out and the final report was sent to the Forest Service. Moss asked for a motion to accept the financial statements.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Jerry Andrews      Second: David Griffith*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

c. Discussion of 2008 Grand Jury Report.

Brees said he had emailed out copies of the 2008 Grand Jury Report. Brees said they had been contacted by the Grand Jury in regards to an anonymous complaint about the defensible space inspections. Brees said the Grand Jury had looked at the Fire Safe Council's role and the property owner's right and the relationship between the Fire Safe Council and the Volunteer Fire Departments. Brees said they threw out the first issue, with the Fire Safe Council's supporting statements. Brees asked the Council if they would like to respond to the report for the latter item. After some discussion, it was agreed that no response was needed. Griffith said that the Grand Jury's conclusion regarding one unified department with a paid fire chief were beneficial to the Fire Safe Council.

Griffith added an agenda item for an update on the cost of the water tender and what progress is being made. Brees spoke with Buck McClelland, Woodfords Fire Chief and there is no progress at this time. Brees said that Knorr said they will be putting it out to RFP after the budget process. Griffith expressed concern that the idea for the water tender being a timely

and cost effective means of securing the \$90,000 Moline money and putting water on the Mesa have not been true. Griffith said there is not any progress on the water tender and it now will cost \$250,000, rather than the \$150,000 projected. Griffith said that what had prompted the Fire Safe Council and the water subcommittee to write the letter to the Board of Supervisors was based on bad information on timing and cost for the water tender. Moss said that at the time there were water tenders available for \$150,000-175,000. Moss said they still need the water tender and it will not be a temporary fix, but a permanent fixture in firefighting in the Mesa Vista and the entire East Slope. Moss said there hasn't been any movement in finding land for a water tank and they need to continue to push for a location. After some discussion, it was agreed to send Pam Knorr a memo outlining the Fire Safe Council's priorities and objectives to help her in planning. Griffith suggested also adding Knorr to the distribution list for the agendas and minutes.

Brees said Joyce Devore had an agenda item on communication between the Board of Supervisors and fire safety. Devore was not present to discuss the item so it was continued to the next meeting. Griffith suggested that the Fire Safe Council give a report during the general comment period of the Board of Supervisors meetings on a monthly basis. It was agreed that Brees and Moss would attend the first Tuesday meeting of each month and give a report on what the Fire Safe Council is doing.

d. Staff Reports

Brees said he submitted the quarterly report for the chipping grant.

Brees said he did a Proposition 40 tour with the CalFire Forester and Fish & Game Wildlife biologist for the County's fuels reduction project. Brees said they were interested in doing more work at Turtle Rock Park. Brees said it is supposed to go to RFP in early August, but the archaeologist was not able to attend, so they will have to wait for that person to tour the project area. Brees said he has been doing the ground work for the County to support the process.

Brees finished the final report for the Burn Pile, which he will email out to Directors.

Brees said he had DVD's "Controlling Nature's Wrath" available if anyone would like one. They are also available at the Library.

Taylor said she signed up for paperless statement for the Council's Wells Fargo account, eliminating the monthly service charge.

Les Allert questioned the status of the Burn Pile. Brees said that Dennis Cardoza has said they will still collect at Turtle Rock Park, but they will not burn it. Brees said they have not decided yet how they will dispose of the pile, but Cardoza was told by the Board to hold off until the budget process for funding.

Moss questioned the status of the RAC funding. Brees said it have been added to the Tax Extender Bill which was being voted on the beginning of this week. Brees said if it is approved it will be a one year reauthorization. Brees will email any updates. Brees said there may be some grant opportunities through the watershed that he will continue to explore.

Moss thanked Taylor for her work on the address signs and for helping man the water stop at Woodfords Station for the Death Ride. Moss said the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department received a check for \$1600.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: David Griffith*

*Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*