

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
April 27, 2009
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:03 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kris Hartnett	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident

Absent:

Dave Mills	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
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I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of March 30, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Kris Hartnett

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Nominations and election to fill vacant director seat on the AFSC Board.

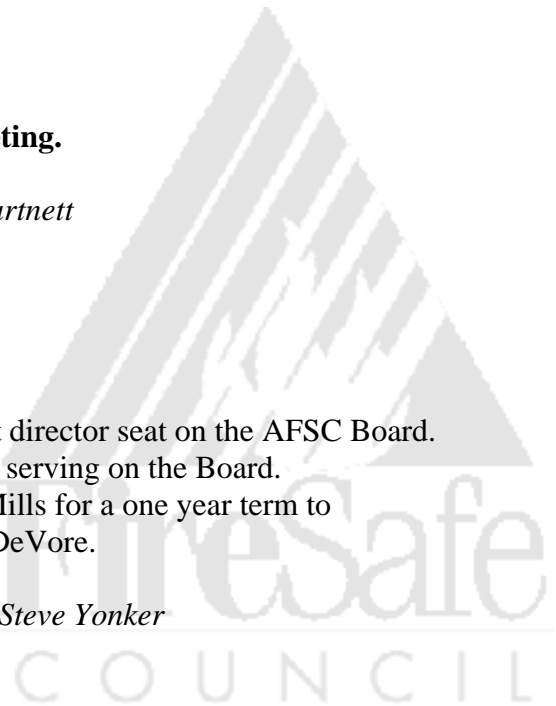
Moss said Dave Mills was interested in serving on the Board.

A motion was made to approve Dave Mills for a one year term to complete the remaining term of Joyce DeVore.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.



- b. Update and discussion of Mesa Vista/River Ranch water supply options and funding possibilities in the near term.

Moss questioned the status of the Gansberg fire hydrant. Brees said that at the last Board of Supervisors meeting he made a statement on behalf of the Alpine Fire Safe Council and the Fire Department in support of resolving the issue. Brees said Brian Peters, Planning Department, stated that an engineer conducted a hydraulic assessment of the hydrant. Brees said Peters would be meeting with Buck McClelland and the engineer to reach a resolution. It was agreed that Moss would contact Gansberg and the County to ensure the matter is resolved for all parties.

Moss said there are road improvements slated for Emigrant Trail and he emailed Pamela Knorr, Alpine County CAO, asking her to consider laying a water pipe during that time for a future hydrant system in the Mesa Vista area. Moss said Knorr thought the idea was worthy of follow-up and passed on the suggestion to Public Works. Moss has not heard back anything further at this time. Griffith said if the county can include the pipeline in their environmental work it will allow the project to be 'shovel ready' for government grant proposals. Griffith said at the time the Fire Safe Council sponsored the Mesa Vista water study, the cost was about \$100 per foot to lay the pipeline, without hydrants. Griffith stated that the community cannot afford to install the pipeline without funding assistance. Griffith said the original idea has always been to begin with a water source and a tank and as funds became available, to add pipes up Emigrant Trail. Andrews questioned the status of acquiring property for a tank location. Griffith said that nothing has progressed on that front and in the meantime the Woodfords Fire Station came up with an idea to buy a water tanker to provide an immediate water source for the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area. Moss confirmed that the water tanker had been secured. Brees said he would follow up with Don Jardine to determine the status of acquiring property for a water tank. Brees said he spoke with Judy Molnar about possible grant funding sources. Brees said they will be doing some water line replacement in downtown Markleeville through a regional water management plan grant. Brees said Molnar thought this would be the best chance for funds for a local project. Hartnett said the Markleeville Water Company will be increasing the static pressure at the fire hydrants throughout Markleevillage and downtown. Hartnett said they will be replacing the pipes and installing meters. Griffith suggested including Supervisor Tom Sweeney in any meetings related to the Mesa Vista water supply issue to find out where he stands on the issue and garner his support for future projects. Brees will talk to Jardine about the regional water management plan grant to learn more about the application process and who should be involved in the communications. Moss will maintain contact with Knorr about the possibility of putting in a pipeline on Emigrant Trail.

- c. Update on proposed 2009 Fuels Projects.
Brees said there has been discussion about three potential fuels projects; one on Upper Manzanita Lane, one around Diamond Valley School and the third by the Thornburg's property in Markleevillage. Brees walked half of the Upper Manzanita fuel break with Cal Fire Forester Jan Bray and Cal Fire Battalion Chief Kris Timberlake. Brees said Bray was familiar with the fuels projects near the school and on Thornburg's property. Brees said they agreed the fuels projects around the school and on Upper Manzanita Lane would be good projects and they were trying to determine if CalFire resources, such as their hand crews or bulldozers, could be used for the project. Brees said there is a 5-6 month window for environmental work, though there are some documents on file from the last fuels project on Upper Manzanita they may be able to use. Brees said the remaining environmental work will run through Cal Fire. Brees said though CalFire is supportive, he is still in the process of getting property owners to agree to the project. Brees is concerned about the liability issue with the contractors. Brees will continue his communication with the property owners and will try to get the projects set up as viable projects so when money becomes available they will be ready.

Griffith asked for the status of the Burn Pile. Brees said it is set up as though the pile will be hauled away, though there has been some talk of possibly burning the pile. Brees said they are currently sorting the piles. Brees said the chippable material will be chipped and hauled to Full Circle or Bently, and the pine needles and pinecones that are not affected by the chipper will be hauled away by the county to an area they can be dumped. Brees said the Burn Pile will be open until Memorial Day weekend. Brees said burning will depend on the weather. Brees said the Forest Service Station is scheduled for construction after the Death Ride.

VI. New Business

- a. Review first quarter financial statements for 2009.
Brees distributed the financial statements and grant funding worksheet for review. Brees said they will probably make it to the middle to end of June before the Coordinator08 grant funds run out. Brees said this will alter which grant the administrative funding will come from. Brees said the RAC had their first meeting and they need a few more members on the local government, local business, and public at large group. Brees said he will email RAC application information to the Board. A motion was made to approve the 1st quarter financial statements.
Motion to approve.
Motion: Kris Hartnett Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding wage increase for the administrative assistant to the AFSC Board.

Brees asked to increase the hourly rate for Kerry Radelfinger, administrative assistant to the AFSC Board. Moss expressed concern given the current economic situation with the county. After some discussion, it was agreed to revisit the subject once the Council has its funding source resolved. A motion was made to revisit the pay increase for Kerry Radelfinger at the August meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Shirley Taylor Second: Jerry Andrews

All ayes. Motion carried.

c. Discussion of priorities and timelines for 2009 AFSC projects.

Moss said he asked Brees to put together a list of the Council's projects and priorities. Brees distributed and discussed a list of project priorities and timelines and asked for direction from the Board. Brees reminded the Board members that their volunteer time counts for grant matches. Brees said they have a match requirement for the chipping grant and if there are volunteer opportunities for the Board, such as taking pictures, doing fire safe reviews, etc., it will allow some of the match fund to be paid through volunteer hours and more of the money to be kept in the Title III fund. Brees said there is defensible space inspection training by Cal Fire on May 20th. Brees said that anyone wishing to go should let him know so he can reserve a space. Andrews questioned what the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan #2 entailed. Brees said the next phase of the evacuation plan will be to create block managers to be accountable for their area and the people living there during an evacuation. Griffith said on a summer weekend, the cops will be busy directing traffic and with limited staffing it will depend on the preparedness of the community during an emergency. Moss requested that Brees recruit the Board to assist him in completing projects on the list. Griffith suggested placing priorities on the projects. Griffith said the greatest hazard in the community by far is the Hot Springs Road corridor and the number one priority should be the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. Griffith said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is the justification for why the Hot Springs Road area is the biggest hazard. Griffith said priority number 2 should include the curbside chipping and fuel breaks. It was decided that the priority projects should be those where Brees should devote most of his time. After some discussion, it was agreed that along with the ongoing projects and council administration, Brees would work on the top priority project until completion at which time the Council would choose another priority project. The top priority project at this time will be completion of the second stage of the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. Hartnett suggested that Brees use Board members to assist with the project where needed to help bring them to completion and that Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan remain as an agenda item for discussion and updates until the project is completed. Taylor suggested that the Fire Safe Council update the Board of Supervisors monthly on activities and current

information. It was agreed that each Board member would take one monthly meeting to appear before the County Supervisors. Brees said the school education program money is to be spent by the end of June. Brees asked if any Board members would like to assist with the program. Brees said he will also coordinate with the Fire Departments to be in attendance as well. Brees is working on arranging a date for the program, but it will be sometime between middle of May and the first of June. Andrews and Moss offered to help with the school program.

d. Discussion of proposed Fire/EMS Manager position for eastern Alpine County.

Moss said he does not have an update at this time as the two scheduled meetings in regard to the position were cancelled. Moss said he will contact Knorr to find out what is happening with the issue. Moss said he will continue to include this item on the agenda for discussion. Hartnett questioned if there was still a line of demarcation at Turtle Rock Park for the county fire departments, with Woodfords Fire Department responding to calls on their side and Markleeville Fire Department responding to calls in Markleeville. Brees said that the Woodfords Fire Department handles most of the medical calls so they go everywhere and there are no lines drawn on fire calls. Moss said, with no disrespect to the Woodfords or Markleeville Fire Departments, the medical services in the county needs to be handled by a professional service managed by a Fire Manager or Fire Marshall. Moss said the Fire/EMS position will continue to be a priority for the Fire Safe Council.

e. Staff Reports

Brees said Radelfinger would be meeting with Richard Peters on the 28th for the AFSC's 2008 taxes.

Brees said the chipping flyer was sent out on Friday and the newsletter was mailed on Monday. Brees said the cost of the chipping flyer was \$0.32 of piece for a total of \$175 and the newsletter cost \$0.52 per piece for a total of \$281. Brees said Radelfinger will put some extra copies of the newsletter at the library.

Brees said the curbside chipping will begin June 1st. Brees said the price and the program are the same as last year. Brees said a press release went out in the Record Courier on April 17th. Brees will be meeting with one resident on Lower Manzanita Lane to do a courtesy fire safe review and will take some before and after pictures.

Brees said the Council donated drinks for the Markleevillage neighborhood fuels clean up project last Saturday. Hartnett said they were half way done with the project.

Brees said he received the binder with the information on the defensible space inspections done last year. Brees said out of 398 inspections, 90 had no violations. Brees said there are about 300 homes for re-inspections.

Brees attended the last Board of Supervisors meeting to announce the chipping program and thanked Taylor for all her hard work with the reflective address sign program.

Brees said he will be gone for the June meeting.

Moss said the Woodfords Fire Department will have a booth at Woodfords Station during the Death Ride on July 11th and asked anyone interested in volunteering to contact him.

Taylor said the reverse 911 system was discussed at Jardine's district meeting and asked if the system had been tested. Hartnett said the reverse 911 system allows the emergency personnel to call back residents. Brees added that the system is used for evacuations. Hartnett said the last he heard a month ago the system is in place, but it was not working and they had some tests to do on it. Taylor questioned the status of the fire siren at Markleeville Fire Station. Brees said that Rob Levy had discussed using it as an evacuation warning. Brees said it has not been installed.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 25th 2009.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jerry Andrews

Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.