

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
May 25, 2009
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:01 pm at the Markleeville 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
Dave Mills	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Tom Sweeney	Alpine County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident
John Super	Interested Citizen	Markleeville Resident

Absent:

Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of April 27, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith Second: Jerry Andrews

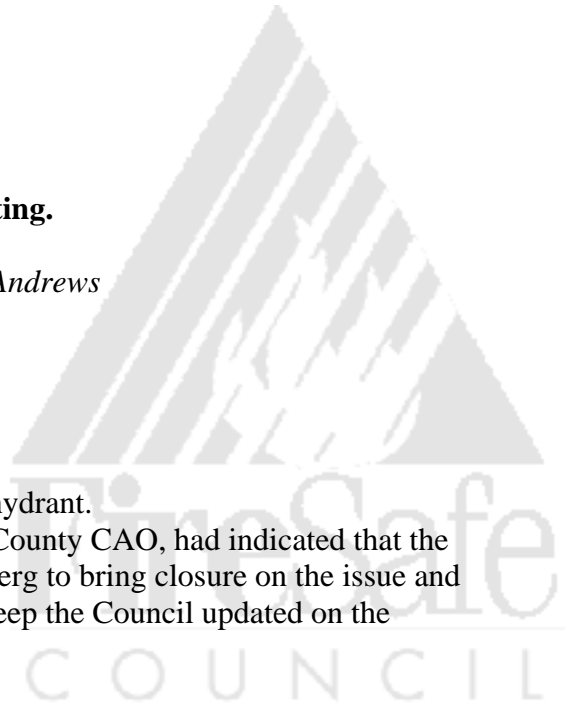
All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Update on the status of the Gansberg hydrant.

Moss said that Pamela Knorr, Alpine County CAO, had indicated that the county was working with Chris Gansberg to bring closure on the issue and make the hydrant usable. Moss will keep the Council updated on the status of the hydrant.



- b. Status report on the Fire Manager position.
Moss attended the May Board of Supervisors meeting with Brees. Moss said that Knorr made a presentation regarding hiring a consultant to prepare and organize the policies and procedures for fire services for Alpine County. Moss went on to say that the Board of Supervisors voted in favor of hiring a consultant and that Knorr had advised the Board of Supervisors that once the policies and procedures were completed she wanted to follow up soon after with the implementation process. Moss thanked Sweeney and the Board of Supervisor for their support of the fire services of Alpine County.
- c. Discussion of AFSC “person of the month” at the Board of Supervisor meetings.
Moss said Taylor is coordinating the assignment of Directors to attend the Board of Supervisors monthly meetings with updates on the Alpine Fire Safe Council. Moss said he made a presentation at the May meeting.

Brees made an outline for the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan which includes six items needed to complete the second phase of the plan; creating block captains. Brees said the first item was the research phase which will be information gathering from allied agencies, such as the Sheriff’s Department, Fire Departments, State Park, CHP, Health and Human Services and the Forest Service with respect to their current evacuation plans. Brees said this will minimize any differences between their existing plans. Brees said this item will be completed in the form of a simple questionnaire. The second item is defining the job duties for the block captains and creating the tool kits that will be provided. Brees will then get feedback and approval from allied agencies. Brees said the next two items will include advertising for candidates, preferably permanent residents, to serve as block captains and providing training and equipment to the candidates. The final item will be for the block captains to do their own information gathering and make the neighborhood aware of their job duties. Brees said it will be important to get the Sheriff’s Department to agree to the idea of the block captains to ensure they know what the block captain’s duties will be in the event of an emergency situation. Griffith agreed it would be important to have the coordination of all the responsibly agencies. Brees said he will be researching the liability issues associated with the position. Brees said his target date to get the program in place is September 1st.

Andrews addressed the water tank/fire station at Hwy. 88 and River Ranch Road. Moss said the interest in the tank location is still there, but they have been focused on finalizing the detail on the water tender as an additional source of immediate water for the Mesa Vista/River Ranch areas. Moss said the water tank location needs to be readdressed. Hartnett questioned where the water tender would refill. Moss said it would refill

either at the tank at Hung-a-Lel-Tei, the tank at the Woodfords Fire Station, or at the Gansberg fire hydrant. Griffith questioned if a Memorandum of Understanding was needed with Hung-a-Lel-Tei to have continued access to the water tender housed at their facility. Tom Sweeney, County Supervisor, said he thought the agreement was in place, but there are currently some issues they were working out and things were moving forward. Brees said another option to explore is applying for grant funding for a water tank from the RAC. Griffith suggested supporting the county in applying for those funds as it is a county decision. Moss said at this point they need to determine what the best location would be to place a water tank. Griffith suggested waiting to see the results of the county's fire management study. Moss said the conversation could be continued after the fire management study has been completed and the implementation program was in place. Sweeney suggested that it would be best to speak with Knorr about the water tank issue before the fire management study so it could be addressed at the same time, allowing the things to move forward in a timely manner. Sweeney offered to speak with Knorr. The Board thanked Sweeney for his help with the issue.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to amend the Title III budget to fund short term operating costs.
Brees said funds for the 2008 Coordinator grant were running low. Brees had considered asking the Board of Supervisors to amend the budget for Title III funds to allow for short term administrative costs. Brees said with the pace with which the RAC is moving forward it may not be necessary. Brees said RAC applications are due June 15th and they will review the applications on June 17th. Brees said he does not know if they will be awarding the grants at that time. Brees said he will need to prepare those who will be attending the RAC meeting as he will be out of town. Brees will complete the performance reports on the Coordinator grant and the school education grant in advance of the RAC meeting. Brees said they have \$20,000 in Title III funding with the County in the event the budget needs to be amended for administrative expenses. Brees will wait to see what happens at the RAC meeting on June 17th before proceeding.
- b. Report on Pinion Road Neighborhood fuels project.
Hartnett said that a year ago his neighbor came to him expressing concern about the canyon on the backside of Markleevillage that was littered with overgrown sagebrush, pine needles and pine cones. Hartnett said they spoke with the landowner who was in agreement that the property needed to be cleared, but due to lack of time and concerns over burning the property, did not know how to proceed. The property owner asked Hartnett to take over the project. Hartnett distributed before pictures of the project. Hartnett said a layer of 6 inches of pine needles covered the 3

acre parcel. Hartnett said there was about 15 years of accumulation of fuels on the property. Hartnett and 10 neighbors participated in a three weekend project to clean up the property. Hartnett thanked the Fire Safe Council's donation of water and soda for the clean-up. Hartnett said that the Fire Safe Council's approval weighed heavily with the neighbors. Hartnett said Don Jardine asked him to make a report at the Board of Supervisors meeting about the neighborhood fuels project. Hartnett distributed after pictures of the fuels project. Hartnett said it was fantastic project. Griffith said it is a great example of what one person can do motivating a neighborhood. Hartnett said the program should be promoted to other neighborhoods in the county, such as Alpine Village, Markleevillage, and the Mesa. Moss thanked Hartnett for all his efforts on the project.

- c. Discussion and direction to staff regarding RAC grant applications for 2009.

Brees said he wanted to get the Board's approval for the RAC applications to be submitted. Brees said they will be applying for the Coordinator grant again. Brees said the school education program can be funded under Title III money. Brees said the county may apply for the Burn Pile grant. Brees said the county is cutting the collection time for the Burn Pile in half. Griffith suggested that Brees speak with Peters about the county applying for funds to keep the burn pile open an extra month in the spring and an extra month in the fall with the Fire Safe Council writing a letter of support. Hartnett suggested adding a sign to the gate at the Burn Pile thanking the community for doing their part in cleaning up the county so residents know the Fire Safe Council supports the program. Moss said the Burn Pile is a great project and does not want to see it diminished. Moss asked what it would take to get the time extended back to two months in the spring and two months in the fall and suggested the Fire Safe Council apply for the funds through RAC. Griffith said the Fire Safe Council is set up to go after money that the county isn't eligible for. Griffith stated that if the Fire Safe Council had a better chance of guaranteeing the funds for the Burn Pile, then they should apply for grant funding as long as there is no conflict with the county. Brees recommended the Fire Safe Council take the lead to ensure funding for the Burn Pile. It was agreed that the Fire Safe Council would apply for grant funding for the Coordinator and the Burn Pile.

- d. Tahoe block meetings – Nevada Fire Safe Council.

Moss said Buck McClelland, Woodfords Fire Chief, attended a Tahoe block meeting. Moss said McClelland was invited as roofing contractor and had been impressed by the response to the event. Moss said the Nevada Fire Safe Council hosted a BBQ and discussed fire safety. Moss said this would be a good approach for Markleevillage, Alpine Village, and the Mesa Vista to present fire safety material to neighborhoods.

Griffith said community meetings haven't been well attended in the past. Andrews said that the fundraiser for the EMS/Fire Departments was well attended and very successful. Moss said the community is better off if the residents are more informed about fire safety. Moss said there needs to be a hot button to encourage people to want to attend. Griffith said the evacuation plan for the Hot Springs Road area is a hot button and Markleevillage would be a good neighborhood to start the meetings. Moss suggested calling neighbors to encourage their participation, as mailers don't always get the message across. Moss recommended between now and the end of summer to host three block meetings recruiting key players in the neighborhoods of Markleevillage, Alpine Village and Mesa Vista. It was agreed to begin the neighborhood meetings with the Markleevillage area.

- e. View a short portion of a new DVD from Idaho "*Are We Safe From Fire?*"

Brees showed a segment of the DVD "*Are We Safe From Fire?*"

- f. Staff reports.

Brees said there was a scheduling conflict in implementing the school education program this spring. Brees said he wasn't able to coordinate the availability of Lake Valley's educational trailer with Diamond Valley School's schedule so the program will be postponed until the fall. Brees said Radelfinger will request an extension on the grant until December 31, 2009.

Brees said the Markleeville volunteers did some fuels work at Turtle Rock Park reducing the ladders fuels and limbing some of the larger trees in the area.

Brees attended the Shay Creek Homeowners Association meeting. Brees updated the homeowners association on the Fire Safe Council's current programs including the Burn Pile, chipping program, and the block captains for the evacuation plan.

Brees said chipping program will begin June 1st and a second flyer was sent out last Friday. Brees said he hasn't gotten as many sign ups as years past. Brees said the participants that have signed up have had more material.

Brees said the CalFire Battalion Chief in South Lake Tahoe asked him to prioritize what areas would like the defensible space inspections done. Brees suggested beginning in the Mesa Vista area. Griffith questioned if these would be follow-up inspections. Brees said that due to the change in the legislation a new form is being used for the inspections so they will be doing the inspections on all homes again. Brees said that CalFire will

have only one engine crew so their resources will be limited. Brees said another result of the legislation is the ability for the insurance companies to ask for fire inspections by fire experts, which will take away some of CalFire's resources for defensible space inspections. Brees said that eventually the local fire department should be able to do the inspections. Brees said currently the requests are being sent to CalFire. Brees said CalFire is committed to doing follow-ups inspections on the properties. Griffith questioned why CalFire couldn't focus their inspections on those homes that failed last year's inspections. After some discussion, it was agreed that Brees would talk to them about using last year's inspections as a starting point. Hartnett questioned if there will be any enforcement on the vacant lot ordinance that was passed. Sweeney said at this time there is no enforcement. Sweeney expressed concern that the inspections are not effective without any enforcement and follow-up.

Griffith inquired about the status of the county's development standards review and whether they were still seeking comments. Brees said it was still in the draft form. Brees said he was told by county employees that the specific standards for subdivisions, water supply and access issues were covered in existing documents and that the county's development standards would not affect those issues. Brees will continue to check into the issue.

Moss asked everyone to continue to promote the reflective address sign program coordinated by Taylor. Moss said they will discuss sending another mailing at the next meeting when Taylor is in attendance.

Moss suggested that when the director's give presentations at the Board of Supervisor meeting to thank the BOS and Pamela Knorr, County CAO, for all of their efforts during these difficult economic times. Moss said Knorr has been very supportive of the fire services in Alpine County.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 29 2009.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith

Second: Kris Hartnett

All ayes. Motion carried.