

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
June 29, 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
Kerry Radelfinger	Administration	Woodfords Resident
Tom Sweeney	Alpine County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident
John Super	Interested Citizen	Markleeville Resident

Absent:

Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Dave Mills	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of May 25, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Kris Hartnett Second: Jerry Andrews

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Discussion regarding "person of the month" at Board of Supervisors meetings.

In regards to the assignment of directors to attend the monthly Board of Supervisors' meeting, Taylor reported that Hartnett had spoken at the June meeting with Andrews scheduled for the July meeting, Griffith for

September and December, Yonker for October, and Moss for November. Taylor said that she would speak at the August meeting if she has her voice back. Moss volunteered to present at the August meeting if Taylor is unable otherwise he would present at the November meeting. Andrews questioned what they would like discussed at the July meeting. Griffith suggested that before the adjournment of the night's meeting that the issue be readdressed.

b. Update on Gansberg hydrant.

Moss said that he received a copy of an email sent by Pamela Knorr, County Administrative Officer, to the Public Works Department. Moss said that the email originated from Michael Bailey, PBS&J, and stated that they were preparing "as built" drawings of the hydrant system and that they had finished the flow calculations and there were no safety issues due to too much pressure. Moss said that the email went on to say that the firm PBS&J had addressed all the county's concerns for the hydrant system. Hartnett questioned why the Alpine Fire Safe Council (AFSC) was involving itself in what appeared to be a county operation and was a small and time consuming issue in the scope of things. Moss explained that the water hydrant is a county operation, but the AFSC does not want to see the issue dropped. Moss went on to explain that water has been a key issue for the Mesa Vista and it was important to ensure that the problem with the hydrant was remedied so that the water was accessible for firefighting purposes. Moss said that the AFSC can do a lot of legwork and be a strong voice, though it does not have the money or ability to enact the legislation that it takes to get the process completed. Moss reiterated that the details for the Gansberg hydrant were close to being finalized.

c. Update on the water tank at Woodfords Fire Station.

Moss notified the Board that the pump house at the Woodfords Fire Station was complete. Sweeney reiterated that the pump house was finished; all that remained was for the building to be painted. Moss explained that the pump house would allow them to pump water into the fire house to fill the trucks. Hartnett asked when they could approach insurance companies to review the county ISO ratings. Griffith stated that there was still much to do before reaching that point. Griffith said that there is a series of pieces that contribute to the ISO rating including water delivery, communications, and people training and equipment, which is difficult to remedy with all volunteer fire departments. Griffith explained that these are all integral steps which will eventually count toward changing the ISO rating, but they are still a long way from meeting all those requirements.

Moss mentioned that everyone should have noticed the new water tender was parked in front of the Woodfords Fire Station. Moss stated, "We owe

Tom Sweeney and the Board of Supervisors a vote of confidence and a thank you for helping us get that.” Moss said that the water tender was not in operation as it has not been licensed. Sweeney said that the water tender will be going back for additional work. Griffith questioned where it would be housed. Moss explained that the old water tender and one or two other pieces of equipment will be housed at the fire station at Hung-a-Lel-Tei Community. Moss went on to say that they would have a full complement of equipment at the Woodfords Fire Station and at Hung-a-Lel-Tei Fire Station with two firefighters residing at Hung-a-Lel-Tei to man the station. Moss mentioned that they were waiting for a door for the station at Hung-a-Lel-Tei. Moss said that he would follow up with Lynn Doyal to check on the status.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion regarding another mailing in support of the Reflective Address Sign program.

In regards to the last mailing that was sent for the reflective address sign program, Taylor asked Radelfinger how many flyers were mailed. Radelfinger said that there were 533 sent out. Taylor said that she had 26 responses to the mailing. Taylor mentioned that the Alpine Threads and possibly the Library would include the information in their flyers. Andrews questioned when the mailing was sent out and if they were sent to second property owners. Taylor stated that the mailing was sent in January and they were addressed to property owners with a good out-of-county response for the signs. Moss questioned the cost to send the mailing. Radelfinger said that it cost \$180 for the January mailing, which included copies and postage. Moss expressed his opinion that another mailing is sent out and that the program is promoted at local community events with the help of Board members. Moss said that the Woodfords Fire Department is going to have a fundraiser in September and Taylor could set up a table at the event. Taylor mentioned that Brees has taken a sign and order forms and has advertised the program at the meetings he attends. Hartnett suggested that they target certain neighborhoods and go door to door after the mailing is sent to encourage participation. Moss agreed that they could target specific areas of the county. Radelfinger questioned if a press release had been submitted to the Record Courier. Taylor said she had spoken with those who write articles for the Record Courier, but nothing has been published at this time. It was agreed that Taylor and Radelfinger would work together on an article for the newspaper and that another mailing be sent to property owners who had yet to participate in the program.

- b. Discussion and possible scheduling of community block meetings for Markleevillage, Alpine Village, and Mesa Vista.
Moss explained that Brees had directed Radelfinger to do some research on the liability issues for the neighborhood block captains. Radelfinger

said that she had contacted the Amador Fire Safe Council and they had explained that they provide the neighborhoods with the evacuation manual and it is their responsibility to organize and create the block captains thus releasing the Amador Fire Safe Council from liability. Radelfinger went on to explain that the Amador Fire Safe Council is creating an animal evacuation plan with volunteers to assist in the program. They are actively involved in the animal evacuation plan and are working with USDA-National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Earth Team program which will provide workers compensation for those volunteers. Radelfinger said that she has exchanged emails with Dick McCleery with the NRCS in Jackson and received additional information on the program, which may be an option for liability coverage for the block captains. Hartnett stated that the sheriff and fire departments must be involved to provide viability to the evacuation plan and to ensure the duties of block captains and where they will be during a fire. Hartnett said that he spoke to Peggy Ristercelli who is a volunteer coordinator for a chapter of the Nevada Fire Safe Council and asked to be put in contact with other fire safe council's to receive additional evacuation plans. Hartnett felt that the Amador Fire Safe Council plan leaves many holes, the biggest of which is as no emergency services contact before initiating the plan and no certification of the plan. Hartnett went on to say that the coordinator from Nevada told him that setting up a block captain program is not something fire safe council's are normally involved in, but something that police and fire services should handle. Hartnett said that he would like to view other plans that are certified as a model to help them reach that point. Andrews questioned if anyone had spoken to John Crawford with the Alpine County Sheriff's Department. Moss said that Brees has had contact with Crawford and Moss has emailed Knorr about setting up a meeting between the AFSC and key players in the County. Griffith mentioned that Brees was going to speak to the Disaster Council at their next meeting about the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. After some discussion, Moss said that he would follow up with Knorr on scheduling a meeting with the county. Hartnett questioned what else needed to be done for the September neighborhood meeting in Markleevillage and if evacuation plan would be the only thing they would be presenting to the neighborhood. Griffith said that it is critical to meet with the Sheriff's Department first. Moss further explained that the first priority would be for the Sheriff's Department to buy in to the program and then they could collectively format the presentation for the neighborhood meeting. Moss said that he would like to get all details worked out with the key players by the end of July. Taylor questioned when the Alpine Village and Mesa Vista meetings would be held. Moss said that they would concentrate on finalizing the detail for the Markleevillage neighborhood before moving on to the other neighborhoods. Hartnett offered to gather evacuation plans from other areas to review and bring back to the group.

- c. Discussion and possible action to amend the Title III budget to fund short term operating costs.

Moss said that he met with Brees and Radelfinger regarding amending the 2008 Title III budget with the County to fund short term operating costs. Moss explained that in order to meet budget constraints there was a need to reallocate \$5000 in the 2008 Title III budget until the RAC meets. Griffith questioned if they needed to decide what line items to draw the funds from. It was agreed to reallocate \$5000 to allow for short term operating costs and the reallocation of those funds would be left to Brees discretion who will then report back to the Board.

Motion to approve.

*Motion: David Griffith Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.*

- d. Review first quarter financial statements.

Radelfinger stated that the first quarter financial statements had been reviewed and approved at a previous meeting.

- e. Staff Reports

Radelfinger distributed copies of the Performance Reports for the 2008 Coordinator grant and the 2008 School Education grant created by Brees.

Radelfinger distributed a copy of the final report from the chipping contractor on material chipped in June. Radelfinger said that the chipping crew worked in the area for three weeks. Taylor commented that she was not happy with the job that the chipping crew did on Nagy's property on Chambers Lane. Sweeney agreed that the chipping crew did a poor job on that property. Sweeney explained that the crew blew the chipped material onto the shoulder of the road across from the property. Sweeney said that the finished job looked terrible. Moss asked that Taylor take a picture of the property for Brees. Taylor said that her neighbor had also mentioned that the chipping crew had complained about the size of her pile. Moss said that the crew did a great job in his neighborhood. In regards to the chipping crew's final report, Griffith commented that the cubic yardage looked very large and questioned their numbers. Moss suggested requesting that Brees check that the reported quantities were correct and follow up on the issue with Mr. Nagy's property on Chambers Lane.

In regards to the RAC, Hartnett said that the RAC will not meet until the second week of September to make decisions on the applications. Hartnett explained that there were a couple of the applications that did not meet the requirements of the Forest Service and they wanted to review those applications with the applicants. As of this Monday, Hartnett said that the RAC had received four applications, one from Alpine County, two from AFSC, and one other application and the application date was extended until July 21st. Hartnett went on to say that in terms of RAC members

there are too many applicants to fill too few seats on RAC and Knorr would serve as a County liaison to make recommendations for the Board for those openings. Hartnett suggested that the Board speak with Knorr if they are interested in Hartnett filling one of those seats. It was agreed to send Knorr an email stating that they had a concerned citizen with a concern for a fire safety that should be given strong consideration to fill the open seat. Griffith suggested stressing to the committee at the RAC meeting that the AFSC had their applications in order and on time and they were competing with others who were not ready with their applications. Hartnett questioned contacting RAC members for votes. Moss said that they have been active in lobbying for the AFSC in past years. Griffith asked Sweeney if it would be worthwhile in the future for coordination between the county and AFSC for grant applications when competing for the same pot of money with goals that are not far apart. Sweeney agreed that coordination with any group for money is a smart way to proceed. Griffith said that there needs to be communication from both sides in such situations.

Moss said that the Death Ride will be held on July 11th and the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department has a booth at Woodfords Station and encouraged volunteer participation. Moss also mentioned that those living in Markleeville could help Markleeville Fire Department at their booth. Moss stated that the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department will host a fundraiser/barn dance on September 12th at Moss's house from 4-9pm. Moss went on to say the BBQ dinner would be \$35 per person with children 13 years and younger free of charge with the donation going to the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department. Moss explained that the mailers would be sent to Mesa, Alpine Village and Colony residents.

In regards to the July BOS meeting presentation, it was recommended that Andrews discuss the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department's new water tender, the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan, an update on the chipping program, and mention the reflective address sign program. Griffith suggested also notifying the BOS that they were not able to organize the school education program for this spring, but will work towards hosting the program in the fall.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 27, 2009.

Motion to approve.

Motion: David Griffith

Second: Jerry Andrews

All ayes. Motion carried.