



October 9th, 2024

Vice Chair Steve Schoenthaler called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M. at the West Point Fire Station, 195 Spink Rd West Point, Ca 95255.

PRESENT: Vice Chair Steve Schoenthaler, Director John Hesketh, Director Dorrie Klith, Chief Michael Downs, Chaplain Bruce Forrest, and Clerk Bronwynne Wolf.

ABSENT: Chair Julia Marsili, Director Tim Adams, Assistant Chief Terry Miller, and Chaplain Carolyn Oliver.

Public Comment:

- a. A community member expressed his concerns regarding the lack of updates to the district's website. He was informed of the district's new website address (www.westpointfpdca.gov) that is now active and updated on a regular basis per the regulations set forth in the Brown Act.

Questions were raised pertaining to strike team funds and reimbursement for local fires for which our department responds. Cal OES essentially rents the fire engine and employees for strike teams and reimbursement for these can be delayed by as much as a year. Regarding the department's response to local vegetation fires, Cal Fire's core responsibility is 'wild land', which any vegetation fire falls under and ultimately means that Cal Fire takes command of local vegetation fires. West Point Fire is only reimbursed for those fires once our personnel have been on scene for 6+ hours or 2+ hours for a water tender.

Announcements from West Point Fire Protection District Partners:

Partner reports – Chaplain Forrest reported that his services were not required this past month.

Consent Agenda—

1. The following items were motioned for approval by Director Klith, seconded by Vice Chair Schoenthaler and passed with 3 votes.
 - a. Approve regular meeting minutes from September 11th, 2024
 - b. Acknowledge receipt and review of financial statements for September 2024
 - c. Approve monthly expenses for September 2024

New Business:

- a. **Mail/Communications: Wolf, Information**

Clerk Wolf reminded the directors of the need to respond to the auditor's inquiries.

- b. **Station 2 Closure: Downs, Action**

Chief Downs shared a letter that was received from the Wilseyville Homeowner's Association, signed by Eddy Quintanilla (WHA Board Secretary) and Dee Middleton (WHA Member), which contained the following requests: "...the WHA Board voted to request that the Fire District return



the building to the WHA so it can be repurposed as a gathering place for our residents.” “...please inform us of a reasonable timeline for returning the building to the Wilseyville Homeowner’s Association.” Chief Downs expressed his concern that in closing Station 2, homeowners’ insurance rates have the potential to be impacted negatively. Conversation ensued regarding the contents in storage at Station 2 and possibly donating certain items to Bret Harte High School’s ROCP program.

Director Hesketh motioned close Station 2, seconded by Vice Chair Schoenthaler and passed with 3 votes.

c. Additional Storage: Downs, Action

The need for additional storage at Station 1 arose from the Wilseyville Homeowner’s Association’s request, as referenced above. Thanks to Director Adams, Volcano Communications Group has donated a storage container to the West Point Wilseyville Fire Association for use as storage for West Point Fire at Station 1.

Due to the donation of a storage container, no action was necessary.

Reports, Director, and Staff Comments:

Fire Chief Report/Announcements: Chief Downs shared that one employee resigned due to moving out of state, but the department gained two new employees which satisfies the 3-0 staffing on engines at all times as well as two new volunteers. He stated that the biggest challenge that has arose is the employees desire to train more. There were four strike team deployments and one overhead assignment. He expects to be reimbursed about \$214,000 by Cal OES for these strike team deployments. One of the firefighters was able to join another department’s strike team in order to get his task book signed off. (Task books are performance based documents that outline the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to perform a specific role.)

Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.