



**August 14th, 2024**

Chair Julia Marsili called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the West Point Fire Station, 195 Spink Rd West Point, Ca 95255

**PRESENT:** Chair Julia Marsili, Director John Hesketh, Director Tim Adams, Director Dorrie Klith, Chief Michael Downs, Assistant Chief Terry Miller, Chaplain Bruce Forrest, and Clerk Bronwynne Wolf.

**ABSENT:** Vice Chair Steve Schoenthaler and Chaplain Carolyn Oliver

**Public Comment:**

- a. A member of the community shared his desire to bring back the fire siren to alert the community in case of an impending fire. He also expressed concern regarding a fire escape route on Jurs Rd and whether the new Chief Downs was aware of the location of the hydrant/water access as well as gate access. Chief Downs stated that one of the first projects he assisted with here in the district, was GPS mapping of all the hydrants/water access points for a software program called Active 911, which the department utilizes.

**Announcements from West Point Fire Protection District Partners:**

**Partner reports** – Director Adams shared that the West Point Fire Association plans to hold the Lumberjack Day dinner same as last year.

**Consent Agenda—**

1. The following items were motioned for approval by Director Hesketh, seconded by Director Klith and passed with 4 votes.
  - a. Approve regular meeting minutes from July 10th, 2024
  - b. Acknowledge receipt and review of financial statements for July 2024
  - c. Approve monthly expenses for July 2024

**New Business:**

- a. Uniform Allowance: Downs, Action

Chief Downs requested that the firefighters receive a \$500 uniform allowance once a year, to be included in their pay for the purchase of wildland fire clothing, etc. Chair Marsili expressed her concern with not being able to adequately track that the allowance would be used specifically for wildland fire clothing, as the district is required to provide receipts/invoices for all expenses. Instead, she suggested a designated amount per firefighter, to be charged to the Cal Card, for these necessary clothing expenditures.

Chair Marsili motioned to approve using the Cal Card for the purchase of uniforms; up to \$500 for each full-time staff and \$250 for each part time staff per year, seconded by Director Adams and passed with 4 votes.

- b. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): Downs, Action



Chief Downs stated that the structure gear needs replacement soon. While purchasing all at once would be costly, he suggested purchasing two sets every other year so that there's a constant influx of new gear. He requests approval of \$10,000 for the purchase of two sets of turnouts along with some miscellaneous gear like gloves, or whatever maybe necessary at the time.

Chair Marsili motioned to approve the purchase of PPE (personal protective equipment), seconded by Director Klith and passed with 4 votes.

c. Boundary Line Adjustment for Station 1: Downs, Action

Chief Downs stated that in discussion with a local contractor regarding the building next door, one concern brought up was that of the property boundary line between the two. Chief Downs would like to have the two lots combined into one lot. The county planning department was optimistic, but when the Chief contacted the survey department, he was told that processing could take anywhere from 4-6 months, with a completed survey. The permit fee is \$450. Chief Downs would like to hire a surveyor to mitigate the boundary line issue before breaking ground on any construction.

Director Adams motioned to approve Chief Downs pursuit of survey estimates, seconded by Director Klith and passed with 4 votes.

**Reports, Director, and Staff Comments:**

**Fire Chief Report/Announcements:** Chief Downs would like to donate the old SUV, which was previously voted as surplus and has not received any interest from potential buyers, to the local community park. The Fire Marshall program was discontinued at the county level. Chief Downs has asked Asst Chief Miller to coordinate with Chief Parks, of Altaville, for advocacy of the Fire Marshall program.

Chief Downs relayed that the firefighters have gone out on multiple strike teams, one of which should profit the district about \$12,000, the second about \$56,000.

**Adjournment:** meeting was adjourned at 6:46 P.M.