

**CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
CACHAGUA FIRE STATION
NASON RD., CARMEL VALLEY**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Bob Eaton.

1. ROLL CALL: Don Bonsper, Bob Eaton, Rod Lambert.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2021 were considered. Motion to approve Bonsper; Lambert second; motion carried.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public attended.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- .01 **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer reported the account balances as of December 8, 2021 are Checking: \$204,607.95; Savings: \$1,000.63; and Brokerage: \$300,081.39 (increasing at \$500 per month, and being deposited into checking) for a total of \$505,689.97. Checking is down from last month due to expenditures. Also, no new income.

Old Business: The worker's comp claim is still active with a total cost to-date of \$41,000 - new expenditures primarily for legal.

Current Update: Audit update: Waiting for a cost estimate from the Salinas firm. Dublin firm estimate is about \$13.5K for the two year period.

Dispatch service update: Made contact with Steve, the radio guy, who is working with Jaime and Jesse to confirm coverage.

Radios have not been ordered under the Cal Fire grant.

Received a request for more information for the grant request to the Community Fund for Carmel Valley. They asked for much more detail than in the past. The decision on the grant should be completed by 15 December. This grant will allow for the purchase of safety vests and some traffic safety equipment. Total amount is \$2,250.

TREASURER'S REPORT, continued

Have paid some bills online, rather than sending them to the bookkeeper. This is an experiment to see if it saves some time and money.

Uncashed checks remain an issue. We need to find a solution. Currently 12 checks remain uncashed. These includes replacement checks we issued in May that are still open. (Payees of five uncashed checks will be contacted by e-mail.)

New Initiatives: None.

.02 DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE: Notice from County that 172 funds have been released.

.03 DISTRICT REQUESTS: New information provided on grant.

The Consent Calendar was approved with a motion by Eaton; Lambert second; motion carried.

5. STAFF REPORTS:

.01 Cachagua Volunteers: The report for December was presented by Felicia Fisher:

Old Business: COVID-19 rates are on the rise in California again and most cases are being seen in the unvaccinated. Mask mandates are varied. Cal OSHA has tasked employers with maintaining records of vaccinated and unvaccinated employees, testing, and providing them with proper PPE.

November had a total of seven call responses. No EPCR's were filed. NFIRS accounts are active. Felicia has received several e-mails from Cal Stats, the branch of Cal Fire, regarding our accounts and reports.

The Saturday training was a ropes rescue drill. More are becoming close to proficient at ropes and rope rescue.

The Christmas Party will be a dinner party at the Massa Estates vineyard on Saturday, December 18, beginning at 2 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS, Volunteer 's Report, continued

New Business: There will be no mandatory Saturday training in December.

The Department will be participating in the Santa Fly-In Parade on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

The Department will be holding its annual Santa Toy Run on December 24, 2021.

There may be a 16-hour Hazmat training class in January - still to be determined.

The Association voted to recommend to the Board for hire Jacob Ross.

The Association held their annual elections to the Board. President Alyssa McGowan, Vice President Yancy Cabrera, Secretary Felicia Fisher, and Treasurer Ramon Lopez.

The Department was invited to participate in a prescribed burn at the Santa Lucia Preserve on November 7, 2021. Several members attended and learned valuable new skills.

The membership discussed the proper way to back up an engine, how to park an engine, and when to refuel an engine as part of an ongoing operations lesson.

The membership voted to recommend for hire Eliseo Martinez.

Personnel increased from 25 to 26.

EMT's to be: One still has an application pending with the county and state - this has been ongoing for nearly one year.

Two others have yet to take the NREMT exam - it has been a year since they completed the EMT class.

Two have completed the EMT summer class at Hartnell - neither have taken the NREMT.

Two others are enrolled in the EMKT class this fall, which concludes in mid-December.

STAFF REPORTS, Volunteer 's Report, continued

One new recruit began the application process for becoming an EMT on 12/07/2021. He already has completed the EMT class and taken and passed the NREMT.

(One is not and EMT until all requirements have been met. One must pass the class, pass the NREMT exam (you are given two tries and you have two years after completing the class), and successfully complete the application process with the county and state.)

- .02 Chief's Report: The Chief reported that we have an issue with our existing burn season guidelines, which has been brought up by 7702. The major issue being that we receive many smoke check calls during the burn season for completely legal and permissible burns. The calls have escalated over the past few years and are wasting volunteer time and resources. We will be contacting CAL Fire to discuss a solution to this issue. (Trying to find out if we can fill out a CAL Fire permit on burns, as is done in south county). The Chief noted he will mention on Facebook that it is burn season.

Annual Christmas Party gifts have been purchased. We are hoping they will arrive in time to be embroidered and handed out at the party on the 18th.

Engine 7732 is in need of repairs to its electrical system, and a few other upgrades to its storage system. This will include replacement of headlights and taillights, code 3 lights and scene lights. 7732 has been a reliable engine and we plan on keeping around for the extended future. Chief would like to make a request not to exceed \$4,000 on this project. Motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$4,000 for 7732 Eaton; Bonsper second; motion carried.

A few goals for equipment in 2022:

Upgrade 7732 and outfit it to be better suited for residential fires, vehicle accidents, and medical calls.

Sell 7711

Replace water tender 7743 with a smaller, automatic, easier to drive unit.

STAFF REPORTS, Chief's Report, continued

We are working out a few details before we make the purchase of new radios. There are many different model numbers and versions to sort through and find what is the best fit.

With another round of new hires complete, we will again need to purchase new PPE for those new members. (Approximately \$7,000.)

Motion to approve Staff Reports Eaton; Lambert second; motion carried.

6. ACTION CALENDAR:

- .01 Update on vehicle status: Old 7700 still at barn and will go to scrap yard. Old 7702 still in service. Heather is driving new 7702 - number will be changed to 7701.
- .02 Liability concerns at drill: There was a 15-year old that is interested in joining the department and wanted to participate in rope drill. Association obtained release of liability from parents. This has been done in the past (young people wanting to participate) some for community service hours. Board feels that we should do this for any underage that participates - even in community service. Kathy will draw up a form to use.
- .03 State of communications within Department: Sometimes feel we have a lot of moving parts but they are not working together, i.e., uncashed checks. The Board discussed briefly. There was concern about group texts, which only go to Apple devices when sent and/or received on wi-fi.
- .04 Update on new Dispatch Service: Chief does not have update. Will e-mail Fire Comm. Commissioner Bonsper cannot answer technical questions - those need to be answered by the Chief and Battalion Chief.
- .05 Christmas Party - The Board approved district participation in the Christmas party on December 18th. Motion Eaton; Bonsper second; motion carried.
- .06 Santa Run & Santa Fly-In: The Board approved district participation (2 engines and personnel) in the Santa Run and the Santa Fly-in. Motion Eaton; Bonsper second; motion carried.

7. OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Lambert has miscellaneous items from Los Pobres Club that need to be dropped off and sorted through. The Chief suggested he come by on a Tuesday night so we have people here to help.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse in Princes Camp.