

DRAFT

**FOOTHILL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
3255 HELISMA ROAD, BURSON, CA 95225
March 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Director David Sant at 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Ed Anderson, Ken Glissman, Jeff Palm, Ron Spradlin and David Sant.

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Fire Chief Mike Siligo

Staff Absent: District Fire Clerk Rogers

3. Public Comments – None received.

4. Discussion of the Foothill Fire Protection District's Future and Vision.

Committee Member Sant noted that the purpose of the meeting was to begin conversation and planning efforts pertaining to the future growth (next three-four year period) of the Foothill Fire Protection District (FFPD), while also addressing immediate and short-term challenges and leadership needs. He stated that given consideration to current issues i.e., budget constraints, equipment and staffing requirements the FFPD Board of Directors would be responsible for making prudent decisions to avoid exacerbating matters.

Committee Member Sant suggested that the Planning Committee begin by determining what the goals of the FFPD were and then work backwards to address respective budgetary, planning and personnel concerns; including economic factors. Utilizing the "white" board, Committee Member Sant listed several items to be considered in reviewing the FFPD "today" including:

- Site Plan Review Ordinance (Ordinance 2009-01 To Establish Fees for Services and to Adopt Relevant Fire & Safety Codes): Ordinance closed with nothing forthcoming relative to generating revenue.

Committee Member Sant added that the loss of this ordinance represents not only a loss of potential revenue but the loss of operational control as a result of the inability to enforce compliance with fire requirements/code.

- First Responder Fee Program: Not promising; consequent to initial work and County Counsel review this program may cost more to implement and administer than projected revenue.
- EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility District): Lake Camanche correlates to 7.5% of FFPD responses over a five-year period and consequently on behalf of the FFPD, Committee Member Glissman is currently researching whether some type of compensation/reimbursement can be arranged with EBMUD. It was noted that the Calaveras County Sherriff's Department receives funds for providing law enforcement services to Lake Camanche.

Gary West, Burson Resident presented some background information and suggestions specific to working with EBMUD and Lake Camanche.

It was also noted that New Hogan Lake (Dept. of Army Corps of Engineers) represents 3.5% of FFPD responses over a five-year period.

- FFPD Staffing: Totals four regular part-time positions including the Command staff consisting of three budgeted positions (Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chief) and the District Fire Clerk. It was noted that the District Fire Clerk has become an indispensable administrative position and the loss of this position would represent a disruption to the FFPD business effort; and necessitate a return to contracting required work efforts to outside sources. However, the District Fire Clerk position was to be partially funded by the implementation of the Site Plan Review Ordinance (Ordinance 2009-01 To Establish Fees for Services and to Adopt Relevant Fire & Safety Codes) and with the lack of this potential funding the FFPD is in the position of maintaining an unplanned liability for an indispensable position.
- Command Staff Development: Committee Member Sant stated that in addition to providing work efforts consistent with a Battalion Chief, the Battalion Chief expends much of his time operating as a basic firefighter with duties pertaining to administrative and supervisory aspects defaulting to the Assistant Fire Chief. Consequently, duties consistent to the Assistant Fire Chief default to the Fire Chief.

Committee Member Sant stated that the FFPD was in a precarious position such that the existing command staff is over burdened and the FFPD is not able to meet the responsibility of affording staff development toward meeting potential personnel needs in the future.

Committee Member Sant stated that considering this Planning Committee review, the forecast of a continued economic downturn and respective budget constraints, it was imperative that the FFPD continue conversations and become more pro-active in planning for future growth and needs of the FFPD.

5. Planning Committee Comments

Gary Caldwell, a resident of Valley Springs, stated that in reviewing expenditure patterns and continued “tapping” of fund reserves; these reserves will at some point be depleted. In terms of revenue, Mr. Caldwell added that he had in the past participated with Committee Member Spradlin and Fire Chief Siligo in meeting with the Interim Planning Director for the County of Calaveras in an attempt to adjust mitigation fees. Mr. Caldwell suggested that there may be potential that new data might afford an opportunity to adjust these fees upward. He also noted the importance of the FFPD actively participating in future community development pertaining to growth and zoning matters, and the resulting impact to the FFPD.

Committee Member Spradlin recommended that the FFPD revisit the formation process of the FFPD specific to LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) and the VSPUD (Valley Springs Public Utility District) as to whether any changes in funding might be attainable. Both Committee Members Spradlin and Palm offered to pursue the matter of revisiting the formation process of the FFPD. (Note to File: FFPD Formation occurred in 2000.).

The FFPD Board and public shared in general conversation pertaining to items noted above and general matters specific to volunteer fire agencies, and the future needs and growth of the FFPD.

Committee Member Anderson commended the discussion of this March 6, 2010 Planning Committee and recommended that a subsequent meeting be scheduled for sometime in April, 2010.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Anderson/Palm to adjourn at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Vote: Approved 5-0

Approved By:

Submitted By:

David Sant, Committee Member

Pamela R. Rogers, District Fire Clerk

Attachments – None.