

MARINWOOD FIRE COMMISSION: MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022, 7:00PM

Internet Address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85672379320>

Telephone Access: 669) 900-6833 or 346) 248 7799 or 253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 856 7237 9320

ATTENTION: This will be a virtual meeting of the Marinwood CSD Fire Commission. There will not be a public location for participating in this meeting. Any interested member of the public can participate telephonically or via internet by utilizing the web link or dial-in information printed on this agenda.

Instructions on how to make a public comment during the meeting: At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public participating in the live meeting either via internet or telephone shall indicate their desire to speak. If participating via internet, please click the “raise hand” feature located within the Zoom application screen. If connected via telephone, please dial “*9” (star, nine). All public comments shall be addressed to the Commission and limited to three minutes per speaker. The Commission may choose to respond to comments or request staff to respond at the conclusion of the respective public comment period.

#	Item	Commission Action
1	Agenda	Adopt
2	Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items <i>Speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. Speakers may comment only on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may not take action on, consider or debate items not on the agenda except under narrow circumstances meeting statutory tests. Response to comments on non-agenda items will be limited to factual information or clarifying questions from staff or Commission. The Chair may refer the matter to staff or to a future meeting agenda.</i>	
3	Commissioner Items of Interest	
4	Draft Minutes of October 4, 2022 Fire Commission Meeting	Approve
5	Firefighter-Paramedic Vacancies and Recruitment	Review
6	Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary	Review
7	Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items	
8	Adjourn	

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made to the District office no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting by contacting (415) 479-0775

NEXT REGULAR FIRE COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2022

MARINWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
October 4, 2022

Time and Place: 7:00PM Via Teleconference

Present:

Commissioners: Chair Steve Farac, Tom Elsbree, John Seratt

Absent: Pascal Karsenti, Ron Marinoff, Greg Stilson (CSA 13 Alternate)

Staff: District Manager Eric Dreikosen, Fire Chief Darin White

Board: Kathleen Kilkenny

1. Agenda

No edits were requested by Commissioners. Chair Farac adopted the agenda as presented.

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No comments from the public were received.

3. Commissioner Items of Interest

No new Items of Interest were presented by Commissioners

4. Draft Minutes of August 2, 2022 Fire Commission Meeting

M/s Seratt/Elsbree to approve Draft Minutes of August 2, 2022 Fire Commission Meeting as presented. Ayes: Elsbree, Farac, Seratt. Nays: None. Absent: Karsenti, Marinoff. Motion carried.

5. Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary

Commission received Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary.

6. Requests for Future Agenda Items

-Commissioner Farac requested an update on the Zone Haven platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Eric Dreikosen



Staff Report

To: Fire Commission
From: Eric Dreikosen, District Manager
Date: December 6, 2022
Re: Firefighter-Paramedic Vacancies and Recruitment

Commissioners,

This is an informational item. There is no action being requested of the Commission at this time.

The Fire Department currently has one vacant position for the role of Firefighter-Paramedic (FF/PM). Unfortunately, we have received notice from another FF/PM that they too will be resigning from their position at the end of the calendar year. Given we are a single station department consisting of only nine (9) full-time firefighter positions working in shifts consisting of a minimum of three (3) firefighters on-duty 24/7, being down a firefighter let alone two firefighters places a significant strain on the remaining personnel who are asked and often mandated to work overtime to fill the void.

Since prior to the pandemic, there has been a noticeable decline in the number of individuals seeking to join the fire service and public safety in general (law enforcement, fire, and EMS). In recent years 2,000 paramedics were being licensed in the state of California each year. Reportedly, that number is now closer to 500. The pandemic has further prompted a sharp decline in the numbers of individuals in the State of California who are licensed paramedics. Fire Service agencies who provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) level care now find themselves in the awkward and challenging situation of not being able to hire experienced personnel and/or achieve previous levels of success in recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining new and tenured members alike.

Many agencies that rely on Advanced Life Support (ALS) trained members may need to aggressively recruit and hire Basic Life Support (BLS) trained personnel and support training of those individuals towards becoming paramedics while they are employed. BLS trained personnel usually begin by responding to lower acuity medical calls, thereby enabling ALS trained and staffed units to respond to actual medical emergencies. This BLS model appears to be gaining some interest and utility in multiple agencies who are operating BLS units during peak periods of call activity. The San Rafael Fire Department has an EMS study pending with the San Rafael Fire Association to determine the best model of operations in the current staffing environment we operate in, and it might include a resurrection of the BLS/ALS dual service model.

Further compounding FF/PM recruitment challenges, Marinwood FD is a small department with limited fiscal resources. Marinwood will be at a disadvantage competing with the compensation packages often offered by larger agencies & departments. We will advertise in some of the areas that historically garner the attention of the modern-day applicant, including, but not limited to: The Western Fire Chiefs Association California Daily Dispatch, local community colleges and regional fire science and private EMS training programs that have potential candidates taking fire and EMS centric education and more. Staff will also be presenting the Board of Directors with a proposal authorizing an expenditure to become a member agency of CalOpps, a website developed by and for public sector agencies as a resource for applicants looking for public sector jobs.

Chief White & I will keep the Commission apprised as we go through the recruitment process.



Memo

To: Marinwood Fire Commissioners

From: Darin White, Fire Chief

Date: December 6, 2022

Re: Fire Department Update

Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority- (MWPA)

The planning process for the 2023/2024 Work Plan is underway. The Work Plan Portal is being fine-tuned and the Advisory/Technical and Operations Committee meetings will be starting up again in early December. **RESIDENT GRANT PROGRAM:** The grant programs were launched in July 2022. To date, 767 grant applications from residents have been either initiated, submitted, or awarded. Over the fiscal year \$435,000 has been distributed to homeowners in Marin County for home hardening and defensible space work bringing the cumulative total to \$540,000 thus far.

The MWPA [Strategic Plan](#) and [Annual Report](#) are now online and available to view. In addition, there are multiple means through which information about the MWPA can be accessed by the Commissioners, Board of Directors, and interested community members. Please see the bullets below:

- [News Article on MWPA website](#)
- [Gallery image on MWPA homepage](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)

Marin County Fire Dispatch Update

On Monday August 22, 2022, the Marin County Fire Chiefs met with the new Marin County Sheriff, Jaime Scardina. Sheriff Scardina advised the Fire Chiefs that he would be making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that all fire agencies in Marin County establish a JPA amongst themselves as opposed to the existing contract for services agreement with MCSO that is in place to provide dispatch services to Marin County fire agencies.

It appears that there are a variety of reasons this has become the preferred solution, including, but not limited to:

- Prior history of complaints from the fire chiefs when asking for some technological components the previous Sheriff was either unwilling or unable to entertain.
- The Fire Chiefs identification and questioning of charges that are being incurred for services that aren't delivered occasionally, if at all.

- The Sheriff's Office has experienced some challenges with recruitment, selection, hiring, and training of new dispatchers.
- They stated they have not cost recovered at least \$300-\$500k worth of annual employee leave and training costs for fire dispatch personnel.
- The Sheriff's Office was aware that the Fire Chiefs Association investigated joining REDCOM as a possible alternative to the current contract. However, joining REDCOM proved to be a non-starter due to multiple factors involving American Medical Response's (AMR) role and price points for a joint Sonoma-Marin County regional dispatch center, and recent legislation pertaining to this type of contractual arrangement between private and public entities.

Since my arrival in 2020, both myself and Chief Tyler of Novato, have expressed satisfaction with the actual fire dispatch services as they are provided now. However, both of us did express concern about significant cost increases we had faced during the past 2 years, and this was communicated to previous Sheriff Doyle about 18 months ago. At the August 22nd meeting we again reiterated our satisfaction with the current dispatch services as coordinated by Heather Costello, but that did not garner much reaction. The Sheriff said he would recommend the JPA model become operational by July of 2023. The Sheriff said he is willing to allow staff to utilize the CAD system and other facilities at the MCSO Dispatch Center. In that instance, we would be co-located with law enforcement dispatchers but more as tenants than partners at the Dispatch Center.

I've reached out to San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) Chief Dave Spiller to gauge his interest in providing fire dispatch services using existing and additional staff to provide services to San Rafael Fire Department, Marinwood Fire Department and maybe other agencies in the County. We discussed the value of a feasibility study which could take into consideration a conceptual view of a San Rafael Centric fire and police dispatch model. This will be a long term study that will be completed in the next couple of years. I also reached out to the Information Technology Director to conduct a rough estimate of costs to provide services internally.

An interesting development occurred when we met to discuss the situation again over breakfast (in Sacramento) before the first session of the Cal Chiefs Conference on Wednesday September 14, 2022. MCFD Fire Chief Jason Weber revealed that he might be willing to enter a contract for services to provide for our countywide fire dispatch services and thereby keep everything unified. Additionally, costs will be capped at 3% increases annually during the 5 year contract.

During our monthly MCFCA meetings we continue to meet and discuss the staffing model and projected costs. Since the September meeting I have reiterated that we would likely conduct a cost analysis of the contract for services model versus seeking to have SRPD perform this service. This will inform what we should do as San Rafael and Marinwood jointly have the most at stake (call volume, projected increase in price, etc.). Coming out of the initial meeting with the Sheriff we all agreed that a win for the Fire Chiefs consists of:

- 1) Significantly more time than the Sheriff proposed (10 months) to find and implement a solution
- 2) We need to be able to provide a strong rationale for whichever path is chosen
- 3) Attempt to work cooperatively with the MCSO in our efforts to stand up a functional dispatch capability
- 4) Being able to accurately project, forecast, and even control costs.

Vegetation Management



The Fire Foundry crews provided direct assistance at 2 additional properties this month. A total of 14 properties have received direct assistance from the Fire Foundry crews this calendar year.

Guidelines/COVID-19:

An estimated 94% of people in the U.S. have been infected with the COVID-19 virus at least once, according to a new paper from researchers at Harvard’s School of Public Health. The high infection rate is attributed to the omicron variant’s record-shattering case rates early this year and booster rates that failed to reach levels that experts had hoped would be achieved. However, the good news is that as of the early part of November, the percentage of people with some protection from new infections and severe disease is “substantially higher than in December 2021,” according to researchers. Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, a professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco who specializes in infectious diseases and did not participate in the study believes we are in the best position thus far in the pandemic. This is not to be confused with COVID being less prevalent than before or people are less susceptible to it. In fact, public health officials are warning that cases are rising again.

The findings are not completely certain since the information is based on statistics as opposed to actual testing of American persons. The researchers have opted to rely on diagnoses, hospitalizations, and vaccinations data from the Centers for Disease Control.

The team of researchers estimated that 29.1% of Americans have been vaccinated and infected, 55.7% are vaccinated and re-infected, 2.4% are unvaccinated and infected, 7% are unvaccinated and re-infected. Of those who have never been infected, about 63% are vaccinated: 3.5% of Americans, as opposed to 2.1% who are unvaccinated and never infected.

In December 2021, 59.2% of people had been infected with the COVID-19 virus, they estimated. The study estimated that since that time there have been 116 million first infections in the country and 209 million reinfections, with nearly all resulting from omicron sub-variants.

During each year of the pandemic, the largest surges in California have happened over the winter holidays, but the fact that so many people got COVID earlier this year means fewer might be vulnerable this holiday season, the researchers found. At the beginning of this year the first omicron wave smashed all previous case records, sickening millions but also raising the level of immunity in the population, for at least a while. Despite the reportedly high levels of immunity, COVID continues to be a killer virus and infection rates are climbing.

Emergency Response



On October 22, fire crews with the assistance of the Sonoma County Sheriff's helicopter treated and transported an injured cyclist from an open space area in Marinwood. The location of the incident was on a steep hillside. The only way to quickly and safely evacuate the individual was by the use of a helicopter. The patient was flown to a landing zone near Marinwood Market and then ground-transported by San Rafael paramedics to the hospital.

Obituary



I am sad to announce the passing of retired Captain Jerry Thrasher. In addition to being a great mentor and friend to multiple generations of firefighters who began their careers in Marinwood, “JT” served as a labor negotiator and shop steward for several contracts in the early 1980s.

JT grew up in Kentfield and started his career in the fire service as a volunteer at Station 17 in 1972. He was hired with the Marinwood Fire Department in 1974 and retired as a Captain and Training Officer in 2004. It was believed that he may have received a brain cancer diagnosis. We are appreciative of his years of dedicated service and wish his family strength and comfort at this time.

2022 Fire Code Adopted

Triennial adoption of the
2022 CA Fire Code
w/Appendix A of International Wildland –Urban Interface Code



Board of Directors
Public Hearing Presentation
November 08, 2022

Board of Directors approved the adoption of the 2022 CA Fire Code at last months meeting. The fire code will take effect in January and is anticipated to provide guidance for the next 3 years.

Marinwood Fire Department Statistics: November 2022

The Marinwood Fire Department responded to 133 emergency calls in November 2022. A little under two thirds of the calls were medical incidents; one of which involved a confirmed COVID-19 case. The department responded to one fire in San Rafael and one in Novato. The department also responded to two hazardous material calls in CSA 13. One involved an oven that was in self cleaning mode and caused a nearby cabinet to overheat and smoke. E58 removed the oven and ensured the cabinet was no longer at risk of fire.

<i>Incidents by Area and Type</i>								
Area	MA	PSA	FA/NN	FIRE	HAZMAT	COVER	OTHER	TOTAL
Marinwood	23	9	0	0	0	N/A	0	32
CSA 13	9	6	3	0	2	N/A	0	20
Old JPA (Mont Marin)	9	1	0	0	0	N/A	0	10
New JPA (East of 101)	27	5	1	0	0	N/A	0	33
SR Mutual Aid	14	9	1	1	0	0	0	25
MC JPA	2	1	0	0	0	N/A	0	3
MC Mutual Aid	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0
Novato	1	6	0	1	0	2	0	10
Total number	85	37	5	2	2	2	0	133
<i>Percentage of total</i>	<i>63.9%</i>	<i>27.8%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	

Call types:

MA	Medical assist
PSA	Service call
FA/NN	Fire alarm
FIRE	Fire
HAZMAT	Hazardous material incident (e.g., spill)
COVER	Coverage for other stations
OTHER	Other incident(s): n/a

Average response time for Engine 58: 5 minutes, 46 seconds