

TO: MARINWOOD FIRE COMMISSION
FROM: THOMAS ROACH, FIRE CHIEF

July 7, 2015 Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Fire Commissioners:

Present: Jeff Naylor, Russ Albano, Ron Marinoff, Greg Stilson, Tom Elsbree

Others in attendance:

Fire Chief Tom Roach, District Manager Eric Dreikosen, Board Members Bill Hansell and Tarey Read, Linda Barnello, Captain John Bagala, Captain Steve Heine, Engineer Otis Smith, Firefighter Ryan Brackett

1. Approval of Agenda-Call to order 730 pm. Commissioner Naylor moved Marin Map discussion up on the agenda before discussion of Director Hansell's letters. Approval of Agenda.
 - **M/S Marinoff/Albano to approve agenda as amended. All in favor.**
2. Approval of June Minutes
 - **M/S Marinoff/Elsbree to approve of June Minutes.** Commissioner Naylor asked if changes were made in previous months minutes to express Captain Whites explanation of Code 2 verse Code 3. Chief Roach said those changes had been made. Chief said he would include the difference in the two codes on the response report. **All in favor.**
3. June Activity Schedule and Response Report.
 - The June 2015 Activity Schedule was reviewed. Chief commented that during the month the department was busy preparing for wildland season and that the wildland packs had been put together, wildland training had happened, the wildland academy was in late May/early June. Chief also commented that Wildland season was upon us as the Type 3 engine had been called away for five days on a strike team assignment to Modesto area and then redeployed to the San Luis Obispo area.
 - The June 2015 Response Report was reviewed. There was a question on the three separate gas leak calls in a row in Novato. Captain Heine explained that there was a day he worked in which Marinwood responded with Novato to 3 separate natural gas calls. All were breaks in the natural gas supplies to homes in southern Novato. This number is unusually high especially consecutively. There was also a question as to a near drowning call in Casa Marinwood. Chief gave the details of the calls in which our engine company along with our utility vehicle staffed with two volunteers responded to the incident. The call had an extremely successful outcome with no injuries or deficits to the child patient and that the mom along with her son stopped by the firehouse the next day to thank the engine company.
4. Chief Report
 - Marin Map Resolution. Chief spoke to the history of Marin Map and how agencies became members initially. Chief explained the new JPA among the Fire Chief's Association for remaining agencies who are not members and how costs were divided. Chief explained some of the benefits to becoming members. **M/S Marinoff/Elsbree Recommend to the Board to Approve the Resolution of Marinwood joining Marin Map up to \$600. All in favor 4-0.**
 - There was discussion on Marin County Open Space District vegetation management policy and the open field near juvenile hall had not yet been cleared. Chief stated he had talked to the Open Space District and that they were waiting for the nesting birds to finish. Note-since the meeting Chief had learned there had been a change in Open Space Policy and that they would not be maintaining the field with the exception of 10 feet on either side of the path.
 - Discussion followed in response to Director Hansell's letters to the Board dated June 9 and June 24. Commissioner Elsbree felt both sides being prepared for negotiations and

using professional negotiators would be a good thing. Commissioner Albano said comparing the Miscellaneous Employees to the Firefighters is like apples and oranges, there is no reason to assume that the safety personnel should be paid on par with the other district employees. Commissioner Marinoff spoke to the inequities of Proposition 13 and different square footage taxes paid by different agencies. He also stated that Marinwood would have to see if it could continue to support the level of fire protection and would either need to raise taxes or make service reductions. CSA 13 alternate Greg Stilson commented on the accuracy of the overtime statistics used in the strike team section of the letter. Chief had prepared some additional numbers that were submitted regarding overtime and strike teams also. Commissioner Naylor prepared, distributed and read parts of a letter in response to Director Hansell's letter. It is attached to the minutes and included in the Board packet. In summary it questions both the data and the conclusions in Director Hansell's letters and proposed refocusing on certain structural changes which may better situate the District to meet its present and future financial needs. Director Hansell maintained that the purpose in drafting the letter was a continuing attempt to maintain financial responsibility in how the Districts tax dollars are spent. He recognizes that the Fire Chief is not a professional accountant and was calling for a professional audit of overtime in general and overtime and reimbursement from strike teams. Director Hansell did state that past negotiations, promised benefits, and staffing language in the MOU and the Union's failure to negotiate had placed the District in a difficult financial position. Chief did mention that he had spoken to the Chief's from Kentfield, Corte Madera, and Larkspur regarding their overtime costs and there strike team costs and reimbursements. Marinwood had very similar costs to those three like sized departments. There were two motions made during the meeting-

- **M/S Elsbree/Albano The Marinwood Fire Commission recommends that Director Hansell be prepared to retract any and all language regarding the excessive use of and elimination of overtime as a CSD Objective. Further that he acknowledge his previous proposal was based on incomplete information and withdraws it. 3-1 in favor of motion. Elsbree Naylor Albano Yes. Marinoff No**
- **M/S Elsbree/Albano The Fire Commission requests Director Hansell retract any and all language regarding the intention of the CSD Board to cease our departments acceptance of strike team assignments and abandon any further attempt to conduct an actuarial study of the strike team expenses and reimbursements. Further that he acknowledge that his proposal was based on incomplete information about the true cost of overtime to the District. 3-0 in favor of motion. Naylor, Elsbree, Albano Yes. Marinoff abstain.**

Chief Tom Roach