

**SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
October 27, 2016**

The Governing Board held a regular meeting of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 6 pm at the Community Center Tecopa Hot Springs Road.

**I. Call to order and determination of quorum**

- **Robin Flinchum, Chairperson**
- **Amy Noel, Vice Chairperson**
- **Toni Kizzia, Secretary**
- **Patrick Donnelly, Treasurer**
- **Gary Barkley, Member**

**Present:** Chairperson Robin Flinchum, Vice Chairperson Amy Noel, Treasurer Patrick Donnelly, Member Gary Barkley Secretary Toni Kizzia,

**Visitors:** Sam Fann, Billy Eichenbaum, Mark Hacker P.A., Keith Hicks, Jim Ramm, Karen Pine, Maria Gamez, Jim Furlough, Shelly Scott, Rose Colon, Susan Sorrels, Ryan Thomas, Paul Barnes.

Chairperson Flinchum called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, called roll and established a quorum.

**II.** Susan Sorrels introduced us to our new Physicians Assistant from Death Valley Health Center, Mark Hacker. Welcome Mark! Glad to have you in the neighborhood!

**III. Confirmation of agenda / Reading of Minutes**

- Unapproved minutes for the September 2016, Regular Business Meeting were reviewed and with the correction of Chief Levy's name, Member Flinchum moved to approve the minutes for September and member Donnelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Passed 5,0,0.

**IV. Public Comment**

**Any person may address the District Board on any subject pertaining to District business, which is not listed on the agenda. This comment period is provided by the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act (Government Code § 54950 et seq.)**

Karen Pine read a letter she wrote to the Board and a discussion ensued.

**V. Correspondence for possible Board action and/or review**

Excerpts were read from a letter of complaint sent to the Board by Cynthia Kienitz. Issues raised in the letter included concerns about a controlled burn held at the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort in September. Chief Levy gave a report of the event and showed a copy of the permit issued. Concern was expressed as to whether or not the District exercised discretion in permitting a burn at an event where alcohol was served. Vice Chair Noel, who is the owner of the property, stated that there was no alcohol

served at the event. Someone in attendance at the event who had been drinking caused a disturbance which was dealt with by the District. Member Donnelly made a motion to note for the record that the Chief had handled the event according to protocol. Member Kizzia seconded, further discussion included agreement for future agenda items defining and providing transparency on the District's policy on controlled burns, including when community notification is necessary, to the public. Motion carried 5, 0, 0.

Further discussion regarding the Keinitz letter included concerns about Board member standards of conduct. The Board will also address this in a future agenda item. Other concerns were raised and discussed, no further motions were made. The issue of whether or not holding the District's annual Firehouse Fling on the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort property constituted a conflict of interest was addressed. A member of the public reminded the Board that this issue had been addressed by Inyo County Counsel some years ago and was not deemed to be a problem. A copy of the Keinitz letter is included with the minutes in the record.

Correspondence from our bank, Wells Fargo in Pahrump, indicates that we must move our account to a Wells Fargo location in the state of California for legal purposes. The closest branch would probably be Barstow. Chief Levy suggested that we quit Wells Fargo altogether due to their dubious business practices. Admin Dennett and Chief Levy will be making some calls to see what is required to either switch banks altogether or just switch to a California Wells Fargo. Members Donnelly and Flinchum volunteered to make the trip to Barstow to do the paperwork and signing. A motion was made to empower members Flinchum, Noel and Donnelly to move the account to Barstow. Member Kizzia 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5,0,0.

## VI. Consent Calendar

**Consent calendar items are considered routine and are acted upon by the Board with a single action. Members of the audience wishing to provide public input may request that the Board remove the item from the Consent Calendar.**

None.

## VII. Board, Officer, and Committee Reports:

### A. Board Member Reports

#### 1. Treasury Report—*Motion Required*

##### 1. Transaction Report—*Motion Required*

Treasury report reviewed and discussed. The Budget to Actuals looks good with the highlight being higher than expected ambulance revenue!

Member Donnelly made a motion to accept Treasury and Transaction Reports, Member Barkley 2<sup>nd</sup> and Motion passed 5,0,0.

### B. Fire Chief's Report

- 7 calls for service. 3 Motor vehicle, 3 medical and 1 fire.
- 2nd Ambulance stocked, inspected, and ready to go! Two ambulances in service!
- Hand held radios have been getting repaired.

- We will not be receiving the engine we had hoped for from the Park Service.
- We have two people in Fire Fighter One training, Tyler and Tanya. They are doing well and expected to graduate in January.

### C. Chief Administrator's Report

- Amargosa would like to have a mutual aid agreement with us as they have no Ambulance service. A discussion ensued. It is too long a response time for us to Amargosa.
- Attended Park Partners at Stovepipe Wells. NPS, Xanterra, etc...in attendance. Kudos to SIFPD from those parties, Park Superintendent/Head Ranger pleased with us.
- Search and Rescue program gearing up MOU at expense of County Council. Ambulance certification from ICEMA.

### D. Committee Reports

#### 1. Property Tax

a. Members reported they had done their telephone canvassing and an ambulance was parked near the Campground with a sign.

#### 2. Budget

- Maddy Grant Approved for Automatic Gurney and new suction unit.
- 2016/2017 Budget approved as posted.
- Member Donnelly made a motion to adopt the Water Budget, Member Noel 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed 5,0,0.

#### 3. Fund Raising

a. **Firehouse Fling**, so far so good, please continue rounding up prizes. Billy to oversee Flea Market, Gary to oversee cooking, Ryan and Paul to oversee music, Toni to MC and oversee all the overseers. Chicken and Ribs on the menu. Still need salads and sides! We will hold a planning meeting before the event.

b. **Old West Days**, Robin to open on Saturday, Toni there from 3-5 pm, Carl will cover Sunday. Ryan Thomas offered the possible use of his snow cone machine!

c. **T-Shirts**. Robin ordered t-shirts for this year, we owe her \$767! Discussion ensued on creating a budget line item for reimbursing Fundraising expenses. A motion was made by Member Flinchum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Kizzia, carried 5,0,0.

## VIII. Old Business

- Update on Water Project:** They are about to order the R/O system. Lahontan

removed itself from the process of requiring R/O discharge and a leech field will be installed instead to handle the run off. (At least that is the case at the time of this writing.) Surrounding wells to be tested annually for contamination. Paul Barnes expressed his concern about possible contamination of the existing wells in the area by a leech field. More discussion to be had with County Environmental Health.

- B. **Chief Levy** to go for his Water Operator 1 license on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, Susan Sorrells will stand in in the interim. Ryan Thomas is also interested in the class. Some discussion on operation and maintenance budget.

C. **Mobile Home** pad done for office. Chief Levy to meet with installer and get going on moving the building. Fencing has been taken down but Chief Levy needs to get the posts out with an auger and tractor. Should be set by next month.

- D. **Review Special Training Item 2120.61 Education Assistance Obligations and Training.** Item was read aloud. In the future we can ask for an agreement in writing when we spend money on special training.

#### **IX. New Business**

1. Cal Fire and SIFPD Mutual Aid agreement is basically not viable and not applicable.
2. Postponed the review of District Fire Chief and Mechanic until next month.
3. Discussion and review of Districts position on proposed solar plant in Charleston View postponed until next month.

#### **X. Evaluate Distribution of Work Load.**

All is well, with too much work of course!

#### **XI. Good of the Order**

Chair Flinchum noted that while criticism of the District is difficult, it is good for questions to be brought forward and examined when asked. The District Board needs to be willing to evaluate its policies and board members and staff need to be willing to ask themselves whether their actions are motivated by the good of the whole or by personal concerns.

#### **XII. Suggested Agenda Items for the next meeting.**

- **Discuss and adopt a policy for the Fire Chief replacement procedure.**
- **Discuss and define a policy for special events where SIFPD is standing by and controlled burn notification requirements.**
- **Opinion statement on the solar plant.**
- **Review and update District Fire Chief and Mechanic Job Descriptions.**
- **Discuss Drug and Alcohol policy for Board and whether board members should be held to the same code of conduct as District volunteers.**

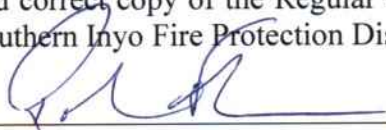
**XIII. Motion was made to adjourn by Member Flinchum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Barkley. Passed 5,0,0. Meeting adjournment to the next Regular board meeting on November 17, 2016 at the Tecopa Community Center.**

**Prepared by:**

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Prepared by Toni Kizzia

I, Robin Flinchum, Chair and Toni Kizzia, Secretary hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Regular Board Minutes of the October 27, 2016 Regular meeting of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.



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Robin Flinchum, Chairman

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Toni Kizzia, Secretary