

**TUOLUMNE FIRE DISTRICT**

18690 MAIN STREET

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Friday, March 28, 2025 @ 6:00p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm. by Brian Bell, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brian Bell – Chairman, Adam Artzer - Vice Chairman, - Tony Kreig – Treasurer, Darlene Hutchins – Secretary, Mike Capuccini – Board Member.

Absent: No one.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jeff Santi, Chief

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There was no public forum.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** **March 11, 2025**

Adam Artzer made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Mike Capuccini seconded the motion.

No public comment. The vote was 5/0 – with no absent. Motion carried.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

The department continues to run smoothly thanks to the diligent work done every day by Chief Santi and Engineer DeGraff.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of seeking legal counsel on current MUO with the Tuolumne Band**

**of Mi Wuk Indians**.

As mentioned in the minutes of March 11, 2025, The MOU between Tuolumne City Fire and the Tuolumne Band of Mi Wuk Indians showed up on the Board of Supervisors agenda to amend the agreement. Chairman Bell had questioned this, and it was immediately pulled from the agenda. Brian met with Chairman Day, who supports continuing business as usual but is receiving resistance from his Tribal Council. The Tribal Council feels they should not need to pay for Tuolumne City Fire services because they have their own fire department. Chairman Capuccini has been in contact with Gregory Oliver the original County Council who collaborated with us to write the original MOU. He also contacted Laurie Sylvester who was a board member who participated in writing the original MOU. Sarah Carillo, the current County Council, has made it clear that she represents the Board of Supervisors, and it would be a conflict of interest if she were to represent both entities. Carillo suggested that we seek our own Contract Law Council. There is a concern as to whether the next payment will be made. Chairman Bell is also collaborating with Supervisor Kirk on this matter.

We need to know our position, what are our legal rights? Gregory Oliver recommended a Sovereign Attorney and the specific one he recommended was Richard Freedman with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Chairman Capuccini suggested that the Strategic Planning Committee meet and decide exactly what we need before we retain legal counsel. Chairman Kreig suggested that we hire a law clerk to do all the research to save money.

Brian Bell made a motion to allow Captain Santi to spend up to $30,000 expenditure to retain legal counsel relative to the MOU. Chairman Kreig seconded the motion.

No public comment. The vote was 5/0 – with no absent. Motion carried.

**2: Need for April 8th regular board meeting.**

Since the regular board meeting would be in two weeks and there are no agenda items at this point, Chairman Bell made a motion to cancel the April 8, 2025, board meeting, Darlene seconded the motion. No public comment. The vote was 5/0 – with no absent. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Strategic Planning Committee:**

Director Krieg has asked to defer his responsibilities on the Strategic Planning Committee to Director Capuccini during the discussions with the tribe and any legal action involved with the tribe and MOU only.

**3. Department Report**

Submitted by Chief Santi and attached to these minutes.

Chief Santi discussed the helmet shield design for the gift we are giving Nick Ohler at his retirement party. The next step is to get a time frame and cost.

The printer was not working correctly, and the Chief made the decision to spend $200 and purchase a new one.

**4. Administration Report**

The payroll report was the only report reviewed and approved this month.

**5. Approval of Warrants and Requisitions**

There were no warrants or requisitions available for approval this month due to the absence of our office manager.

**ADJOURN**

**6:45 pm. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 8, 2025 - Cancelled**

**May 13, 2025**