

**TUOLUMNE FIRE DISTRICT**

18690 MAIN STREET

TUOLUMNE, CA 95379-9686

(209) 928-4505 - FAX (209) 928-9723

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Monday, October 10, 2022 @ 6:00p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Brian Bell, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: One vacant seat to be filled.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nick Ohler, Chief

Jeff Santi, Captain

Alexander Horat – Observer

Tracy Riggs – Tuolumne County

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** **August 15, 2022**

**September 12, 2022 – Meeting Canceled**

Adam Artzer made a motion to approve the previous minutes as written.

Brian Bell seconded the motion.

No public comment. Vote 4/0 – with one vacant seat - Motion carried.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

As always, the department is running very well under the leadership of Chief Ohler and guidance of Captain Santi.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Fiscal Year Budget for 2022/2023:**

Highlights presented by Chief Ohler included the Fire Equipment 50/50 grant and CFF grant. Salaries reflect the pay increases. CalPERS changes have been reflected. Insurance has a small increase as well as fuel. Chief Ohler is working on a TPPA grant that will reduce the utility cost. There was a $900 floater that went to the Board stipends, the Board stipends have not been fully funded for 12 months of meetings, which typically we have between seven or eight. If the Board has 12 meetings in the year, the extra money for stipends would be pulled from the contingency fund.

Darlene Hutchins made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 Budget. Tony Kreig seconded the motion.

No public comment. Vote 4/0 – with one vacant seat. - Motion carried.

1. **Station and vehicle insurance:**

The insurance we have for the station and vehicles has been cancelled, the company we use is no lngero writing these policies. Chief Ohler has looked into three options:

* 1. SDRMA that gives a 5% savings on Workers Comp. and a 5% overall savings, the total cost would be $15,213 with a three-year commitment. This is Chief Ohler’s recommendation.
  2. Norther California Fire Association at a cost of $20,00
  3. ESIP – at a cost of $10,619.

Tony Kreig made a motion to go with SDRAM as our new insurance carrier for the station and vehicle insurance. Brian Bell seconded the motion.

No public comment. Vote 4/0 – with one vacant seat – Motion carried.

1. **RFC Grant:**

The grant is for $19,313.70 and we wrote a resolution for 2022/2023 reimbursement. This grant will replace outdated radios and fire equipment.

1. **Incident Reporting:**

The software we use (Firehouse Software) which is represented through ESO software is being discontinued on 12/31/2022. Chief Ohler is looking at finding a new software and one of those options is joining with the County of Tuolumne and Sonora City as part of a cloud-based system, using the same contract, if all entities could get a better discount by joining together.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Strategic Planning Committee:**

The committee (Brian Bell, Tony Kreig, and Chief Ohler) have not met recently, but Chief Ohler invited Tracy Riggs from Tuolumne County to discuss further the multiple districts annexation talks. Tracy said this will only weaken the fire systems. She is actively influencing the districts to move to a Schedule A contract with Cal Fire. The board of directors for the department would still be in place but would only have a “voice” and would be under the umbrella of Cal Fire throughout the County.

**2. Department Report (the detailed report is attached to these minutes)** Chief Ohler was injured in an “off duty” vehicle accident and is unable to be on the engine at this time, he is also going on vacation at the end of the month for two weeks. There is an on-going problem trying to get station coverage. We are also down three firefighters at the current time. We will have to call a special meeting to discuss options.

**3. Administration Report**

All reports were reviewed and approved this month.

**4. Approval of Warrants and Requisitions**

All warrants and requisitions were approved.

**ADJOURN**

**8:18 pm. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – November 14, 2022**