

**KENTFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

MEETING TYPE: Regular – Virtual Meeting via Teleconference

DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Murray. Ron Naso led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Corbet-present; Evergettis-present; Murray-present; Naso-present. Gerbsman-present. Also in attendance were Chief Pomi, Accountant Hom, Deputy Fire Marshal Pasero, and Recording Secretary Wilson.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES: M/S Gerbsman/Evergettis to approve the minutes of September 16, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Corbet-Aye, Evergettis-Aye, Gerbsman-Aye, Murray-Aye, Naso-Aye.

Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: As there were no members of the public in attendance, no comments were received.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT) - Previously discussed at prior board meetings; Kentfield Fire District has already been established with the trust but a funding policy will need to be approved by the Board. This topic remains in unfinished business until the Board feels it is the right time to start investing. With a lot of volatility expected in the market in the near future, the Board once again agreed to wait to fund the trust until after the November election or until the beginning of 2021.

- b. Evacuation Route Vegetation Clearance Update and Report – Kentfield Fire District, along with Ross Valley Fire, Central Marin Fire and many others was awarded a 1.3 million dollar project to improve safety and evacuation routes within their communities. Chief Pomi reported the project work has been taking place for about a year now and asked Deputy Fire Marshal to provide an update. Deputy Fire Marshal Larry Pasero stated in the months of September through November of 2019, miles of road clearance work had been completed. This year, Kentfield Fire District has been working closely with the MWPA through their initial programs. DFM Pasero informed there was a lot of success for the all communities represented by the MWPA with the enactment of the Chipper Program. A total of three Chipper Program days completed so far: one in the Kent Woodlands, two in the Greenbrae area with another day scheduled for the Kent Woodlands on November 18th because there was such an overwhelming success the first time. Being in close contact with one of the coordinators of the MWPA, they reached out to see if there was any additional projects within the Kentfield District community. DFM Pasero provided the MWPA with two prominent intersections of great concern: corner of Woodland Road/ Goodhill Road and Upland Road/ Coronet Way. The crew cleared a lot of scotch broom and did a great job increasing the availability for people to use the road system, should an evacuation plan be needed. Great work and good communication has made for a solid foundation going forward, where Kentfield Fire District can take advantage of those crews at no cost to the District or the community. DFM Pasero finished by saying there has been great opportunities to have some outreach, complete projects that are highly visible, and take advantage of those MWPA dollars back here in Kentfield.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Landowner Access Agreement - Chief Pomi advised this agreement would be executed when the fire district and land owner are engaged in a vegetation management project on private property, not on county or fire district property. The agreement would ensure the land owner is aware that the vegetation management reduction project has been proposed and that the project has been explained. The land owner supports the goals of the project and hereby enters into the agreement with the district. Kentfield Fire District worked with Marin County Council to create the document for landowners to help identify projects and liabilities. Chief Pomi provided the example of the evacuation service road between Goodhill and Woodland as it runs through a private property parcel. He said it's unclear when it potentially become a county emergency access road and who is responsible to maintain it. The parcel owner is more than happy to participate and have the work done, especially when the funds stem from grant monies or from FIRESafe Marin. This document would provide Kentfield Fire District with a solid agreement in

**KENTFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

writing along with the owner's acknowledgement. Chief Pomi recommends the Board approve the Landowner Access Agreement that has been developed by county council.

M/S Evergettis/Gerbsman to approve the Landowner Access Agreement.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made.

Roll Call Vote: Corbet-Aye; Evergettis-Aye; Gerbsman-Aye; Murray-Aye; Naso-Aye

Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Motion passes

- b. Proposal and Tentative Agreement with Banshee Networks - For the past ten years, Kentfield Fire District has worked with an IT support company that designed the current server system. With today's technology, Chief Pomi expressed the District has reached a time where its needs are becoming a bit more complex. In speaking with other Marin fire districts and government agencies, Chief Pomi sought out a vendor who would be an ideal fit for the District's computer, server, and phone systems. Banshee Networks was highly recommended and Chief Pomi took the opportunity to research, interview, and give them an overview of the current set up. Banshee Networks put together a proposal and agreement stating they would provide all the labor, take over IT services of a system design, specifications, installation review, support troubleshooting and all cyber network security. The cost associated with their contract is about \$16,000 a year compared to what the District has paid for IT services the past 2 years: \$18,000 and \$19,000, respectively. Banshee is coming in at a lower rate because they charge a constant monthly fee and not an hourly fee. Chief Pomi included the contract and brochure from Banshee Networks which mirrors the contract with the current vendor. Director Murray felt a switch to Banshee Networks would be a good move and liked there was no hourly fee associated with the agreement. Director Gerbsman relayed it's not just about cost, it's about the quality of the individuals supporting you and getting you the solutions you need.

M/S Evergettis/Naso to approve the Proposal and Tentative Agreement with Banshee Networks.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made.

Roll Call Vote: Corbet-Aye; Evergettis-Aye; Gerbsman-Aye; Murray-Aye; Naso-Aye

Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Motion passes

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a. California Wildfire Update – Chief Pomi took the opportunity to discuss all of the out of county assignments Kentfield Fire District has sent engines and overhead to so far this fire season. He provided a report with ten incidents listed as an overview of what the fire station has been doing to support other counties while being fully staffed and available to respond to any incidents within the community. Chief Pomi reported that California has surpassed 4 million acres burned this year. A five year average statistic shows about 700,000 acres burned with about 6500 fires a year. This year, there has been over 8500 fires and about 4.1 million acres burned; California is four times its annual average. Chief Pomi gave the entire staff recognition for all their hard work staffing the OES and Engine to protect the Marin citizens and other communities. He also acknowledged Deputy Fire Marshal Larry Pasero and Battalion Chief Dave Glenn, who have gone out of county a tremendous amount this year as well. Within the first few payrolls of the current fiscal year, most of projected overtime budget has been allocated. The overtime for all these fires is 100% reimbursable, but it takes about 8 months to be refunded. Chief Pomi explained that the District will be reimbursed for all the overtime along with an administrative fee configured in the calculation. Other items to be reimbursed will include Fire Engine 17A, the Battalion Chief's truck, Deputy Fire Marshal's vehicle, along with fuel and travel expenses. Chief Pomi strongly encouraged the Board to share his report within their own groups, communities, and on Nextdoor to help spread the knowledge of what Kentfield Fire District is doing to protect the community while providing assistance to other counties.

DIRECTOR MATTERS: Directors provided the following information regarding their activities:

Director Naso reported there is a MERA meeting on the 28th of this month and he will be attending.

**KENTFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Director Evergettis reported on his first MWPA board meeting on September 17th and announced the MWPA appointed Mark Brown as the new CEO. He had a meeting with Mark Brown and expressed how the community needs to be kept informed and feel they're getting their monies worth. As a MWPA Board member, Evergettis feels his role is to listen, be patient, and express his concerns when necessary but strongly feels they will have plenty to share as things progress. Especially with Mark Brown as the new CEO, things will be ramping up and moving forward with that new organization.

Director Gerbsman thanked the troops and everyone at station for all their hard efforts so far this fire season. He took the time to follow up with Director Evergettis regarding the MWPA board committee and about the lack of communication from the MWPA. He expressed the need for more information to be available to community such as a strategic plan, a financial plan or even hiring procedures, etc. Director Gerbsman indicated constituents within the community are questioning where the funds are being allocated and feels the MWPA has a moral and ethical obligation to provide answers. He suggested more transparency from the organization so they can earn more credibility.

Chief Pomi suggested inviting Mark Brown to attend the November Board meeting as an introduction and have him provide a verbal report with information that can be sent out to the community constituents.

Director Murray understood the view of Director Evergettis and that of Director Gerbsman. He would also like some more information regarding MWPA organization and asked Chief to invite their new CEO Mark Brown to the November meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Were reviewed. Director Naso expressed his concern pertaining to the Department of Public Works notice, *Proposed Temporary Road Closures along portions of Acacia Ave.* His concern was centered on the actual barricades and if there are individuals delegated to move the road closures in case of an emergency for paramedics, law enforcement, or Kentfield Firefighters. Chief Pomi reported that public safety will not be delayed due to the barricades. The Department of Public Works was looking into plastic barricades being a minimum 12 feet apart for vehicles to drive through them and it would not be a hard closure of the road. Chief Pomi addressed it with the county and the information available is only a proposal. Lastly, Chief Pomi wanted to discuss the summary report from Rich Shortall, executive director from FIRESafe Marin who has been contracted to provide a variety of services for the MWPA. The MWPA has agreed to some of the funds being requested by FIRESafe Marin to include monthly webinars, community workshops, chipper days, educational videos, noah weather radios. As it is very informative, Chief Pomi suggested reading the three page summary of all the work FIRESafe Marin has been doing, along with the MWPA for the community.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS: September Incident Log and Overtime Report were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

- a. M/S Murray/Naso to approve September warrants 805303264 to and including 805303308 for \$632,013.86

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made.

Roll Call Vote: Corbet-Aye; Evergettis-Aye; Gerbsman-Aye; Murray-Aye; Naso-Aye
Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0
Motion Passes

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be held on November 18, 2020.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS: A moment of silence was held for Jason Cortez, a 42 year old San Francisco Firefighter who was recently killed in a training accident. Director Murray asked all to remember him, his family, and others in the training tower that day; may they be in our thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S Gerbsman/Naso to adjourn this meeting at 7:26 p.m. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jena Wilson
Recording Secretary