

San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 25, 2010

Minutes

Board President Rickards called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Director Jackman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Directors Augustine, Brainard Clark, Jackman, Johnston, Rickards and Winter

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Division Chief Butcher, Division Chief Croucher, Battalion Chief Converse, Business Services Manager O'Dell, Administrative Specialist Dibb, and Recording Secretary Roos

1. Approval of Agenda: By Board consensus, the Agenda was approved with the addition of a brief closed session on Agenda Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be held prior to Public Communications.

The agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2010 was posted at the District Headquarters on Friday, March 19, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Board President Rickards adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 6:07 p.m.

3. Closed Session – Conference With Labor Negotiator (§54957.6): Agency Negotiators: Directors Brainard, Johnston, and Jackman. Employee Organization: Local 1434.
4. Closed Session – Conference With Labor Negotiator (§54957.6): Agency Negotiators: Directors Brainard, Johnston, and Jackman. Employee Organization: Fire Safety Professionals.
5. Closed Session – Conference With Labor Negotiator (§54957.6): Agency Negotiators: Directors Brainard, Johnston, and Jackman. Employee Organization: Fire Management Association.
6. Closed Session – Conference With Labor Negotiator (§54957.6): Agency Negotiators: Directors Brainard, Johnston, and Jackman. Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees: Division Chief, Business Services Manager, Administrative Specialist (Finance), Public Information Officer, and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

Board President Rickards reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 6:22 p.m., and reported that direction was given for Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, and 6. President Rickards stated he would like to read the following statement: "The District will be contacting all Labor Groups to set up meetings to discuss the 27th paycheck issue. Therefore, the plan set forth in the Office of the Chief memo dated March 17, 2010, has been rescinded pending further discussion with the Labor Groups. The District apologizes for any unnecessary concern and confusion that the original memo has caused District employees."

Public Communications:

Captain Theresa McKenna, member of Firefighters Local 1434, addressed the Board of Directors regarding budget issues and the closure of Truck 15. Captain McKenna urged the Board to focus on the needs of the District's citizens.

District citizen Jeff Nelson addressed the Board of Directors and asked them to please take note of the number of hours that employees are working.

Captain Kevin Clark, member of Firefighters Local 1434, addressed the Board of Directors regarding employee give-backs, the appearance of business as usual, and the use of general fund monies. Captain Clark requested the Board look at the rising Wellness Program costs to the District.

Captain Alan Laatsch, President of Firefighters Local 1434, addressed the Board of Directors regarding staffing levels. He noted one concern is related to the Company Inspection Program monies that were delegated to support a Training Captain position. He requested the Board review the benefit to the District of having part-time Fleet Maintenance employees and a part-time Supply Delivery employee. He asked the Board to also review the part-time VIPER volunteers, and noted the District recently purchased uniforms, boots and badges for them, and additionally, new turnouts are also going to be purchased by the District for them. Local 1434 President Laatsch asked the Board to also look at the part-time Fire Prevention employee who is being paid for Code Pal data entry. In closing, Local 1434 President Laatsch asked the Board to look at the budget and not make cuts on the backs of Labor.

2. 2010/2011 Budget Workshop: Chief Ghio provided an overview and PowerPoint presentation on the 2010/2011 preliminary budget. He noted that the cost recovery ordinance will be on the April Board Agenda. Another item noted was the kick-off of the Shared Services Task Force Subcommittees, and Chief Ghio will have a status report in about 2 months.

Director Clark requested a historical review of revenue and staffing patterns be looked at, going back about 10 years. Director Clark noted he would like special projects cut from the budget and compensation for Directors to be reduced by 50%. Board President Rickards requested these requests be submitted in written memo format to Chief Ghio for review with the Finance Committee.

Director Johnston noted she will be sending Chief Ghio a memo for forwarding to the Finance Committee. She noted she is against the VIPER Program employees wearing uniforms, and expressed the need to cut non-essential positions, not firefighter positions. She acknowledged that the public was not educated enough regarding the Service Benefit Fee.

Director Brainard requested that HCFA for call triage. Chief Ghio noted that HCFA Director Chip Yarborough will be providing an informational presentation and answering questions at the April, 2010 Board meeting. Director Brainard also inquired if there were any issues related to workers comp since the closure of E15.

Director Augustine suggested looking for a better response model for fire and medical. Director Rickards noted the Finance Committee has lightly touched on that topic and will meet again and report back at the April, 2010 Board meeting. Director Augustine also requested a review of policy issues prior to constructing a new preliminary budget.

Director Jackman expressed he is against the use of \$500,000 of Reserve Funds for a one-time fix. He noted that if all non-essential services were cut, it would not cover the \$1.5 million shortfall next fiscal year.

Director Winter requests if work continues on this preliminary budget, that when it is approved in June, that it be as close as possible to reflecting the final budget.

Director Rickards directed staff to have ready for the May 13, 2010 meeting:

- Review organizational staffing patterns over the past 7-8 years.
- Update the 2010/2011 preliminary budget to reflect additional reductions.
- Schedule a Finance Committee Meeting.

Director Rickards also requested Board members to submit their written requests to Chief Ghio as soon as possible.

Director Brainard left the room at 7:38 p.m.

Board President Rickards adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 7:40 p.m.

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Director Augustine left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Director Brainard returned to the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Board President Rickards reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 9:15 p.m., and reported that direction was given for Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

Board President Rickards adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy Roos

Nancy Roos
Recording Secretary