



## South Santa Clara County Fire District

15670 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • (408) 779-2121 • www.sscbfd.com  
Jake Hess, Fire Chief

### MINUTES OF THE SOUTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING OF October 14, 2020

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the South Santa Clara County Fire District was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 remotely via Teleconference. Chairperson Acker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

##### 1.1 ROLL CALL

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| A. Commissioners Present: | Acker, Monaco, Ludewig, Lewis, Scatena, Lopez and Carlson |
| B. Fire District Staff:   | Chief Hess and Chief Good                                 |
| C. Absent:                | None  |

##### 1.2 INTRODUCTIONS

Former Commissioner Dr. Pete Keesling was introduced.

##### 1.3 DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

District Clerk Athey certified that the meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code 54954.2.

#### 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### 3. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Item 6.3 – Management Audit Report – Information was added to the agenda.

### 4. Minutes and Expenditures

4.1 Approve Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2020

*On motion of Commissioner Monaco and seconded by Commissioner Scatena the August 12, 2020 minutes were approved by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Acker, Lewis, Scatena, Ludewig, Monaco, Lopez, and Carlson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

4.2 Approve August 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020 Expenditures

*On motion of Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Carlson the August 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 expenditures were approved by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Acker, Lewis, Scatena, Ludewig, Monaco, Lopez, and Carlson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

### 5. Board, Staff and Committee Reports

5.1 Statistical Report of Incidents

- Chief Good reported that there were 425 calls within the District in July/August. The District responded to 292 calls to other agencies. There were 307 calls where other agencies responded to the District.
- The District responded into Gilroy Fire 10 times and 272 times to Morgan Hill. Gilroy responded into the District 98 times and Morgan Hill responded into the District 147 times.

5.2 Inspector Statistical Report

- Chief Good reported that Craig worked 91 hours August through September and Shawn worked 32 hours in September training. They performed 11 new inspections and 6 follow-up inspections. They handled 0 complaint/referrals, attended no training or meetings and performed 10 plan reviews. Craig final day was September 30, 2020.

5.3 Volunteer Firefighters Report

- Due to Covid 19 the Volunteers have nothing to report.

#### 5.4 Mitigation Fees Report

- During the August 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 reporting period total fees collected were \$10,533.50. Fees collected reflect fees from 3 residence expansions, 4 garages, 2 detached storage units, 1 covered patio, 2 porches and 1 fire damage rebuild. There were no expenditures for the reporting period.

#### 5.5 Correspondence

No correspondence to report.

### 6. Old Business

#### 6.1 Financial Statements Audit - Information

Kathy Athey reported that the Draft Audited Financial Statements for FY 1920 were completed by Eide Bailly LLP. Final report will be available at the December meeting.

#### 6.2 FY 20/21 Budget – Information

Kathy Athey reported that she is working with staff to modify the FY 20/21 Approved Budget. There were several GL accounts that need updating to reflect actual revenues and expenditures including grants, maintenance and the Calfire personnel costs. Santa Clara County will be financing the new engine that will be received later this fiscal year. Payments for principal and interest will be added to the modified budget.

#### 6.3 Management Audit Report – Information

Chief Hess reported that the Board of Directors accepted the Management Audit Report and all recommendations at the October 6, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Acker disagreed with some of the responses and inquired on procedure to update those responses. Chief Hess stated that the report was accepted as written and is part of the public record, but he will check to see if there is a mechanism in place for the Board of Commissioners to submit additional responses.

Item will continue to be on the Board of Commissioners agenda for future meetings and staff will provided updates on progress made on recommendations.

## 7. New Business

### 7.1 Five-Year Mitigation Report - Action

*On motion of Commissioner Scatena and seconded by Commissioner Ludewig the Board of Commissioners accepts the Five-Year Mitigation Report as written and directs staff to forward the report to the Board of Directors for approval at the October 20, 2020 meeting was approved by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Scatena, Ludewig, Acker, Monaco, Lewis, Lopez and Carlson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

## 8. Request for Future Agenda Items

- Management Audit Report – Harvey Rose
- FY 19 Audited Financial Statement Final Report
- Budget Modifications

## 9. Chief's Report

- Chief Hess reported on the following:
  - **SCU Complex:**  
SCU Complex is 100% contained  
FSR was put on hold due to new emerging fires in October in LNU and SHU.  
FSR will start again this Monday (400k acres) We have placed a large resource request.  
Participated in many community meetings with the public.  
Santa Clara Cattlemen's Association was instrumental in getting stakeholders together and gathering private landowners to ensure everyone was aware of the resources available.  
Our Troops including District FF's have been working nonstop (55 days, 66 days with no days off)  
Chief Hess met up with 3 of our S/T's last Thursday on the Glass Fire
  - **Stats**  
Since August 15<sup>th</sup>, 3.7 M acres burned  
31 fatalities  
11k FF assigned to the fires  
650 engines  
247 Fire Crews  
158 Dozers  
234 Water Tenders

81 state assigned Aircraft  
8 million gallons of retardant  
15.3 million gallons of water  
Damage assessment teams have verified 9,282 structures destroyed  
15 of the 20 most destructive fires have occurred since 2015  
6 of the top 20 largest wildfires in California history have occurred in 2020  
YTD FIRES through October 12, 8,544 Fires for 4,110,223 Acres  
72 arsonists have been arrested by CAL FIRE officers in 2020  
50 wildland fires and 22 structure/vehicle fires

- **Current Conditions**  
Red Flag Warning is in effect for many areas in Northern California with gusty winds and low humidity through Friday  
SCU has upstaffed in anticipation of this Red Flag Warning.
- **Santa Clara County OEM:**  
We have been working with Santa Clara County OEM Office and partnering with them on joint facility opportunities for home and landowners for post fire issues.
- **First Responder Fees:**  
First Responder Fees are solvent from the County and private ambulance provider (AMR/Rural Metro) through 2024.
- **Assistance By Hire**  
Ongoing with District equipment.
- **Business Practice:**  
We are still running action items through County Council for determination for BOD vs BOC approval  
County indicated that contracts up to \$225k would not need BOD approval
- **Audit Report:**  
**E67**  
MH is paying for half of the maintenance for E67 (this needs to be formalized)
- **Consolidation: Partially agree (as it stated identify Options)**  
BOS decided to commission a 3<sup>rd</sup> party Consolidation study ensuring all parties, stake holders and the public are aware of the concept and available to be involved in this very complicated nuanced scenario. This is always a good idea to evaluate fire services and look for opportunities for efficiencies and ensure business practices for all agencies are understood.

### 10. Commissioner's Comments

All the Board of Commissioner's commended staff for all the work on the SCU Complex Fire. Many heard from local landowners and appreciated the outreach and updates during the fire. A huge thank you to all fire personnel for their hard work on the fire.

### 11. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Next regular meeting: December 9, 2020.

ATTEST *Jim Acker*  
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Jim Acker, Chairperson

*Kathy Athey*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Athey, Secretary