



# WILTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

9800 Dillard Road • Wilton, CA 95693

(916) 687-6920 • Fax (916) 687-8920

[www.wilton-fire.org](http://www.wilton-fire.org)

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board  
Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.  
Wilton Fire Station 81

### ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Obe Brown, Tom Dark, Ron Fiorica, and Edgar Monroy

Directors Not Present: Joe Guardino

Staff Present: Fire Chief, Jeff Cookson and Clerk of the Board, Andrea Adams

#### A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Director Fiorica called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Captain Dan Kunz

#### B. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. WFPD Firefighter Badge Pinning Ceremony – Deputy Chief Robinson  
Deputy Chief Robinson stated John Sinclair has successfully completed his Intern Firefighter Training with the WFPD
2. WFPD Board Committee Updates – None

#### C. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. None

#### D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **M/S** Brown/Dark To approve the consent calendar as written.  
**Approved 5/0**

#### E. STAFF REPORTS

1. Chief Cookson updated the Board on the prior month's activities through the Chief's Report:
  - i. June 2015 reported 69 calls and June 2014 reported 68 calls;
  - ii. There were two significant incidences; a 12-15 acre fire on Blake Road and one storage building was lost. There was also a large structure fire on Nygaard Lane;
  - iii. Fire Prevention – See attached report;
  - iv. Vehicle Maintenance – Engine 381 is in the shop for repairs. We're still waiting on an estimate and an exact description as to what needs repair. On the Blake Road fire, some damage occurred. It's been turned over to the insurance company. The Expedition had some air conditioning work done twice. The Suburban was in the shop again for additional complications with the fuel tank. Patrol 81 is in the shop with a check engine light;
  - v. Building Maintenance – the roll up door at Station 81 required repair;
  - vi. Training included the Com Center last night along with a tour; Saturday we're going to do some Wildland Progressive Hose Lays and Drafting at the Canal;



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- vii. General Information – We've selected ten individuals to be tested and hired for our new Intern Position that was approved last month. Right now we're in the paperwork and orientation stage. Hopefully, everyone will be on the schedule for August.

Our new apparatus is on the way. Delivery is scheduled for one water tender for the first week in September, and the second the first week in October, and the engine in the latter part of October.

President, Bryan Eisenbeisz, of the Wilton Firefighters Association stated a Pancake Breakfast/Waterless Carwash was held and about \$3,000 was donated to the U.C. Davis Burn Institute.

The Chili Cook Off will be held on September 12, 2015. The Directors are invited to attend and be the judges.

### F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surplus Fire Equipment Supplies – Chief Cookson  
Recommendation: To sell WFPD surplus equipment  
Discussion: Our new apparatus is on its way, so we need to surplus some of the old equipment out. Two of the apparatus were listed with Brindley Mountain and there hasn't been much activity. So, we'd like to help out some neighboring Districts.

Director Brown stated his concern is that we have one in the shop. We don't know when we're going to get it back, and we're in fire season. I would like to get the one out of the shop and then list them.

Chief Cookson stated it's not an overnight type of sale. It's more of a process. We would release them based on when our new vehicles arrive and put into service so we're not cut short. The two water tenders we can't live without. It would be part of the negotiation process.

**M/S Monroy/Brown** To accept the recommendation as written.

**Approved 4/0**

2. Sandbag Retention Distribution – Mr. Rose  
Recommendation: To return the Sandbag/Distribution to Station 81  
Discussion: Mr. Rose stated, last year, the County cargo container used for sandbag retention/distribution was relocated. The decision was to relocate the operation to the Alta Mesa Station East of Walmort Road. As I recall, the move was due to a concern that the cargo container in use by the County of Sacramento was in questionable condition (possibly an eye sore). Returning the operation to the central Fire Station (Station 81/Dillard and Wilton Road) is being recommended. Perhaps the County of Sacramento could provide a better looking container or minimally the existing container could have minor rehabilitation to make it more acceptable.

Following are a few of the reasons in support of the operation to the central Fire Station:

- 1). Station 81 is the most central location and better serves the community of Wilton;



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- 2). Areas subject to flooding (based on the flood of 1997), are in the low lands and in closer proximity to Station 81. Little, if any, flooding occurred in the area of the Mesa (current location of the cargo container). It is called "Alta Mesa" for a reason;
- 3). The State of Texas more recently experienced major flooding after four years of drought. We are experiencing major drought conditions and have for a number of years;
- 4). Meteorologists are noting formation of El Nino which may or may not contribute to a wetter than normal winter. Some even go so far as to predict a season comparable to 1997 or worse.
- 5). To error on the side of caution in preparation for any possible adverse condition should be the first priority. Serving the best interest of the community is priority number one.

As the Board of Directors is prohibited from addressing any items not included on the Agenda, it is respectfully requested the matter be placed on a future Agenda in order to allow members of the governing Board to weigh in. I have an Addendum to that.

In the information provided on June 17, 2015, I made reference to a recollection that the relocation of the cargo container, housing the sandbag operation, was due to the condition of the container (a possible eye sore). I have been unable to find supportive information to that recollection and for that I apologize.

What I did find was an entry in the Minutes of August 25, 2014 in which it was noted that, "the konex box for sandbags will be going away tomorrow. It's going to be moved to Station 84 where there's higher ground and we're going to get a new one that is one color." The fact that there is reference to a new one would suggest condition issues of the previous unit.

On the surface, the reason of "higher ground" seems a logical consideration; however, I contend that based on facts centering on the flood of 1997, as well as the history of the area, that factor becomes less convincing.

In the flood of 1997, once information was released regarding the potential of flooding, members of the community proceeded to the Fire Station to collect sandbags to protect their property. They did so prior to any flooding. I suspect others, who were not under immediate threat, waited until flooding had occurred in adjacent areas prior to proceeding to Station 81 to obtain sandbags. The fact the distribution was at the central Fire Station (Station 81) best served the needs of the community. The Fire Station did not flood.

In fact, I am unaware of any history of flooding of the existing central Fire Station (Station 81). If residents had waited until actual flooding had occurred in their immediate area, they would not have been able to obtain sandbags, no matter where those sandbags were located, as those individuals would have been surrounded by water and unable to exit their own properties. In our case, water on the County Road was 4-6 feet deep. As it worked out, the central location of Station 81 best served the immediate needs of the community.

Station 81 is staffed 24/7 and that factor is a consideration in any situations of potential disaster. I received some information today from someone who is very supportive of our Department that indicated while the sandbag operation was here, that they came and helped fill sandbags and the crew was present and assisted in that endeavor.

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I had the occasion to talk to County Supervisor, Don Nottoli. He indicated that should a concern exist regarding the condition and/or look of the cargo container, as provided by the County, he would see that any future cargo container no matter where it's located, would be acceptable to the WFPD.

I would also recommend the signage board/marquis located at Station 81 reflect when sandbags are available - no matter the location of the distribution site.

The matter is being presented for action by the governing Board for a vote in favor or against returning the sandbag retention operation to Station 81.

Director Brown responded, we did have to sandbag this place.

Director Fiorica stated it did flood in 1997.

Mr. Rose stated yes, but it was operational.

Director Brown stated we had to move operations to Station 84 and we had to land the helicopters there. Station 81 is 82' and Alta Mesa is at 124' elevation. Plus we have more space at Station 84 for people to move in and out of without traffic and lack of parking space.

Director Fiorica stated Chief Cookson did check with the County and he assured me they can deliver sandbags here if needed.

Chief Cookson stated he talked with Sacramento County Water Resources and they indicated that in an emergency situation, when sandbags are being deployed, we can set up a secondary sandbag distribution site here or wherever we see fit. They will work with us in an emergency situation.

Mr. Rose asked if they stated there's emergency flooding, then you could have extra sandbags here?

Chief Cookson responded, yes.

Director Dark stated the sandbags in the konex box are no longer any good.

Chief Cookson stated we can set up a distribution site wherever we choose.

Mr. Rose said, thank you.

### **No Action Taken**

### **G. OLD BUSINESS**

1. CSDA Nominations – Director Fiorica

Recommendation: To select a representative for the CSDA Board of Directors for Seat A.

Discussion: Director Brown suggested Noelle Mattock. Director Dark disagreed with the District being a member of CSDA due to the fact that the membership fee is so high and we don't utilize it enough to justify the expense.



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**M/S Brown/Fiorica** To elect Noelle Mattock as a representative for the CSDA Board of Directors, Seat A.

Approved 3/0

Abstained (Dark) 1

2. CCSD Maintenance Agreement – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: To review and approve the CCSD Maintenance Agreement

Discussion: Exhibit A and Exhibit B are now complete. The hourly rate is staying the same. The rest was just fill in the blanks with our information. I would like to get this going so we can continue our relationship with the shop especially after this past month.

Director Fiorica agreed and stated he would like to get this completed.

Director Brown stated he agrees and believes it's our best option to service the trucks.

**M/S Brown/Dark** To accept the contract as written.

**Approved 4/0**

3. C.P.A. Position – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: To reinstate Mr. Robert Merritt's services

Discussion: Chief Cookson stated Mr. Robert Merritt is present and he would like to return as the C.P.A. for the District.

Director Monroy stated he would like him to assist us in putting together our books and records, conduct bank reconciliations, and tie in the general ledger every month, and he will forward him some recommendations and discuss them with him.

Chief Cookson asked if that would delay him getting started.

Director Brown stated we have a closed session following the open meeting.

Director Fiorica stated we can discuss it further in closed session.

Chief Cookson thanked Mr. Merritt for attending the meeting.

4. Station 81 Remodel – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: Remodel Station 81

Discussion: Chief Cookson announced Assistant Chief Graham has a presentation. Assistant Chief Graham stated the Administration is considering different options for the immediate and long range plans for remodeling Station 81. As is currently stands, we feel that there are not sufficient funds to complete a full remodel. We are about half way in our efforts to save money for a full remodel. It is our hope that within five or six years the savings will be sufficient to move forward.

With that in mind, I took an informal poll from our personnel asking what immediate changes they would like to see. Their answer was to improve the dormitory. If you look at item number one, it is our recommendation that we combine the dormitory with the Training Office and the adjacent hallway. This would give us an open dormitory that could sleep up to six firefighters.





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Second, we would like to make a few changes to the women's public restroom. We will add a wall where the current restroom door is. That area, where the refrigerators are, would then become the new Training Office. Next we will add a door from the hallway that will go directly into the restroom.

One sink will be removed. If ADA requires a changing table, there will be adequate room for one. The toilet under the stairs will be removed and turned into a storage cabinet. In conclusion, I will be giving the Board updates on the progress of this program as we move forward.

Director Dark asked what the cost will be.

Assistant Chief Graham stated the first phase to we will need get three bids and get them back to the Board, along with the costs of the permits. He stated that he will make a presentation. He further stated that there's no way that he can tell what the costs will be but nothing will be done without the Board's approval.

Chief Cookson stated I'm looking for guidance, is this concept something the Board is interested in?

Director Fiorica asked if this was an interim project or the full scope.

Chief Cookson stated this is interim that will be incorporated into the full scope of the remodeling project and that what's done in the interim won't be done twice.

Director Brown stated we never saw the scope of the remodel or the blueprints of it.

Director Dark stated we presented three different sets of plans to the Board.

Director Brown stated he doesn't remember them and we'll have to see what's in them.

Chief Cookson stated he has the three sets of plans on his desk.

Director Brown asked if any of those plans have the same concept.

Chief Cookson responded, no, that was a major remodel. This is very minor.

Director Brown stated, I know, I'm talking about the same concept of the dorm.

Chief Cookson stated, no.

Director Dark stated those plans were a lot more in depth. This is a quick fix.

Director Brown stated he will stop by the Station and look at the plans.

Director Fiorica asked the Chief to obtain the cost information.

Chief Cookson stated he will continue to work with the Remodeling Committee.

Director Dark suggested setting a spending limit.

Chief Cookson stated we'll figure out the costs for the architect to get started and get a price to see where we're at.



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Director Fiorica asked if that could be brought back next month.

Chief Cookson responded, sure.

## No Action Taken

## H. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FURTHER MEETINGS

1. None

## I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### Closed Session Item

1. Personnel – C.P.A. (Government Code Section 54957)

## J. ADJOURNMENT

Board adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Adams".

Andrea Adams  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Fiorica".

Ron Fiorica  
Chairman