



WILTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

9800 Dillard Road • Wilton, CA 95693

(916) 687-6920 • Fax (916) 687-8920

www.wilton-fire.org

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. WILTON FIRE STATION 81

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Obe Brown, Ron Fiorica, Joe Guardino, Al Iaccopucci and Edgar Monroy

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

A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Director Monroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Andrea Adams

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. WFPD Board Committee Updates – None

C. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Mr. Eugene Rose provided the Board with a document regarding weed abatement. Mr. Rose emailed Chief Cookson regarding information related to weed abatement. The request was generated as a result of the unusual heavy rain season and heavy growth of native grasses. The questions posed are as follows:
 - 1). Do you currently have an active Weed Abatement Program? What does it consist of? How is it implemented? I also noted that the Weed Abatement Program was previously handled by the Fire Marshal – a position that no longer exists. The concern came to mind with the thick growth of grasses. I noted the Union Pacific Railroad tracks throughout Wilton is a good example of potential impact on neighboring properties.
 - 2). I also found on your website that in 2013, a list of companies that assisted with weed abatement was provided. However, that list appears to be outdated as it was last revised in March 2013.

Mr. Rose added, Chief Cookson's email response dated May 31, 2017 indicated:

- 1). Yes, crews do inspections and issue notices.
- 2). Updates will occur as staff time permits. If a citizen would like to compile a list of companies - that may expedite the update. All contractors or companies would need to be licensed and insured.

On June 1, 2017 as a point of clarification, an email was sent to Chief Cookson asking the following:

- 1). Do you keep a log related to inspections?
- 2). How many inspections were completed in May 2017?
- 3). How many notices were issued in May 2017?

I also indicated that I would be asking the same questions during the months of June, July, August and September. I may also ask for supportive documentation with redact of individual names.

Since the first email of May 31, 2017, I have noticed that some effort has been made regarding weed abatement along the Union Pacific tracks. As of today (June 14, 2017), I have yet to receive the additional requested information as related to inspections and notices. As you know, the requested information is within the expectations of disclosure as noted in the California Records Act and should be released in a timely manner.



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Wilton Resident, Tom Hinkle, addressed the Board stating the times on the fire permits does not work and poses more of a fire danger because of having to wait until 10:00 a.m. to call in. It makes no sense. From a citizen's standpoint and as a local farmer, it doesn't work for me nor a lot of us.

Regarding cleaning up the vegetation, the last Fire Marshal issued a violation on my property while I was in China. So my neighbor was looking over my property while I was gone, and he mowed the 30' strip around my property, which took away grass from my animals. Furthermore, how is the fire department and the county going to go and tell other people to go ahead and clean up their vegetation on their property when they can't do the same? From my fence, there's a property on the side of my fence, its county property. Am I supposed to maintain county property? Is the county going to pay me to maintain and cut those weeds so if somebody goes out with a cigarette when they're driving by my property – it doesn't burn my fence up and then my cows get out? So, hopefully I can hear back from you guys regarding a change in those times, and we can call in here to the firefighters on duty and ask if it's a burn day.

Director Guardino responded, those decisions don't rest solely with us. The number you're calling is a Regional Dispatch number and they determine based on the information they obtain in the mornings from the Air Resources Board, the forecasts. There are several factors that go into the decision making process to deem whether or not it's a burn day and that's county wide. We don't make specific decisions for Wilton. They determine if it's a burn day – we don't, and that goes for the entire County of Sacramento.

Director Guardino further stated, the times are to allow them to gather that information in the morning. It's a lot larger than the Wilton Fire Protection District. The Air Resources Board is involved and, unfortunately, that decision doesn't rest with us.

Mr. Hinkle stated, things happen at the local level, so I'm posing a message to you.

Director Guardino stated there exemptions for agricultural burns, and if you qualify, then there are some different rules that may apply to you. So, I would encourage you to look into it.

Mr. Hinkle stated, but if I have a neighbor next to me starting his burn at 10:00 and the wind picks up, then that burn now poses a hazard to my property. Do you see the conundrum there?

Director Guardino stated you can call that same number on your burn permit and voice your concerns. That's why they keep a record of who is burning so they can reach out to those people should conditions change and they can advise them to extinguish.

Mr. Hinkle asked how this all started in the first place? How is it now that we have to go through a bunch of bureaucracy to get a burn permit in the first place? What is a permit? A permit is permission. So, I'm coming to you and having to ask you for permission. It doesn't make sense.

Director Guardino stated the burn regulations are set county wide and we follow those burn regulations here at Wilton.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. M/S Guardino/Brown 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:

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- i. May 2017 reported 51 calls and May 2016 reported 58 calls;
- ii. Significant Incidences – Three small grass fires (not exceeding two acres) and two major vehicle accidents;
- iii. Vehicle Maintenance – Water Tender 83 is at the shop in Modesto for some warranty items;
- iv. Building Maintenance – The gravel arrived and was installed at Station 84 for our training grounds and the conex boxes arrived;
- v. Fire Prevention – There are three new projects listed.

Captain Diede addressed the Weed Abatement Program. He stated they start around the middle of April. They perform weed abatement for public safety purposes, protect properties and livestock and for firefighter safety. The way we go about it is public education. A route is selected, the property is assessed, we'll stop and talk to the resident and 90% of the time, that's all it takes.

This year we came up with a District map. If any areas of concern develop, we'll mark the map, note in our records, and follow up with the homeowner. A Notice is secondary, asking for 100' clearance around the structures and 50' around property lines and vegetation.

Chief Cookson stated we're trying to educate the community in mowing short and early. One of our big concerns this year was the railroad and they have since taken care of it. Also, we're three to four weeks ahead of where we were last year with residents cutting their weeds.

Mr. Rose asked Captain Diede when the Weed Abatement Program began this year? Captain Diede responded, in mid-April. However, we're always assessing areas of concern in the District. Mr. Rose stated the Notices are not community friendly with the red print. He said he likes the idea of the firefighters going out as first responders and contacting people. He would like when the Notices are handed out to give people an updated list of contractors.

Chief Cookson stated we do log when we give a Notice. If we talk to someone – we don't log it.

Director Guardino stated the log is the highlighted map. With how many inspections they've done, they cover the road. If the property's abated and it's within the guidelines, they keep on driving.

Mr. Rose asked how many Notices were issued? Chief Cookson stated we have a file of the Notices issued. However, we don't have a record of how many people we've gone out and talked to. The list of contractors has been updated and is located on the District's website.

- vi. Training – Includes Module Three, Wildland Training, and Saturday is Task Book Sign Offs, and last Saturday we had a live burn. Thank you to Pizza Bell for donating lunch to the firefighters;
- vii. General Information – The Association attended the Memorial Day event at the Post Office. I received a nice thank you from Susan Maggy for the firefighters assistance. Captain Carl spoke about the Association. He stated the Chili Cook Off will be held on August 26, 2017. Director Guardino thanked the Association for their continued efforts in supporting the District.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. SDRMA Notification of Nominations for Four Seats on the Board of Directors – Director Monroy
Recommendation: Nomination for four positions on the Board of Directors.
Discussion: Director Monroy stated the incumbents did a good job and recommends Timothy Unruh. Director Guardino agreed.

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M/S Guardino/Fiorica To vote for the three incumbents and Timothy Unruh.

Approved 5/0

2. Contract with CSD for Plan Checks- Chief Cookson

Recommendation: Hire a Plan Review Contractor for the District on a monthly basis

Discussion: Chief Cookson stated due to workload and lack of personnel, CSD is terminating the Plan Review Contract with the District. We have not yet received anything official and I don't have an end date. I've asked Chief Hansen for contractors they would recommend. I would like the Board to approve that we find a contractor on a month to month basis until we figure it out. I don't want people in the community to have their permits delayed.

Director Guardino recommended contacting Chief Hansen and discussing our meeting schedule and see if they'll carry us until the next meeting. If that's not a possibility, then we might have to meet to execute and agreement so we don't hold anyone up.

Chief Cookson stated Chief Hansen was supportive in not leaving us hanging. Her last day is June 30, 2017.

No Action Taken

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Addendum to California Broadband Contract – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: Approve California Broadband Contract to Include Addendum

Discussion: Chief Cookson stated there's the old contract, the new contract, and then the addendum. I'd like to see it as one so it's not cumbersome.

Director Monroy stated the first contract is very detailed and concise and holds both parties accountable, so I'd like to gravitate towards that.

Director Guardino stated he'd like Mr. Hugo to combine the documents and bring us an agreement to review.

Director Brown stated he's concerned that once the towers are installed on the District's property, if the Broadband service is discontinued, we have our communication on there for the District. Then the towers would need to become the property of the District and cannot be removed once installed.

Director Iaccopucci stated we should have something in writing that the tower will stay here.

Mr. Hugo stated he doesn't have a problem with that, and clarified one of the contracts is for the rental space and that's why it's different.

Mr. Hinkle inquired about an environmental study and Mr. Hugo responded that towers have to be within the requirements of the FCC. There's no need for an environmental study because the FCC has jurisdiction.

Mr. Hinkle asked about the wattage. Mr. Hugo stated it's the same as your Wi-Fi router.

Director Guardino stated he has to obtain the permits, the licenses, meet the zoning requirements, federal and state regulations, and he's responsible for doing all of that. There is a direct benefit to the community as a whole for us to enter into a partnership.

Director Brown stated we should open it up to all private companies. He asked how much power does a tower draw and where is the power from?

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Mr. Hugo responded the average tower is 130 watts and several towers are running from solar panels.

Director Guardino suggested forwarding the concerns to Chief Cookson so that he can address them with Mr. Hugo.

No Action Taken

2. Station 81 Remodel – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: Update the Board on the Station Remodel

Discussion: Chief Cookson stated the subcommittee will meet and discuss Phase II of the Station 81 remodel.

No Action Taken

3. WFPD Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget and Resolution 2017-03 – Chief Cookson

Recommendation: Approve the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Preliminary Budget

Discussion: Chief Cookson stated regarding the Preliminary Budget, it's very similar to last year's. Fees have increased for insurance and some other routine services but they are minimal. The Budget Committee will fine tune the Preliminary for the Final Budget.

M/S Guardino/Monroy To approve the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Preliminary Budget and Resolution 2017-03 as written

Approved 5/0

H. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. California Broadband Contract

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

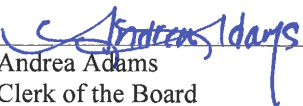
Closed Session Item

1. Public Employment – Fire Chief
(Government Code Section 54957.6)

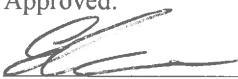
J. ADJOURNMENT

Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrea Adams
Clerk of the Board

Approved:


Edgar Monroy
Chairman