

**AMADOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting Was Recorded

Jackson, California
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
10:30 AM

The Board of Directors of the Amador Fire Protection District met in the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, on the above date pursuant to adjournment, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present:

Jeff Brown, Chair
Brian Oneto, Vice Director
Pat Crew, Director
Richard Forster, Director

Absent:

Frank Axe, Director

Staff:

Walter White, Fire Chief
Robert Withrow, Deputy Fire Chief
Nicole Cook, Clerk of the Board

AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Director Forster and seconded by Director Crew and carried 4-0-1, to approve the agenda, Director Axe absent.

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Chief White expressed gratitude to the Board of Directors for allowing him to be Fire Chief the past four and half years. He also acknowledged the public present for their support and input - community resident Cindy Grandbois, Chief Maurice Johnson from El Dorado Hills Fire and Local 5181 Union President.

PRESENTATION: Chair Brown presented the Resolution of Recognition for Fire Chief Walt White. Discussion relative to subject matter. Director Forster gave a statement of gratitude and requested that Chief White return for the ground breaking of the new fire station along with inviting retired Fire Chief McCart. Director Crew and Director Brown also gave a statement of gratitude. Chief Johnson of El Dorado Hills addressed the Board stating that Amador Fire currently has capable leaders and he looks forward to continued collaboration.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Forster and seconded by Director Crew and carried 4-0-1 to approve resolution as presented, Director Axe absent.

RESOLUTION NO. AFPD 23-01

Approving the Resolution of Recognition to Walter White serving as the Fire Chief for the Amador Fire Protection District for the last four and half years.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Appointment of Deputy Fire Chief Robert Withrow as Interim Fire Chief: Fire Chief White presented the request. Discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Director Forster requests to forgo the interim process and make the qualified Deputy Chief, Fire Chief. Chief White states it's at discretion of the Board of Directors. Director Oneto states that the position should be vetted and put out publicly. Director Forster states that there would be cost savings to the District to not put out an extensive hiring process and that the individual is already qualified. Cindy Grandbois addressed the Board and asked to define the vetting process and Director Forster answered advertising and qualifications. Chief Johnson of El Dorado Hills Fire addressed the Board stating that the vetting process has already begun for decades now regarding Chief Withrow's qualifications. Director Forster mentioned that the candidate is a local resident. He is a servant leader and qualified. Local 5181 President, Aaron Martinez addressed the Board stating that if he were speaking on behalf of the Union he can only speak on the Interim Fire Chief at this time.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Forster to make Robert Withrow Fire Chief and bypass the Interim process.

Hearing no second, the above motion died for lack of majority vote.

Chair Brown announced a short recess at 10:52 AM to consult County Counsel regarding the new motion to bypass "interim" Fire Chief to Fire Chief upon Chief White's retirement.

Reconvened 10:56 AM. Chair Brown gave the direction, at the recommendation of County Counsel, to proceed with the original agenda item.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Forster and seconded by Director Crew and carried 3-0-2, to approve the appointment of Deputy Fire Chief as Interim Fire Chief. Director Axe absent, Director Oneto abstained.

Board Clerk gave the Fire Chief oath of office.

Recess at 11:03 AM for refreshments and photographs.

Reconvene at 11:15 AM.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award: Fire Chief White presented the award and gave a special thank you to Battalion Chief Aaron Watkins for his efforts completing and submitting the grant. Discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Chief White states that currently the District uses the Cal Fire's Sutter Hill extractors to clean personal protective gear. Those extractors are aging. Cindy Grandbois addressed the Board saying that the state will be mandating all fire departments to have extractors. She also requested that there be oversight for the other departments to use the machines.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Crew and seconded by Director Oneto and carried 4-0-1, Director Axe absent to approve the acceptance of Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award and to have a policy in place.

Training Report: Chief White presented. Discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Report only, no action taken.

Call Report: Chief White presented. Discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Report only. Direction given to staff by Chair Brown to report out on current fires along with education to the public other than social media on prevention efforts, maybe offer at local hardware stores, senior day at the Fair, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

Regular Minutes for Meeting from February 21, 2023: Discussion ensued relative to subject matter.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Forster and seconded by Director Crew and carried 4-0-1, Director Axe absent, to approve the February 21st meeting minutes with minor corrections.

Chair Brown gave a last thank you to Chief White and wished him good luck with his future endeavors.

ADJOURNMENT: At 11:41 am. Chair Brown adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, April 18, 2023.


Chair, Amador Fire Protection District

