

Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2013
Ross Valley Fire Department
Station 19
777 San Anselmo Ave.
San Anselmo

Closed Session.

No reportable action from the closed session.

Board present: Weinsoff, Reed, Hoertkorn, Small, Kroot, McInerney, Berto, Shortall

Staff present: Stutsman, Meagor, McCarthy, Hanson, Stasiowski, Lewis

No public to address the board.

No Board or staff requests.

Consent Agenda: M/S Weinsoff/McInerney to approve consent agenda as presented. All ayes.

Monthly call report – President Kroot appreciates the charts and graphs. Member McInerney asked about the Mutual Aid given by Station 18 and if it is due to their geographic location. Chief Meagor responded yes, and also explained how the Mutual Aid system works. Member Hoertkorn asked about the response to a call in Ross and the number of vehicles that were on the scene. Chief Meagor explained how the dispatch system works for various responses. Any medical call usually has a fire engine, an ambulance and many times a police officer. For a structure fire there could be four engines, an ambulance, a battalion chief, and the police department. There could be a truck company dispatched as well, depending on the nature and location of the call.

Current Financial Report: Chief Meagor explained the current report. The figures are in line with where we should be at this point in the fiscal year.

Approval of MOU side Letter agreement with RVFCOA and RVFFA – Chief Meagor reviewed the staff report and highlighted the contents of the letter regarding retiree health benefits. M/S Weinsoff/McInerney to approve. All ayes.

Approval of 12-year Vehicle Replacement Schedule and review of funding plan: Chief Meagor reviewed the staff report and explained the background of the plan. He explained the usual useful life of the engines and how 15 years is the maximum that an engine should be first run. The plan calls for lease purchasing the fire engines and paying cash for the staff vehicles. He then explained the funding plan and how that would assist in planning for future purchases. Staff is looking for direction from the board and to determine if this should be included in the

budget. The funding plan is drafted so that funds do not run out in any given year. Member Shortall said the schedule is a very good one and should at least try to get the contributions up to what they should be. President Kroot asked about the increased costs from the late '90s to now. Chief Meagor responded that due to changes in the California Diesel emissions regulations, it caused a significant increase to the costs of the engines.

Member Small agrees that there should be a funding plan and there should be funds set aside for the capital purchases. She asked about staff vehicles, how many there are and what vehicles are currently in use. The Ross Council would like to see the costs and what is involved. Member Small also brought up the Fire Inspector and that he is stricter than what they are used to and that there is more requirements than before. She asked if the Type 1 engines are necessary to get up their roads and is concerned about the increased cost of updating/changing roads because of turnarounds. She wants to "think outside of the box for Ross" and see if there are other options available for Ross. She stated that she believes in capital expenditures and putting the money aside for future purchases. Chief Meagor responded that yes you do need a Type 1 engines because of the size of houses in Ross. Turnarounds are State requirements and there are safety concerns for egress for people and firefighters and equipment. Staff vehicles are always considered and approved by the board. The Chief also had the information from the Town of Ross' replacement schedule and that the Town has now lowered their equipment costs because of the merger. The amounts for each member in the funding plan are based on the Member's percentage share included in the JPA document.

Discussion about the plan and how to proceed and staff is looking for direction and for the board to approve the 12-year Vehicle Replacement Schedule. M/S McInerney/Berto to approve the replacement Schedule as presented. 7 ayes – Berto, Shortall, McInerney, Kroot, Small, Reed, Weinsoff; 1 abstain – Hoertkorn.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

Minutes respectfully submitted,



JoAnne Lewis

Administrative Assistant