

Chester Public Utility District
PO Box 503
251 Chester Airport Rd
Chester, CA 96020
530 258 2171

Minutes of Special Meeting: January 3, 2019 at 3:00pm. Located in the Chester Public Utility District conference room: 251 Chester Airport Road.

Directors Present: Wes Scott, Steve Voboril, Brian Layne, Steve Trotter and Ben Thompson.

Directors Absent: None

Guest Present: Sherrie Thrall, Steve Grafweg,

Staff Present: 7 CPUD/CFD employees and volunteers (Clerk to the Board, Johnson: Late arrival)

1. **Call to Order:** Director Scott called the meeting to order at 3:58pm
 - A. Director Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Agenda approval: Director Layne made the motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Director Thompson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Board Member Workshop:**
 - A. **Prepare for the Community Meeting Regarding the Fire Department Survey.**

Director Scott opened with the reason for the meeting. This is an open meeting with one topic, anyone can say anything.

Director Layne said we should give a reason why we need more money. A possible solution is a different fee schedule.

Director Thompson: The last fee increase was 14 years ago (2004). We are operating in the red now.

Why the increase? Cost of living, do we give the same level of service as before? Could there be a business fee and a residential fee? What about a base assessment on properties.

Some history on the \$95 current fee. When the current assessment went in we did not operate the ambulance. We only had a Chief and a one paid firefighter. Taking on the ambulance led to different staffing levels. The ambulance does not support itself but it does bring in revenue.

Mr. Grafweg brought up the subject of trust with the department. Reference was made to the cost of the survey that was done. There also needs to be more equity between fees to the business owners and fees to residential.

Chief Waterman articulated that we need to get financially healthy before we offer new services, ie: building inspections.

Ideas suggested for revenue stream: possible ambulance district tax, get reimbursement for calls to Lassen Park, charge impact fees for new construction for ambulance and fire use, plan check fees, other fees we are not currently charging. Ambulance subscription service, motel tax.

Items to work on before the community meeting: Figure cost to the public for an

Outside ambulance service to come in.

Make a timeline of events that have affected the CFD from 2004 to current. Ie: 2009 merger with CPUD, condition of the district, increase in responses, volunteer numbers vs paid staff, department staffing (is there a bloat?), costs of training.

Do a study of different ways to fund the CFD , the costs of the funding, the pros and cons of each.

Check in with Lafco , how to start a new district.

Make a graphic display of the 500 account, add why it can not be relied on as a revenue stream.

There is no date set for the community meeting or mailing.

There needs to be a unified message that goes out. Part of the message is “this is your fire department”.

See the attached for the list from the flip chart.

Adjournment: 4:29pm

Karen Lichti, CFD PIO

Approval of minutes


