

**TUOLUMNE FIRE DISTRICT**

18690 MAIN STREET

TUOLUMNE, CA 95379-9686

(209) 928-4505 - FAX (209) 928-9723

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 6:00p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. by Brian Bell, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brian Bell – Chairman, Adam Artzer - Vice Chairman, Darlene Hutchins – Secretary.

Absent: Tony Kreig – Treasurer, one vacant seat to be filled.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nick Ohler, Chief

Jeff Santi, Captain

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** **April 11, 2022**

**May 2022 – Meeting Canceled**

Adam Artzer made a motion to approve the previous minutes as written.

Brian Bell seconded the motion.

No public comment. Vote 3/0 – Motion carried.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

As always, the department is running very well under the leadership of Chief Ohler and guidance of Captain Santi.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Preliminary Budget FY 2022/2023:**

Based on last year, there is a 3% increase in taxes this year, which is approximately $2,000, and a 4% increase in revenues. Employee Group Insurance is up approximately $200, and it is not clear if other insurance will increase or decrease until later in the year. Expendable equipment may change a little bit due to adjusting for higher fuel costs. Appropriations & Contingencies are $19,314 with the RFC 50/50 matching grant, which will leave us with $22, 000 we can use for salary adjustments. If we do not get the RFC grant, we would have $42,000 to use.

Darlene Hutchins made a motion to accept the preliminary budget as written, with a further discussion on salaries to follow and be finalized by the time the Final Budget is submitted. Brian Bell seconded the motion.

No public comment. Vote 3/0 – Motion carried.

1. **Salary Scale Update:**

On January 1, 2022, the minimum wage for a company that employs less than 25 employees went up to $14.00/hr. on January 1, 2023, the minimum wage will go up to $15/hr. The firefight position on the salary scale needs to be upgraded to meet the California State Law to be in legal compliance.

Chief Ohler also made a recommendation to raise the Intern pay scale from $550 to $600 a month. Chief also recommended that the Relief Operator be adjusted from $15/hr. to possibly $16/hr. which would be an increase of $1,100/yr. or another possibility would be to raise it to $20/hr. which would be an increase of $5,000/yr.

Full-time staff have not had an increase since 2017 and it was agreed that there should be an increase moving the Chief from step A - $21/hr. to

step C - $23/hr. and the Captain from step C - $20/hr. to step E - $22/hr. retroactive to the beginning of the current pay period.

Brian Bell made a motion to make the above changes with the exception of the Relief Operator where there will be further discussion by the budget committee and the committee will bring back their recommendations to the July board meeting. Darlene Hutchins seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3/0. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Strategic Planning Committee:**

The committee (Brian Bell, Tony Kreig, and Chief Ohler) met with Division Chief Keven Patton, Unit Chief Casci, and Assistant Chief Murphy to discuss intentions of the fire district and the Fire Service in the County as a whole. Chief Casci brought up the fact if Tuolumne Fire District wanted to enter into a Schedule A contract with CAL FIRE, the cost would be around $1.7 million due to an increase in staffing requirement that they have adopted. The committee felt it was a good discussion and that many ideas were exchanged. The goal of the Strategic Planning Committee is to create a bond of goodwill and transparency. There will be further meetings and discussions in the future.

**2. Department Report (the detailed report is attached to these minutes)**

Chief Ohler also discussed the Chief’s Meeting where Chief New is

preparing a spreadsheet, a spreadsheet that highlights options that the districts could offer the County. Chief said this is a work in progress and that there are more good things coming and he will keep us updated after future meetings.

**3. Administration Report**

All reports were reviewed and approved this month.

**4. Approval of Warrants and Requisitions**

All warrants and requisitions were approved.

**ADJOURN**

**7:28 pm. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – July 11, 2022**