

**TUOLUMNE FIRE DISTRICT**

18690 MAIN STREET

TUOLUMNE, CA 95379-9686

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 @ 6:00p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. by Brian Bell, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brian Bell – Chairman, Adam Artzer - Vice Chairman, Darlene Hutchins – Secretary, Mike Capuccini – Board Member.

Absent: Tony Kreig – Treasurer.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jeff Santi, Chief

Bill Hutchins – Volunteer Engineer

John Feriani – Special Districts Rep. for LAFCO

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

John Feriani let the department know that he is the new Special Districts Representative for LAFCO. Adam Artzer is the Alternate

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** **January 21, 2025**

Mike Capuccini made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Adam Artzer seconded the motion.

No public comment. The vote was 4/0 – with one absent. Motion carried.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

The department continues to run smoothly because of the dynamic work of Chief Santi and Engineer DeGraff.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ohler Appreciation Dinner:**

Darlene Hutchins has asked for a budget of $600 to do a Taco Bar and gift for Chief Ohler’s departure from Tuolumne City Fire. Chief Santi is going to check with Jordan Craddock to make a special metal wall hanging as the gift. Brian Bell with check on a date for the dinner, possibly the end of April.

Brian Bell made a motion to allow Hutchins up to $600 for the Taco Bar and the gift. Mike Capuccini seconded the motion.

No public comment. The vote was 4/0 – with one absent. Motion carried.

1. **Election of Officers:**

Hutchins, who was absent during the last meeting, agreed to keep the current officers.

1. **Mattress Replacement:**

Chief Santi brought to board’s attention that the mattresses that the firemen are very old, they were purchased in 2008. He has done extensive research to find a good deal on new mattresses. After checking with Mattress Firm and SleepWorks, they were too expensive. The Chief checked with WalMart.com and after purchasing one for himself and finding the cost to be much more in line with the budget at $1139.63. He recommended we purchase these mattresses. This will deliver six 10” memory foam mattresses, mattress covers, and deep pocket sheets. There will be free delivery, and they will take away the old mattresses.

Darlene made a motion to give the Chief the approval to purchase the new mattresses. Brian Bell seconded the motion. No public comment. The vote was 4/0 – with one absent. Motion carried.

1. **AED Battery Replacement X3:**

The AEDs that are on the engines have batteries that are from 2018. The shelf life of an AED battery is usually 2-5 years. All AED Batteries on the engines are registering under 50% and that has become dangerous. Chief Santi had looked at the alternatives for the best price and after looking at cut rate/off brands, he feels that it is important to go with batteries that are manufactured by a company that specializes in these batteries. The company with the best price is Primelabmed and Jeff will be able to purchase three for a cost of $1400.58. This is already accounted for in the budget under the expendable equipment line item.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Strategic Planning Committee:**

The first draft of the BOS agenda had an item to discuss amending the MOU between the Tribe and Tuolumne City Fire. Brian brought to their attention that Tuolumne City Fire knew nothing about this and would like the opportunity to have a conversation with the Tribe first. Brian was able to have a conversation with Chairman Day. He had that agenda item removed. He did say that the Tribal Council was looking to defund the fire department because of the improvements made to their own department and they are beginning to feel that it is not necessary to continue to pay for our services.

A meeting will soon be held with the Tribal Planner, Tribal CAO, Chairman Day, Chairman Brian Bell, and Chief Jeff Santi for further discussions.

Mike Capuccini will be contacting Gregory Oliver, the original council that wrote the MOU with the tribe. Brian has also suggested that we hire a contract lawyer to look over the MOU as well. A special meeting with Gregory Oliver will need to be held to discuss our alternatives.

Note: Brian will be out of town the weeks of: March 31st and April 8th

It was brought up again that it might be smart to join up with the CSD to strengthen our position regarding resources.

**3. Department Report**

Submitted by Chief Santi and attached to these minutes.

**4. Administration Report**

The payroll report was the only report reviewed and approved this month.

**5. Approval of Warrants and Requisitions**

There were no warrants or requisitions available for approval this month due to the absence of our office manager.

**ADJOURN**

**7:12 pm. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – April 8, 2025**