

DONALD WESCOTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AND DONALD WESCOTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
NORTHERN SUBDISTRICT
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
August 18th, 2020

It was noted for the record that the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (“District”) and the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Northern SubDistrict “SubDistrict” are holding a joint Board meeting. It was also stated for the record that pursuant to the Organizational Documents of the SubDistrict, the Board of Directors for the SubDistrict is the same as the Board of Directors for the District. The Board meeting for the District is the District’s regular Board meeting. The meeting for the SubDistrict is a special Board meeting.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Called to Order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Attendance (via Zoom): Mark Gunderman, Charlie Fleece and Duane Garrett.

Board Absence (excused): Director Schwarz and Director Hartung.

Executive Staff: Chief Vincent Burns, Assistant Chief Ridings

Legal Counsel: Michelle Ferguson

Guests: Allison Robenstein, Bill Lowes, Steve Simpson

Chairman Gunderman made a motion to excuse Director Schwarz, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously voted to excuse the absence.

Chairman Gunderman made a motion to excuse Director Hartung, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously voted to excuse the absence.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda:

- Director Garrett made a motion to approve the agenda, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

3. Public Comments:

- Allison Robenstein: There is no information on the District’s website regarding instructions to access the Zoom meetings.
 - Chairman Gunderman: The information is on the agenda, which is posted on the District’s website, however I agree that it should be on the District’s main page as well.
- Steve Simpson: I would love to hear more about the proposed state-wide election question regarding the Gallagher Amendment, as well as discussion about tax increases.

4. Administrative:

- The July Financials were postponed.
- The July regular Board meeting minutes were presented for the Board’s review and approval. Director Garrett made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously approved the July Board meeting minutes as presented.

- The July Special Board meeting minutes were presented for the Board's review and approval. Director Garrett made a motion to approve the Special July minutes as presented, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously approved the Special July Board meeting minutes as presented.

Chiefs' Report:

Chief Burns:

- Plume Exhaust System.
- Chief Balvanz submitted a grant proposal to FEMA for a plume exhaust system. The requested system attaches a hose directly to an engine's exhaust so it is directly expelled from the building. The District was awarded the grant! The total amount of the FEMA grant is \$131,100.00. The District's cost is \$6,242.86. Chief Burns would like the Board to approve the \$6,242.86 to come out of the RESV Building Construction budget. Director Garrett would like to know we should be expecting any additional funds needed such as maintenance, or remodel of the building.
 - Chief Burns: We do not have any confirmed warrantees or installation, but we will get that information once we accept the grant. The maintenance is minimal for surrounding districts so we are expecting the same.
 - Chairman Gunderman: We had previously stated that the health of our firefighters and community is important, and such a system is a step in the right direction.
 - Chief Ridings: This meets the NFPA standard for exhaust systems.
 - Director Garrett made a motion to approve the \$6,242.86 out of the Building Construction budget to fulfill the grant requirements for the exhaust system, with a second by Chairman Gunderman. The Board unanimously approved the funds for the exhaust system. A huge thank you to Chief Balvanz for his work on obtaining this grant.
- Station 1 LED Lighting project is complet and Station 2 LED Lighting project is about 90% complete.
- COVID-19: The District has experienced zero outbreaks. The District is still maintaining appropriate policies both in house and when members are out in the public.
- Total cost was \$1,000.00.

6. New Business:

- District's Proposed De-Gallagher Issue:
 - The District is considering putting this question on the November 3, 2020 coordinated ballot, through El Paso County. By August 25th the District must enter into an IGA with the County for the election. This will need to be done for both the District and SubDistrict, as each needs to ask the on the ballot.
 - The financial modeling that was sent to the Board shows estimated revenue loss if the State's Residential Assessment Rate dropped from 7.15% to 5.88% (the current projection). It is roughly a loss of \$410,000.00.
 - A general question about the Gallagher Amendment will be on the Statewide ballot; if it passes, the State Legislature can delay lowering the RAR, however, a lot is unknown about what the State Legislature will do if the Statewide question passes. Further it may not pass, so the District can't rely upon this as a solution. The District desires to ensure it is protected, regardless of the outcome of the question on the Statewide ballot.
 - Chairman Gunderman would like to know the costs to run a coordinated election. Chief Burns replied that the County has not given us the information. Chief Ridings added that the cost to the

District depends on how many other governmental entities want to participate in the election. The costs are prorated between all entities on the ballot.

- Chairman Gunderman: I think the benefits outweigh the risk. I think we need to ask the voters in both Districts to vote yes. We should make it clear that we aren't asking for more money, we are just asking for voter approval to retain the same amount of money as previously approved by the voters. We should not rely on the question from the State.
- Director Garrett made a motion for the District to approve the Resolution Calling for an Election and to enter into an IGA with El Paso County to coordinate the November 3, 2020 Election, with a second by Chairman Gunderman. The Board unanimously approved the IGA.
- Director Garrett made a motion for the SubDistrict to approve the Resolution Calling for an Election and to enter into an IGA with El Paso County to coordinate the November 3, 2020 Election, with a second by Director Fleece. The Board unanimously approved the IGA.

8. Firefighter's Forum:

- None

9. Public Comments:

- Mary Gunderman: Thanked the District for serving our community.

10. Adjourn:

- The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting for both the District and Subdistrict at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Popovich

APPROVAL

The foregoing Minutes, which have been approved by the affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and the Northern Subdistrict, are a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the date stated above.

Mark Gunderman, Chairman

Duane Garrett, Treasurer

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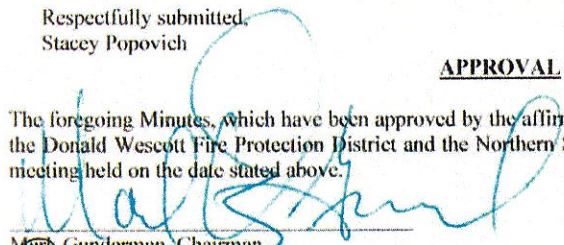
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