

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 14, 2023
0900 HOURS
HELD AT THE FIRE STATION
14380 SARATOGA AVENUE

The agenda for this meeting was posted in front of the Fire Station at 14380 Saratoga Avenue at 1400 hours on November 7, 2023, pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (more commonly known as the Brown Act).

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kraule at 0903 hours. In attendance were Commissioner Kao, Deputy Chief Falarski, Deputy Chief Yost, Nester Valle from the FireSafe Council, Retired Commissioner Joe Long, Attorney Hynes, and members of the public living on or near Mendelsohn Lane. Commissioner Zambetti's absence was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes.

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the regular Board Meeting on October 17, 2023.

The minutes of the October 17, 2023, meeting were approved as presented.

3. Communications:

3.1 Oral communications or public comment.

Several members of the public discussed their concerns with the Saratoga City Mendelsohn speed bump process. Commissioner Kraule stated that the board could not act on the topic because it was not on the agenda. He cautioned that it was not something that could be addressed immediately. It will be placed on the agenda next month.

3.2 Correspondence.

3.2.1 Email from Commissioner Zambetti informing the board that he will miss the November 14, 2023, meeting.

The email was read and entered into the record.

- 3.2.2 Copy of a letter from the board to Deputy Chief Estrada inviting him to attend the meeting to discuss several board concerns.

The letter was read and entered into the record.

- 3.2.3 Copy of email from Deputy Chief Falarski discussing the Model AA training and the Witchy Walk.

The email was read and entered into the record. Future requests for the Model AA engine will be sent to Deputy Chief Yost.

- 3.2.4 Email requesting the antique engine at the Candy Cane Village on November 24, 2023.

The email was read and entered into the record.

- 3.2.5 Email from staff to Support Services Manager Snow concerning the trees that will need to be removed during the landscaping project to facilitate the use of a camera on the rear of the station. Replies from David Snow and Sean Murawsky regarding the trees, cameras, and landscape companies.

The emails were read and entered into the record.

- 3.2.6 Email from Landscape Architect Heid to Harry Babica requesting a proposal for a survey of the proposed walkway for ADA compliance.

The email was read and entered into the record.

3.3 Additional Correspondence.

- 3.3.1 Several emails concerning the rear landscape project from Architect Heid, Support Services Manager Snow, and Commissioner Kraule.

The emails were read and entered into the record.

- 3.3.2 Email from Chief Estrada stating that he will not be able to attend the November board meeting but is happy to attend a future meeting.

The email was read and entered into the record. Another letter will be sent with some changes to the wording. In addition, if Chief Estrada is unable to attend, another officer would be acceptable to the board.

- 3.3.3 Emails from Dan Miranda and Peter Rutti concerning speed bumps on Mendelsohn Lane.

The emails were read and entered into the record.

- 3.3.4 Thank you note from the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation of Los Gatos. The District donated a dinner with the firefighters.

The note was read and entered into the record.

4 Chief's Reports:

- 4.1 Response Reports for October. (The Response Report describes the type and time of each response for the previous month.) Not available.
- 4.2 Deputy Fire Marshal's Report for October. (The Deputy Fire Marshal's Report describes any significant building projects in the previous month.) Not available.
- 4.3 Other projects/reports.
 - 4.3.1 Updates on the following: Not available.
 - 4.3.1.1 Recent inspections of the five private water companies' storage tanks and fire hydrants within Saratoga Fire District (with reports).
 - 4.3.1.2 Recent inspections of San Jose Water's fire hydrants within the Saratoga Fire District (with reports).
 - 4.3.1.3 Copies of maps displaying the emergency evacuation routes and access gates within the Saratoga Fire District. Verifications that the gates are working properly, and keys are available.
 - 4.3.1.4 Update on the new buildings at the Saratoga Retirement community.
 - 4.3.1.5 Other issues. (4290 requirements in the WUI)

5. Reports:

- 5.1 Commissioners Reports.
 - 5.1.1 Report on the FireSafe Council.

Nester Valle reported that the fall chipping program was successful with 16 properties in the Saratoga Fire District being served. The FireSafe Council is researching making fall chipping part of the regular program. He also reported that he was working on a grant with CalFire for the Bohlman Road project. The report was accepted as presented.

5.1.2 Report on the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association. None.

5.1.3 Other Commissioner Reports.

5.1.3.1 Report on replacing the generator with a new, natural gas version.
(Kraule)

Commissioner Kraule reported that he had not been having a lot of luck getting information from Cummings West. He will speak with Thomas Scott about the new City generator. The report was accepted as presented.

5.1.3.2 Report on Saratoga City speed hump policy in the WUI.

Commissioner Kraule reported on the City Council meeting. He stated that he was only able to speak for two minutes. Since he had not been able to say everything he wanted, he suggested that the attorney write a letter to the City Council stating that the District would be studying the issue of traffic control in the WUI. The report was accepted as presented.

5.2 Financial reports.

5.2.2 Financial Report for October 2023.

The report was accepted as presented.

5.3 Other Reports.

5.3.1 Report on EWAS phone status.

The Business Manager reported that most of the phone lines have been deleted. The remaining ones will be deleted before the next board meeting. However, since phone bills are in arrears, it will take another month to six weeks for the billing to stop. The report was accepted as presented.

6. **Old Business:**

6.1 Discuss and consider relandscaping the area between the parking lot and Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

After discussion the board voted to have Commissioner Kraule work with Westfall Engineering to plot the ADA sidewalk with up to \$2500.00 to do the survey work.

7. **New Business:**

- 7.1 Discuss and consider purchasing district logoed shirts for staff driving the antique engine.

Since members of the Board are now driving the antique engine, it is necessary for them to be easily identified as District representatives. Therefore, after discussion, the Board decided to purchase shirts and windbreakers that identify them as Fire Commissioners.

8. **Board Signatures:**

9. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1030 hours. The minutes were transcribed and typed by Trina Whitley.