

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 17, 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 October 11, 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. In attendance were Commissioner Zambetti and Commissioner Kao, Deputy Chiefs Falarski and Yost, Attorney Hynes and Nester Valle from the FireSafe Council. Members of the public included retired Fire Commissioner Long, Dan and Eva Miranda, David Adamson, and landscape architect Jeff Heid arrived later.

2. Approval of the minutes.

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the regular Board Meeting on August 15, 2023.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as presented by Commissioners Zambetti and Kao.

2.2 Approval of the minutes of the regular Board Meeting on September 19, 2023.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as presented by Commissioners Kraule and Zambetti.

3. Communications:

3.1 Oral communications or public comment.

Saratoga resident Dan Miranda spoke to the board about the proposed speed humps on Mendelsohn Lane and thanked the board for the letter to the mayor and city council. Commissioner Kraule will attend the appeal meeting.

3.2 Correspondence.

3.2.1 Copy of the Response Reports for September 2023.

The report was entered into the record.

3.2.2 Copy of the Deputy Fire Marshal's Report for September 2023.

The report was entered into the record.

3.2.3 Copy of a proposal from the Christmas Light Pros to hang the Christmas lights. The topic is agendaized under "New Business."

The proposal was entered into the record.

3.2.4 Copy of a letter from the Board to the Mayor and City Council regarding including fire department review of traffic slowing devices in the WUI.

The letter was read and entered into the record.

3.2.5 Copy of emails from David and Rosemary Adamson and Dan and Eva Miranda thanking the Board for hearing their concerns about traffic slowing devices in the WUI.

The emails were read and entered into the record.

3.2.6 Email requesting the antique engine at the Witchy Walk.

The email was read and entered into the record. Chief Falarski stated that they will be training the drivers on the shift that is on duty the day of the Witchy Walk on Saturday. The engine will be able to participate.

3.3 Additional Correspondence. None.

4 Chief's Reports:

4.1 Response Reports for September. (The Response Report describes the type and time of each response for the previous month.)

Chief Falarski presented the Response Report. Urban response times for E73 and R73 were 4.87 and 5.17 minutes respectively. Rural response times for E73 and R73 were 7.73 and 7.72 minutes respectively. There was a \$33,001.00 loss for the month. The report was accepted as presented.

- 4.2 Deputy Fire Marshal's Report for September. (The Deputy Fire Marshal's Report describes any significant building projects in the previous month.)

The report was accepted as presented.

- 4.3 Other projects/reports. None.

5. **Reports:**

- 5.1 Commissioners Reports.

- 5.1.1 Report on the FireSafe Council.

Nester Valle reported that 10 properties in the district had been serviced in the additional fall chipping program. Training for the CWPP annexes will be completed soon. The Council is continuing to look for grant funding for the Bohlman Road project. The report was accepted as presented.

- 5.1.2 Report on the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association.

Commissioner Zambetti reported he had attended the meeting. The report was accepted as presented.

- 5.1.3 Other Commissioner Reports.

- 5.1.3.1 Report on the Special Districts Association Conference in Monterey. (Kao)

Commissioner Kao reported that he had attended the conference and had taken classes in both harassment prevention and ethics. The report was accepted as presented.

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

Commissioner Kraule is beginning to research replacing the old generator with a new propane version. He will continue to work on the project. The report was accepted as presented.

- 5.1.3.3 Report on the LAFCO fire service review.

Attorney Hynes reported that the draft report had been approved by LAFCO and will go to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. None of the District's comments were discussed or taken into consideration. The report was accepted as presented.

5.2 Financial reports.

5.2.2 Financial Report for September 2023.

The financial report for September was accepted as presented.

5.3 Other Reports.

5.3.1 Report on EWAS phone status.

Three of the main EWAS phone lines have been deleted. The remainder of the lines will be deleted at a rate of one per week. The report was accepted as presented.

6. **Old Business: None.**

7. **New Business:**

7.1 Discuss and consider replacing the lights on the front of the station to the original color.

The lights will be replaced with the original color light bulb.

7.2 Discuss and consider confirming the Christmas Light Pros proposal.

The board voted to confirm the proposal. The lights will be installed on Wednesday the 22nd. The firefighters will be notified.

7.3 Discuss and consider requesting a Deputy Fire Marshal attend a meeting to discuss the following:

- a. Recent inspections of the five private water companies' storage tanks and fire hydrants within Saratoga Fire District (with reports).
- b. Recent inspections of San Jose Water's fire hydrants within the Saratoga Fire District (with reports).
- c. 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.
- d. Update on the new buildings at the Saratoga Retirement community.
- e. Other issues. (4295 requirements in the WUI)

The board voted to send a letter to Deputy Chief Estrada and Chief Kerdkaew.

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

Commissioner Kraule recessed the meeting so the board and Jeff Heid could walk the area to be included in the new landscaping. The meeting was called back to order at 1050 hours. Staff will determine which trees need to be removed. The district will need to solicit bids for the project.

8. **Board Signatures:**

9. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1055 hours. The minutes were transcribed and typed by Trina Whitley.