

**AMADOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting Was Recorded

Jackson, California
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
10:30 AM

The Board of Directors of the Amador Fire Protection District met in the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, on the above date pursuant to adjournment, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

Present:

Jeff Brown, Chair
Pat Crew, Vice Chair
Brian Oneto, Director – **took seat at 10:35 am**
Logan Carnell, Director
Dan Epperson, Director

Absent:

Staff:

Robert Withrow, Fire Chief
Nicole Cook, Clerk of the Board

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOTION: It was moved by Director Epperson and seconded by Director Carnell and carried 4-0-1 to accept Director Crew to vote remotely via zoom teleconference, Dir. Oneto absent.

AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Director Carnell and seconded by Director Epperson and carried 4-0-1 to approve the agenda as presented, Dir. Oneto absent.

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Charlie Blankenheim, member of the community and retired Cal Fire Chief Officer expressed his concerns regarding sending only the closest resource to incidents (wintertime) and that it might not include a Cal Fire resource.

Dir. Oneto took seat at 10:35 AM

He used the example that if his house catches on fire in the wintertime, currently the Cal Fire engines in Pine Grove would not be dispatched. Chief Withrow explained that the district is making changes to the response plan as issues arise and that Cal Fire staffing in the wintertime is relatively new and has been inconsistent, but those resources will be added to the plan when they are in quarters and available. Chief Withrow explained that Mr. Blankenheim needs to be patient as changing the response plans is not an easy task and takes a fair amount of work due to all the other unintended ramifications when changes are made. Mr. Blankenheim stated that he has been patient and has been waiting over a year for these changes. Chief Withrow reminded him that the winter staffing at Pine Grove Station had only started within the last couple of months. Cindy Grandbois a member of the community stated that we are already paying for the Cal Fire resources so why not use them. Chief Withrow went on to express his concerns for Cal Fire not focusing on their primary mission of preventing and mitigating wildland fires in the county. Mr. Blankenheim agreed, but felt when they are in quarters they should respond. Chief Withrow went

on to express his concerns with Cal Fire's lack of fuel reduction work in the county, all of which contribute to the insurance impacts we are experiencing countywide. Charlie Blankenheim went on to add that in El Dorado County Cal Fire is utilized more on local government incidents and that Amador County should do the same. Chief Withrow explained that El Dorado County contracts with Cal Fire to protect certain parts of the county.

Dir. Brown personally thanked the personnel for responding to his emergency and was impressed with the professionalism.

PRESENTATION:

Badge Pinning: Presentation and discussion ensued relative to the subject matter. The Fire Chief introduced and acknowledged each volunteer who has and continues to serve the district for over a year. Each volunteer had their badge pinned by either their partner, mentor or friend. Wearing the badge is honorable and represents trust. The Clerk of the Board presented the Firefighters Oath of Office. The Volunteer Firefighters pinned are as follows: Richard Fugere, Steve Hillestad, Erik Jones, Robert Roe, Scottie Saucedo and Patrick Tobin.

The Board and members took a recess at 11:06 AM
The meeting reconvened at 11:19 AM

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Fire Chief Update: presented by Chief Withrow. The following discussion ensued relative to subject matter, no action was taken.

Operations:

Stipend volunteer firefighters are staffing station 121, Willow Creek area. Volunteer Firefighter Zach Heliker, who works fulltime for another fire department out of the area, continues to devote and make time to serve his home community. He has been nominated for the First Responder award which will be presented on June 7th hosted by American Legion Ambulance. Fire Chief and PIO attended a Wildland Preparation Class in Oakhurst for a pulse check if the district is missing the mark and they are not. There were resources available and grant opportunities. The volunteers continue to respond to incidents, such as the recent vegetation fire on Hale and Shake Ridge. Acknowledgement for a job well done for the most recent evacuation mock drills that were performed by Battalion Chief Watkins and PIO Dale. There were neighboring agencies participating such as the Amador Sheriff's Office and Cal Fire.

Fire Prevention: Ashley Anaya, Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) gave report and discussion ensued relative to subject matter.

Residential and commercial property inspections for defensible space continue, twenty this month. Plan Review for tenant improvements and new projects also continue such as Kit Carson Lodge, Wal Mart and Acorn Ridge. Fire investigations also continue; assisted City of Jackson with a structure fire. FPO attended a S-290 class to familiarize weather patterns related to wildland. In anticipation of a burn ban; personnel are educating and warning the public now. Citations will be implemented once the burn ban takes effect.

Public Information Officer: Kayla Dale, Public Information Officer (PIO) gave report and discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Amador Fire hosted a Firewise Planning meeting where the PIO and Fire Chief gave an overview of Amador Fire's history and governance. Program goals and vision were also discussed. Multiple property inspections have been completed with the Fire Chief and letters for

homeowners stating proper vegetation management work has been completed are still being written to their insurance companies. Meadowlark Firewise Drill there was over seventy residents that participated. There was also a Firewise launch meeting for the Mella Drive community. Later this month there will be a presentation to the Amador County Association of Realtors and "Coffee in the Court" at Peterson Ranch.

New Fire Station: Discussion ensued relative to subject matter. Vanir provided a site fit and space adjacency program. The Fire Chief sought approval to initiate a request for qualifications for the preconstruction and construction management services.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Oneto and seconded by Director Carnell and carried 5-0-0 authorizing the Fire Chief to commence the implementation of the request for qualifications related to the new fire station in Pine Grove.

Addendum to Consultant Services Agreement: Discussion ensued relative to subject matter.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Epperson and seconded by Director Carnell and carried 5-0-0 approving the addendum to consultant services agreement between SCI Consulting Group and Amador Fire Protection District to include the new annexation of the community of Lockwood.

RESOLUTION NO. AFD 25-02

Resolution approving the addendum to consultant services agreement between SCI consulting group and Amador Fire Protection District.

Benefit Assessment Fiscal Year 2025-2026: Discussion ensued relative to subject matter.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Epperson and seconded by Director Carnell and carried 5-0-0 approving the intention to continue assessments for fiscal year 2025-2026 preliminarily approving the engineers report and providing for notice of public hearing for the Amador Fire Protection District, fire protection and emergency response services assessment and scheduling public hearing notice for June 26, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. AFD 25-03

Resolution of intention to continue assessments for fiscal year 2025-26 preliminarily approving the engineers report and providing for notice of public hearing for the Amador Fire Protection District.

District Monthly Reports: Discussion ensued relative to subject matters. Fire Chief presented.

Training Report: No action taken, report only. Special acknowledgement given to Battalion Chief Watkins who is well qualified to train and teach personnel in the S-290 class. Thank you, Dir. Oneto, for taking the time to instruct proper training on how to operate chain saws with Captain Gourley and Firefighter Tomlinson. Both will be going back to personnel and teaching the S-290 class.

Vehicle Maintenance Report: No action taken, report only.

Call Report: No action taken, report only.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

Regular Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2025: Discussion ensued relative to subject matter.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Epperson and seconded by Director Carnell and carried out 5-0-0 to approve the regular meeting minutes as presented.

Cindy Grandbois, a member of the community addressed the Board by asking if they had any concerns with the recent changes with American Legion Ambulance (ALA) and what is Amador Fire going to do? Director Brown commented that Amador Fire does not have jurisdiction but instead the Emergency Medical Services Authority. The district will continue to support ALA.

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:09 PM. Jeff Brown, Vice Chair adjourned the meeting until June 26th, 2025.



Chair, Amador Fire Protection District