

**WOODBIDGE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**400 East Augusta Street - Woodbridge**  
**REGULAR ZOOM MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**September 23, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Duke called the regular meeting of the Woodbridge Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 10:02 a.m. at the main fire station in Woodbridge, CA.

**ROLL CALL:**

Directors Present: David Duke, Rick Gerlack, Thomas Alexander, Michael Manna and Larry Moore  
Director Absent: None  
Staff Present: Fire Chief Darin Downey, District Secretary Diana Tidwell

**MINUTES:** On motion of Alexander seconded by Moore, the minutes of the regular meeting on July 22, 2020 were approved as received.

On motion of Gerlack seconded by Duke, the minutes of the special meeting on August 6, 2020 were approved as received.

**INVOICE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Director Gerlack gave the Invoice Committee Report for the period ending August 31, 2020, which included reviewing the District's bills and employee costs, found them to be in order and recommended payment. On motion of Moore, seconded by Gerlack, expenditures totaling \$369,287.36.62 were approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUGUST INVOICE COMMITTEE:** Directors Gerlack and Duke will serve on the Invoice Committee October 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. with the regular meeting following at 10:00 a.m.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- A. Alarm & Fire Prevention Report:  
Chief Downey reviewed the Operations and Fire Prevention Report, and each board member received a copy. Alarm reports show 200 calls for the month of July bringing the year to date total to 1163 an increase of 94 calls above last year, and 208 calls for the month of August bringing the year to date total to 1371 an increase of 126 calls from last year. Chief Downey advised there were also 16 fire inspections completed since the last Board of Directors meeting.
- B. Engine 74 Accident:  
Chief Downey advised that Engine 74 was sideswiped by a semi-truck while responding to a vehicle accident on Interstate 5. All responders are okay however Engine 74 sustained damages and is now in the shop for repairs.
- C. Engine 73 Repairs:  
Chief Downey advised that Engine 73 is also in the shop for repairs and is expected to be done by Friday, September 25, 2020. Chief Downey also discussed recent phone call from an insurance agency concerned about client's insurance. The agent advised that the ISO rating has caused homeowners insurance in certain areas to increase significantly. Chief Darin stated District is working on resubmitting the reports to ISO and has sent out a memo that the District will no longer brown out any stations in hopes to help lower ISO rating. Director Gerlack asked how Chief Darin to explain how keeping a station open will affect the ISO rating. Chief Darin advised that having the manpower and all stations open should help lower District response times which will have a positive impact on the ISO rating.
- D. 2020 OES Strike Team Deployment: Chief Downey advised that the OES Engine has been deployed on Strike teams for 43 days now. Crews have been rotating every 14 days and the 3<sup>rd</sup> crew on rotation is expected to return home today.

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- E. Captains Testing: Chief Downey reported that the Captains testing is scheduled for October 13, 2020 and he will be bringing the results of the testing process to the November or December Board of Directors meeting.
- F. Ballot Measure Update: Chief Downey advised that the District posted an information only video to its webpage and has information packets available at the stations for anyone seeing information about the ballot measure. The District has pulled back from all association with ballot other than providing information to those who call with questions. The Association and Labor have been going door to door and making phone calls. They have also conducted a town hall meeting at the Woodbridge Country Club and have raised approximately \$62,000 from local supporters to help fund. Chief Downey also advised that the District plans to have town hall type meetings for each location and that informational videos and documents are available for the public view on District and Association social media and websites as well as [yesforwoodbridgefire.com](http://yesforwoodbridgefire.com)

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. CERTIFICATE OF ASSESSMENT & FY 20-21 SPECIAL TAX RATE COLLECTION:  
Motion made by Director Gerlack to approve Fiscal Year 2020-2021 special tax rate collection and certificate of assessment. Seconded by Duke. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-7 – SPECIAL TAX RATE  
Motion made by Director Moore to accept adoption of special tax rate Resolution 20-7 as written. Seconded by Director Gerlack. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. APPROVE FY 20-21 FINAL BUDGET  
Chief Darin advised District has not received the estimated property tax allocation memorandum from San Joaquin County Auditors office and with the deadline for the final Budget being October he made some adjustments to the prior budget. Motion made by Director Gerlack to approve Fiscal Year 2020-2021 final budget. Seconded by Director Moore. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER LIST EXTENSION:  
Chief Downey advised due to recent Lieutenant promotions, there are openings for full time firefighters. There are two firefighter trainees remaining on the current list are nearing completion of their Firefighter I and if successful will be eligible for full time promotion. Chief Darin is requesting full time firefighter list be extended to October 31, 2020. Motion made by Director Moore to extend the full-time firefighter list to October 31, 2020. Seconded by Duke. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS NOT ON AGENDA FROM PUBLIC:** Terry Wells-Brown advised that National Night Out has been approved for October 6, 2020. The Association of Woodbridge Firefighters has agreed to sell tri-tip and will be manning a Measure U informational booth. Some events at the National Night Out have been cancelled due to recent Covid-19 restrictions. Ms. Wells-Brown also advised Tuesday, September 29, 2020 there will be a patio post card writing at Woodbridge Crossing and the Association of Woodbridge Firefighters has agreed to provide appetizers for the volunteers. Lastly, Ms. Wells-Brown stated there was a comment on one of the Woodbridge Community social media pages about overgrown brush. Chief Darin advised that the District is aware of the issue and two letters have been sent to San Joaquin County. The most recent response from the Fire Marshall was that they will be taking care of the issue.

### **CLOSED SESSION:**

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Director Alexander inquired about what happens to funds raised for the measure if not spent. Per Out of Class Captain Bernier, the Association of Woodbridge Firefighters are currently looking into legalities and whether the unused funds may be donated to another non-profit organization. Director Alexander stated that one of his neighbors advised that he was told this past weekend from a

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volunteer that engines have fallen apart and other things are not working and that if the measure does not pass the Fire District will be forced to completely close down and Director Alexander is concerned about inaccurate information or rumors being spread. OFC Captain Bernier advised that the District is currently down two Engines and a boat, and many of the engines are currently outdated. Also, with strike teams being deployed the District is currently down its backup engine. Ms. Wells-Brown stated after hearing the list of things that OFC Captain Bernier stated, she can see why the public may be concerned. OFC Captain Bernier stated volunteers are not trying to instill fear and it appears that some information has been construed. There is however a need and the Association and volunteers are trying to stay consistent with the need message.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion of Manna. The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. Seconded by Gerlack. Motion carried unanimously.

**ATTEST:**

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DIANA TIDWELL, District Board Secretary