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Los Altos Hills County Fire District **DRAFT**

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District Board Members, Held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 Beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the El Monte Fire Station, Foothill College Campus, 12355 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, California**

President Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) **Roll Call:** **PRESENT:** Commissioners Carr, Price, Warren, Spreen, Tyson, Vaughn

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** General Manager J. Logan, Fire Chief Tony Bowden, Deputy Chief/Prevention Julie Linney, Fire District Attorney Dan Siegel, Fire Consultant Stu Farwell, Financial Consultant Cori Vargas, District Clerk Jeanne Evilsizer

2) **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

3) **Welcome Applicants for Commission Vacancy.** Warren outlined the application process and stated it was a two stage process. In addition to the letter of interest to the District, applicants need to also apply at the County of Santa Clara website; the County is always accepting applications whether or not there is an open spot and the County keeps the applications on file. Warren welcomed the applicants present to share their interest in becoming a Commissioner. The following four (4) applicants spoke: Ms. Joan Sherlock, 27261 Sherlock Road, Los Altos Hills; Mr. Terry Kearney, 27361 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills; Mr. Edward Sharp, 26958 Dezahara Way, Los Altos Hills; Mr. Edward Muniyak, 12804 Clausen Court, Los Altos Hills. After the presentations, Dan Siegel stated the Fire District will confirm with Supervisor Simitian's office who was here tonight and forward the letters of interest to Supervisor Simitian's office. He stated that it is the Board of Supervisors who makes the actual appointment to the Fire District Commission.

4) **Pumper Cap Presentation by Purissima Hills Water District.** Patrick Walter, General Manager Purissima Hills Water District, explained that the water district would like to put sensors or nodes into the fire hydrant caps as an early warning system to catch water leaks. Each sensor costs \$1,100. Walter distributed a map to the Commission showing in red the hydrants where they would like to place thirty (30), initially, of these leak detecting nodes. Eventually they would like to place 200 of these sensors throughout the water district. Echologics Technologies Company is the supplier of the leak sensors. San Jose Water Company and East Bay Mudd currently use them. Walter showed where the sensor gets placed in the cast iron hydrant cap. Batteries are replaceable and last approximately five (5) years. Leaks can be detected up to 1,000 feet. The system data analysis and reporting software is entirely web-based. Chief Bowden did not have any concerns regarding the sensor placement. Public member Allan Epstein asked what is causing the leaks in the water mains since there were 22 leaks from July 2018 through December 2018. Walter said the leaks are from the cast iron pipes that are split or

corroded in the adobe soil. When the soil becomes dry or soft it flexes the mains and causes the leaks. Warren said with the Commission consensus a memorandum of understanding (MOU) shall be drawn up between the Purissima Hills Water District and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and brought back to a future meeting.

**5) Commission President Remarks.** Warren stated in the past we discussed the same subject several times throughout the agenda. He would like a subject/content based agenda items where all aspects of a subject are discussed just once. He stated it was a good idea to have the memorandum reports for transparency and historical purposes. Warren commented the large packet of business items before the Commission this evening supported the mission of the district with respect to fire prevention, suppression, emergency preparedness and fuel reduction. He gave a brief overview of the agenda.

**6) Santa Clara County Fire Chief Report:** A. Monthly Report for February, 2019 The Chief reviewed a structure fire on South Fork Lane. There were no injuries, \$40,000 in damages and the fire is still under investigation. He stated some response times were due to traffic delays on freeway 280. Also there had been more Community Education Events held in the District.

There was no public comment.

B. Fire Season Patrol Staffing – Chief Bowden explained the idea of “Mode” staffing to increase resources based on predicted weather conditions, Operational Area drawdown in the County and/or other factors on an as-needed basis. He suggested that the current contract to provide additional staffing and a wildland interface engine be amended to reflect staffing practices as they are in other Santa Clara County Fire Department service areas. It would also include delegating authority to the Fire Chief and/or designee (a Deputy Chief) to provide additional staffing in Los Altos Hills when needed (special events in LAH, red flag warnings, inclement weather, etc) Subcommittee members Vaughn and Tyson looked at the Mode Staffing in comparison to the 10 a.m.-7 p.m. staffing that now occurs during the declared “Fire Season”. Vaughn suggested trying the Mode Staffing and doing a monthly evaluation to see if we need to revise it or make a change in direction. There was a consensus to try the Mode method of patrol staffing; Warren stated an amendment to addendum three (third memorandum of agreement) would come from County Fire for our review. There was no public comment.

C. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); Annex 4 Chief Bowden stated the CWPP was a starting point. He suggested the Commission look at the document thoroughly and ask questions before adopting; suggest updates or revisions. Carr mentioned the first paragraph mentions the unincorporated area west of town; it should also include unincorporated areas that resided in the east/ south east of Town. Tyson reviewed the CWPP Annex 4 closely and concluded we need to work on it and know what our priorities are and, send a letter to the Town of Los Altos Hills to reinstate the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) area which they eliminated several years ago. Warren suggested forming a new CWPP subcommittee to study, review and recommend to get the CWPP adopted. Bowden said the Fire Department will help guide the District with respect to the CWPP. There are grant funds available once the CWPP is adopted. The Chief would like to see it adopted by August; he stressed it can be revised/changed/updated after adoption as well. Vaughn, Tyson and Warren volunteered to be on the CWPP subcommittee.

D. State Mandated Inspections: R-1 (Hotel/Motel), R-2 (Apartments), E (Public/Private School Occupancies) Deputy Chief/Prevention Julie Linney explained the fire inspection practices

