

1 **September 27, 2011**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Thuner called the meeting to order at 17:00.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY CHIEF METCALF.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Harris, Munson, Schaden and Thuner.

9 **Absent:** Director Hooper.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Metcalf, District Counsel James and B/S Stephen-Porter.

11 In the audience were: Deputy Chief Torchia, D/Cs Lane and Morel, B/C Abbott, F/S
12 Timmers and members of the public and Association.

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14 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

15 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Thuner addressed the audience and inquired whether
16 there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being no
17 comments, the public comment section was closed.

18 2. **EMPLOYEE OATH OF OFFICE — CHIEF METCALF:** Chief Metcalf introduced Cherie Juul
19 and her husband, Darrel, to the Board. Ms. Juul is the new Administrative Specialist for
20 Operations. After swearing-in and badge pinning, Ms. Juul was welcomed by the Board.

21 3. **AWARDS FOR BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM — CHIEF METCALF AND B/S STEPHEN-**
22 **PORTER:** Chief Metcalf presented selected individuals to the Board, reviewing the
23 nominating information. Each group was honored and thanked by the Board for their
24 efforts on behalf of the District.

25 **ACTION AGENDA**

26 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

27 4. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 2011**

28 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2011**

29 6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

30 President Thuner inquired whether there were any questions on Items 4-6. There being no
31 discussion, President Thuner asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. On a
32 motion by Director Schaden to approve Items 4-6, which was seconded by Vice President
33 Munson, the motion passed unanimously.

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35 **ACTION ITEMS:**

36 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT — CHIEF TORCHIA:** Chief Torchia noted
37 the request for approval was for a twenty-plus year old vehicle, which has been replaced.
38 On a motion by Director Schaden to approve the Surplus request as presented, which was
39 seconded by Vice President Munson, the motion passed unanimously.

40 8. **PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME CERTAIN 5:15 P.M.: REVIEW AND APPROVE FINAL BUDGET**
41 **FOR FY 2010/11 AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2011-08 — CHIEF METCALF AND**
42 **F/S TIMMERS:** President Thuner called the Public Hearing to order at 5:15 p.m., inquiring
43 whether there were any comments from the public. There being none, the public hearing
44 was closed. Chief Metcalf initiated the discussion regarding the changes in the Budget
45 since the Preliminary Budget approval. He noted the Final Budget is balanced, although
46 there have been some changes in the revenue. This necessitated a decision to remove all
47 planned deposits to the Reserve Funds for the coming year. He reviewed the total funding
48 sources; noting that overall, there was an estimated decrease of \$1,072. Chief Metcalf
49 reviewed a number of issues that arose affecting the final Budget, including remaining
50 concerns that the County may not be providing the best estimate for property tax and is
51 giving a very conservative estimate. In addition, the District had a Workers' Compensation
52 outlay of approximately \$400,000, which portion is not covered by the JPA or excess
53 insurance. After discussion, on a motion by Director Schaden, seconded by Vice
54 President Munson, the motion to approve the Final Budget and Resolution 2011-09 as
55 presented, unanimously approved by the following Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Directors Harris,
56 Munson, Schaden, Thuner; **Noes:** None; **Absent:** Director Hooper.

57 9. **REVIEW, APPROVE AND CAST VOTE FOR LAFCO NOMINATIONS — CHIEF METCALF:**
58 Chief Metcalf reviewed the nominations for the open positions on the LAFCO Alternate

59 Advisory Special District member and nine positions on the Districts Advisory Committee.
60 A motion was made by Director Harris to accept the LAFCO Nominating Committees
61 recommendations, nominating Jo MacKenzie for the Alternate LAFCO Special District
62 Member, and all eight nominees for the Special Districts Advisory Committee Members.
63 The motion was seconded by Director Schaden and passed unanimously.

64 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

65 10. There were no Discussion Items for the Regular Board Meeting for September 27,
66 2011.

67 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

68 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his letter “Simultaneous
69 Local Agency Meetings May Require Compensation Disclosure.” Discussion ensued
70 regarding serial meetings and how this ruling affects future meetings. This is informational
71 only, no action required.

72 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items; with
73 the information coming from the State on Initiative issues discussed. Informational only,
74 no action required.

75 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** See Item #2.

76 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles. Chief Metcalf noted
77 there continues to be discussion both at the State level and in the public regarding
78 concerns over public pensions. This is informational only, no action required.

79 ● **COMMENTS:**

80 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

81 ● **UPDATE ON STATION CONSTRUCTION:** Chief Torchia informed the Board of the status
82 of Station 5 Building Project. He stated the County is enforcing new road standards on the
83 property under the newly revised General Plan. He is working with Caltrans and the Arco
84 property owner to address these issues. Informational only, no further action required.

85 **BILL METCALF, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Metcalf updated the Board on the fire close
86 to boundary of District, which was actually on camp Pendleton and in De Luz. The
87 District had some resources there; it was a good exercise for the coming season.

88 He provided an update on outstanding grants, noting the application for AFG
89 Prevention grant was not approved. On September 23rd, the District submitted a
90 grant for over \$500,000. to AFG for updating of the District's SCBA equipment. He
91 opined the grant was well done and he feels it is very competitive. He thanked
92 Captains Krumwiede and Wilson for their work on it. He noted the work for the
93 microwave system is underway; which will save the District from spending on T-1
94 lines. Chief Metcalf updated the Board on possible consolidations. He noted he
95 continues discussions with Oceanside and Vista, talking about next stage with
96 consultant. He opined that during the analysis, there are several logical stops to
97 see if we want to continue toward consolidation. Generally, at the stage they are,
98 looking at compensation and costs for each employee, it becomes clear it whether
99 consolidation is the best choice. At this time, the consultant is preparing the scope
100 of work with cost estimate. Chief Metcalf noted that last month he had been
101 contacted by Deer Springs and Valley Center Fire Protection Districts to meet
102 regarding possible consolidation solutions. He is waiting for them to get back to
103 him, although he has attempted several contacts. Chief Metcalf brought the Board
104 up-to-date on the Initiatives and concerns regarding pending legislation. He noted
105 SRA fee now standards a \$90 per habitable structure, with many details left
106 unresolved. It is expected that CalFire will see more reductions under the State
107 budget and as soon as the SRA fee is instituted, there will be multiple lawsuits.
108 Chief Metcalf noted there has also been activity to eliminate the "crash tax,"
109 especially by insurance companies. Although to date all have failed; there is
110 speculation the industry will keep trying to have it eliminated. The last issue is
111 AB 210, a housekeeping regulation of the ambulance industry that has turned into
112 sweeping changes for State EMS. There are some who believe it is no longer
113 appropriate EMS for local fire departments. Informational only, no further action
114 required.

115 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS: CHIEF TORCHIA:** Chief Torchia informed the Board the purchase of
116 the new Engine is still anticipated for January/February of 2012, with the District receiving

117 the pre-construction documents. **D/C LANE:** D/C Lane informed the Board that the Line of
118 Duty Deaths (LODD) have reduced across the nation for the second year in row.
119 Removing the LODD that were attributable to 9/11, 50 of the 72 deaths were Volunteer
120 Firefighters. The highest incidences of deaths were due to hypertension, heart disease
121 and vehicle accidents (mostly due to not wearing safety belts). The reduction of deaths
122 among career firefighter is attributed to aggressive wellness initiatives and training.

123 **D/C MOREL:** D/C Morel invited Board members to the October 15, 2011 Fire Prevention
124 Open House. The Open House will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1. **B/C ABBOTT:**
125 B/C Abbott invited the Board to the Fallbrook Hospital Health Faire, which is being held at
126 La Paloma. Informational only, no further action required.

127 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR HARRIS:** Director Harris thanked everyone for their hard work on
128 the Budget preparation. In addition, she commented that the 9/11 event was the best the
129 community had ever seen. President Thuner agreed it was a very well done event.
130 Informational only, no further action required.

131 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** No comments.

132 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

133 **CLOSED SESSION**

134 There were no Closed Session Items for the Regular Board Meeting for September 27,
135 2011.

136 **ADJOURNMENT**

137 A motion was made at 5:50 p.m. by Director Harris and seconded by Vice President
138 Munson to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on October 25, 2011 at 17:00. The motion
139 carried unanimously.

140 Respectfully submitted,

141 

142 Loren Stephen-Porter

143 Board Secretary

144 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: October 25, 2011

Official Seal