



## ZAYANTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

7700 East Zayante Road, Felton CA 95018

Ph: 831-335-5100 Fx: 831-335-5199

# **Board of Directors**

## **Minutes of the Special Meeting**

### **May 6, 2021**

#### **1.0: CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Fleming called the special meeting of the Zayante Fire Protection Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM. This was a teleconference meeting via Zoom

#### **2.0: FLAG SALUTE:**

#### **3.0: DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE:**

**Directors Present:** Clark, Fleming, Tarbet and Maxwell

**Fire Department:** Chief Stipes

**Absent:** Herceg,

#### **4.0: ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON OPEN SESSION ITEMS:**

- Fire Captain Damon Ellis has requested that more information be given out and he would like to know the Boards thinking on this matter.
- Fire Captain Todd Kraft said that these changes are moving way to fast. He also said that Zoom meetings are not the best way to deal with things. He also asked if there was any room for discussion on this matter.
- Firefighter Britteny Raynor agrees that things are moving very fast and states that Chief Stipes has kept them all safe and watches out for all the Firefighters. She cautions about moving to fast and stated this is a bad time for a change.
- Fire Captain Dalton Warren has been with ZFD for 4 years but has 20 years in Fire service. He stated that Chief Stipes has outstanding leadership skills. He questioned why this is all moving so fast and stated that the morel of the Firefighters has gone up in the last few months. Promotions are happening and every one of the Firefighters is in support of Chief Stipes.
- Firefighter John Amadeo suggested that Chief Stipes be kept on until he can train up someone from within the Department to replace him. Hiring from the outside doesn't work from his perspective.
- Firefighter Amos said he sees no benefit in losing our leader at the beginning of fire season.
- Lynn Stipes has stated that his all started after the April meeting. She feels the Board has let ZFD down and had several complaints about those serving on the Board. She feels it is all coming to a head to soon.
- Firefighter Masters feels like no one is really aware of what is going on.

5.0: **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Notice of Retirement of Chief John Stipes. Director Fleming read the letter from Chief Stipes.

6.0: **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **6.1:** Announce and Accept notice of retirement. Director Fleming announced it. In a vote of 3 to 1 with Directors Fleming, Maxwell and Tarbet voting to accept the resignation and Director Clark voting not to accept it, the resignation of Chief Stipes was accepted.
- **6.2:** Action Item: Discussion of Interim process and Timelines for transition period. Director Clark questions how we put it out there to find a new Fire Chief? She also wonders if we need to have a timeline for replacing the Chief and a job description. She wonders if this could be done by Monday so that a Board meeting could be held to agree on the job description and post it sooner than later. She has suggested the following timeline.
  - Next meeting to be May 13, 2021
  - Posting to be May 14, 2021 until May 23, 2021
  - Interview for new Chief first half of June under the direction of Chief Stipes
  - Then an interim Assistant Chief will be chosen to work with Chief Stipes until he retires July 23, 2021.
  - Then there will be a regular Board meeting on May 25, 2021 where there will be discussion on those who applied for the position.

7.0: **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**

8.0: **CLOSED SESSION:**

THIS SESSION WAS WAIVED.

8.1-9.1 Were not done because there was no closed session.

**10.1: ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 PM**