



## KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:01PM (Continuation of Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular Meeting)

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Directors: President Larry Nagel, Vice-President Kevin Padian, Secretary Janice Kosel, Director Don Dommer, Director Julie Stein  
Staff: GM Bill Hansell, Chief Michael Pigoni, EPC Johnny Valenzuela

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

President Nagel called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and confirmed the roll call.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS:** Completed on 02/09/2022

**4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY SUPERVISOR JOHN GIOIA:** Completed on 02/09/2022

**5. OLD BUSINESS:** None

### 6. NEW BUSINESS:

**6a. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit:** Completed on 02/09/2022

**6b. Mid-Year Budget Review and Adjustments:** Completed on 02/09/2022

**6c. Public Safety Building Renovation Progress Update:** Completed on 02/09/2022

### **6d. Discussion of the Email Sent from Rob Firmin, President, KPOA to All Directors of the KFPD**

President Nagel acknowledged receipt of the correspondence and asked if the Directors had any comments. He suggested that he send a response on behalf of the Board. Director Stein agreed that a response is appropriate and that a Town Hall Meeting as requested in the letter would be a good idea. She added, though, that she wants to understand more about the finances for the PSB renovation, and how reserves are planned for, as well as potential repairs after an earthquake, prior to going to the public. GM Hansell stated that the structural engineers are designing the renovation to bring it to Essential Services Facility standards and he believes that means it will remain functional after a seismic event. Vice-President Padian noted that the KPOA has done good work for the community but the Outlook Citizen Forum was distressing, in that the fire district has done extensive work on financial planning, contrary to the article's assertions, and that the KFPD elected officials have made decisions on complex issues that are mandated by codes and laws, not popular opinion. He explained that the 2x2

committee tried to work for years on the building issue, and the KFPD tried to find solutions, but it was a one-sided effort. GM Hansell then quoted from the structural engineer's design report on how the building will perform. He also referred to the NHA financial studies that show how the district's reserves for rolling stock and emergency operations are accounted for in the financing plan. Hansell said that the Outlook piece stated that the original purpose of the building was for Fire and Police, but Hansell researched the board minutes at the time of the original planning and the Police use was a late entry into the discussion, as the original reason for the building was the replacement of the old fire station by the Fire Dept. Director Stein referred to a different section in the structural engineer's design report and her concern about building reserves. GM Hansell stated that he has advocated for a year's worth of emergency reserves but even half of that would be more than most agencies have, and that there isn't an alternative to the seismic renovation since the existing conditions are not acceptable. Director Dommer is in agreement with what has been said. Secretary Kosel does not believe it would be productive to revisit the question of whether both departments will fit in the renovated building, which is what she believes the KPOA wants, since both chiefs agree that it is not possible. She doesn't think there is any more to discuss until the Police determine where they will go. President Nagel said that for years this issue has been approached with disinformation and a lot of emotionally charged words. He believes that calling the two agencies "dysfunctional" is a great disservice to the staff and the directors, as both agencies' daily service continues to be excellent. He wishes that the use of the loaded words would stop, as they cloud the real issues, which are basically engineering and architectural challenges. GM Hansell agreed and reminded the board that both managers and chiefs worked closely together in early 2021 trying to find a solution for joint occupancy, but could not overcome the obstacles. He said that both fire and police staff work together every day with the resources they have on a variety of service issues, not just on the building problem, and as if they were one entity.

Public comment was received from Rob Firmin and Gail Feldman,

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **7a. Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting (0:50:00):**

Vice President Padian reviewed the topics since the last report to the board. Discussions included planning for the evacuation drill and approaches to parking restrictions during Red Flag Days. Both fire and police personnel contributed to the discussion, and VP Padian emphasized that parking is an issue for the entire community's safety, and not a block-by-block matter. Emergency Radios were also discussed, and if weather radios would be useful to distribute, but it was determined that they are not the best option. We have to find better solutions for having an informed community in the event of a disaster, and are looking at what is possible. To that end, the EPC is looking forward to increasing neighborhood awareness by hosting block parties to distribute preparedness information and connect residents. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is working on event plans. Finally, the EPC is researching emergency alert systems in the form of outdoor speakers that are much more sophisticated than older sirens.

### **7b. Finance Committee Meeting (1:09:30):**

Secretary Kosel stated that most of the meeting was covered in the prior meeting's audit

and budget agenda items. She stated that the General Manager's timesheets were reviewed and the correct amount of time was being spent per the contract. The Committee will meet again in May to consider the next budget and the El Cerrito contract.

Director Stein asked if the committee is working on a Reserve Policy for the District. Director Kosel agreed that is a priority.

#### **8. Fire Chief's Report (01:11:45):**

Chief Pigoni highlighted the incident report and the heightened activity by the department recently. The Chief discussed his retirement in April after over 27 years in the fire service and even longer as a volunteer. The city has initiated a search for a new chief and Chief Pigoni will continue to be available as a consultant should the city and district need help.

Battalion Chief Chase Beckman has started and is taking over the duties of Fire Marshall. His experience in that area will be very valuable. Joseph Torres has also been hired as another Battalion Chief and will be starting work soon. Current Battalion Chief Jose Castrejon will now focus on training duties.

The Chief explained information in the supporting materials regarding a proposed fee structure for fire plan check services. He suggested that the Board eventually adopt fees as the plan check load may increase in the future, and the district should recover those costs.

President Nagel expressed his gratitude for Chief Pigoni's cool-headed and calm nature over the years during stressful challenges, and enjoyed working with him. He offered his admiration, thanks, and respect. Secretary Kosel asked that the fee schedule be scheduled for next month. GM Hansell is checking with legal counsel on the process for adoption. Hansell thanked Chief Pigoni for his work and for the great job he has done in setting up the district for future success. Director Stein asked for more information about the past practice of plan check reviews and charges.

#### **9. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's Report (01:46:10):**

Johnny Valenzuela reviewed his event calendar and activities, which will be announced on the website and by signage in the community. Additionally, he discussed the next issue of the Emergency Preparedness Workbook, which builds on what was provided in the first edition. He presented images of the graphics materials he has created for the various campaigns and evens he is working on. GM Hansell shared that he is seeing a lot of social media advertising from the Marin fire agencies and he has discussed similar distribution by the KFPD. Vice President Padian thanked Johnny for all of his work and substantially advancing Kensington's emergency preparedness.

#### **10. General Manager's Report (02:01:50):**

GM Hansell reviewed his written report, including notes on the Wildfire JPA exploratory meetings, work with Berkeley FD on vegetation management funding for Cerrito Canyon, review of district LAIF investments, the initial discussion with City Manager Pinkos regarding reducing the contract reserves, the GM's participation in the Fire Chief interviews, and the talks with KPPCSD management about temporary facilities. On the latter point, he has shared an option to lease empty modulars owned by El Cerrito with Interim-GM Benson, which may work well for the Police Department. Vice President

Padian thanked Hansell for the info on the modulars and hopes the KPPCSD considers the option since the police can patrol and don't need to be centrally located. GM Hansell explained that he shared all the info he has gained over the past six months on temporary facility planning and the lead time required with Interim-GM Benson, since the months are going by quickly. Hansell explained that he received helpful recommendations from the San Rafael Fire Department on their temporary fire stations. Director Padian reminded everyone that the board previously pledged to help the KPPCSD with their relocation costs in some manner, and maybe this will provide an opportunity for that assistance.

**11. Outside Agencies Reports (02:13:30):**

**11a. Contra Costa Special Districts Association:**

Director Stein attended the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting and highlighted the agenda, which included two speakers, Amy Worth on Regional Transportation and Priorities, and Hueling M. Lee on Creating Connections Between Special Districts and School Districts. Both were well-received. There was a vote to amend the bylaws that passed. The next meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**12. ADJOURNMENT (02:17:55):**

President Nagel adjourned the meeting at 9:18PM. The next Board of Directors meeting will occur on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Bill Hansell

These minutes were approved at the regular Board Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on \_\_\_\_\_.

Attest:

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Secretary of the Board