

Meeting Notes Capay Valley Fire Protection District

Special Meeting December 27

Commissioners Present

Wyatt Cline, Mark Burns, Mike McDonald, Dawnmarie Viera, Judith Redmond (Chair, notes)

Fire Personnel Present

Chief Danny Garrison
Craig Hollis
Ed Walters
Amon Muller
Robert Hines

Additional Guests

Curtis Lawrence, Chief, Esparto Fire Protection District
Carine Hines

1. Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 pm

2. Public Comment

A letter from Jesse Capitano was read into the record

Chief Curtis Lawrence stated his appreciation that our two districts are working together and reported the full support of his Department to make the joint position a success.

Carine Hines stated that she is a wife of a first responder, a mother, a farmer and a PhD in molecular biology who is 8-months pregnant and believes that members of the community, especially any that are uniquely vulnerable to Covid 19 (unborn children and pregnant women) should be protected by vaccinating first responders.

Craig Hollis reported that the Fire Association came to the conclusion that the best service to the community would be provided if first responders were vaccinated and that the Capay Fire District troops were vaccinated voluntarily.

Ed Walters: described the history of the agreement that Chief Garrison has with the troops regarding vaccinations. They had thought they were following County policy.

Amon Muller: All of the volunteers wanted to get vaccinated by unanimous vote.

Mark Burns reported that Special Districts are not subject to the County policy on vaccines and that this was confirmed by LAFCO. The vaccination requirement for the troops should have been reviewed by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners agreed that it is important that the troops understand that the covid vaccination requirement was not a policy of the Fire District because it was not discussed by the Commissioners.

An open discussion ensued in which the Commissioners decided to consider a review of personnel policies as a future agenda item.

3. New Business: Covid Protocols

An open discussion ensued regarding the previous agreement around Covid vaccinations and the need to come up with a policy that will work for both Esparto and Capay. The extent of any vaccination requirement will have to be clear since the Capay troops will be working with Esparto and Yocha Dehe staff on a regular basis. Neither of those Departments have a vaccination requirement for Covid, only for Influenza and Hepatitis B.

Firefighters that were present stated that they wanted to go on record advocating a vaccine mandate policy and several stated that they were not concerned about working with other Departments that were not vaccinated as they would all be masked.

A proposal was put forward that any staff that were not vaccinated could be given the option to have a weekly test. It was agreed that this could be on the January agenda for additional discussion.

In the meantime, Judith Redmond and Curtis Lawrence will consult County Council regarding if the Commissioners have authority to mandate vaccines and if they were to adopt a position that gave staff and volunteers the testing option is there a choice regarding who would have to pay for tests (i.e. the staff person or the Department).

Chief Garrison was charged with asking the troops if they would be comfortable with weekly testing as an alternative to a vaccine mandate in the case of someone who was not vaccinated.

4. Old Business: Joint Hire/ Shared Firefighter position

Chief Lawrence explained that the job posting for the firefighter position would become public on December 28th and applications were going to be accepted through January 28, 2022. The plan is to take two weeks to go through the applications and appoint a panel to interview the top candidates. The goal is to have a recommendation for the joint Boards in Esparto and Capay by the February meetings. The job description will not have anything about a vaccine mandate because neither board has approved such language. Input from the Capay Fire District will be welcome.

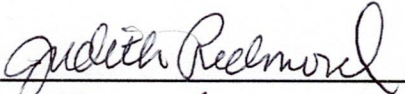
It is expected that the overtime pay built into the job description will cover training in Capay. There was a discussion about the benefits built into the position and it was

explained that funding is available for 1.5 years through tribal mitigation funds plus the cannabis tax money.

5. Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike McDonald
Second by Mark Burns
All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Judith Redmond, Chairman 

Jesse Capitanio, Secretary 