

Pine Hill Fire District #1
Workshop Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2024

Note: Meeting was held at the Pine Hill Municipal Building

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Waddington at 6:05 P.M. Chairman Waddington led the salute to the flag and read a statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Hagarty – present, Commissioner Hassett – present, Commissioner Harris – present, Commissioner Wakeley – present, Commissioner Waddington – present.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chief Hunter, Battalion Chief Pizzo

OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to open the floor to the public. A motion to open the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

There was no public participation.

CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to close the floor to the public if there were no other questions. There were none. A motion to close the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

WORKSHOP: Chief Hunter asked why the meeting was moved to the Municipal Building. Chairman Waddington said that question is not part of the workshop. Chief Hunter said that he will bring it up at the regular meeting.

Chief Hunter asked where do the commissioners stand on the recommendation to combine forces. Stations 84 & 86 are discussing combining forces. Station 82 is not interested. There was a discussion. Commissioner Hassett asked Chief Hunter if he will be the Chief for all three stations. Chief Hunter said, yes. Commissioner Hassett asked how many full time firefighters does each station have. Chief Hunter said that Station 84 has five and Station 86 has four. Commissioner Hassett said that Chief Brown is listed as administrator, but you are not even speaking with him. Chief Hunter said that we have to get over it. Chiefs Brown and DiMitre are paid administrators but volunteer fire chiefs. Commissioner Hagarty said that we should have an exploratory conversation with the other fire districts. Chief Hunter said that we should send a letter of interest. Commissioner Hassett said that the PHFD board should be included if the chiefs are meeting with other fire district board members. Chief Hunter said that he was not

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meeting with other commissioners. He and Battalion Chief Pizzo attend their board meeting. Commissioner Harris asked about the referendum if this goes through. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that the referendum is still on. Chief Hunter said that we do not need a referendum if this happens. Battalion Chief Pizzo explained the deal with Stations 84 & 86. Commissioner Wakeley asked the chiefs if they met with 86. Chief Hunter said no, Chief Brown never responded. Commissioner Harris said that he thinks the PHFD board members should meet with the other districts. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that we need to move forward and not rehash old issues. Chief Hunter said that it is the right thing to do. It will make the fire districts stronger. Commissioner Hagarty said that he supports sending a letter. Chairman Waddington agreed. Commissioner Wakeley asked if it will be the same pay scale for all. Battalion Chief Pizzo said no. There was a discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley to send a formal letter to the other fire districts involved. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Battalion Chief Pizzo asked how are we proceeding with the referendum vote. Chairman Waddington said that we need a timeframe. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that we should start early in case we run into issues. Chairman Waddington said that we should be able to review old elections to get some answers. Commissioner Hagarty said that he will speak with the clerk's office. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that we need a resolution first. Chief Hunter said that he would like to find out the results of the meeting between the fire district's boards before November. Chairman Waddington said that he will try to set up a meeting for next week. Chairman Waddington said that in this deal, we would become a ladder company. Can we alternate with other districts to avoid the wear and tear on our ladder. Chief Hunter said yes. There was a discussion.

Commissioner Harris asked what is going on with all the gas leaks at Chalet Apartments. Battalion Chief Pizzo said that it is built on a landfill and keeps shifting. Commissioner Harris asked, what are you finding? Chief Hunter said leaking stoves, heaters, and everything gas related. Commissioner Harris asked if the maintenance men are experienced in gas hookups. Chief Hunter said that he does not think so, but we could start billing the apartments for calls. Commissioner Harris said that this is a dangerous situation. There was a discussion.

Battalion Chief Pizzo said that at the last workshop he handed out paperwork that included the salaries of the Pine Hill Police Department. That information got out. Please keep this information between us. Chairman Waddington said that the meeting was open to the public and the police salaries were part of the packet. There was a discussion.

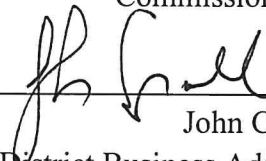
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ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Waddington asked if there were any other issues that needed to be addressed. There were none. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Christopher Harris
Commission Secretary



John Campanella
Fire District Business Administrator