

**SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

The six hundred twenty sixth meeting of the Board of Directors of the El Dorado Hills County Water District was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., at the regular meeting place of the District, the District Office, 1050 Wilson Blvd., El Dorado Hills, California. Present were Directors Hidahl, Hartley, Knight and Thomsen with President Hidahl presiding. (Director Durante was absent.) Counsel Mike Cook was in attendance. Chief Veerkamp and Chief Financial Officer Bair were also in attendance.

President Hidahl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Hartley moved to approve the Consent Calendar which included the minutes of the 625th meeting held August 20, 2008, the expenditures for August 2008, and the approval of the list of surplus equipment, seconded by Director Knight and unanimously carried.

Director Thomsen arrived at this time.

Chief Veerkamp reported that SB1617 is dead. Letters in opposition to SB1617 were sent to all of the representatives in our District. President Hidahl asked if there was a response to these letters. Staff reported that there was no response. President Hidahl stated that he would like to have a response. Staff stated that often times you get a response from email, but it is most likely automated.

President Hidahl announced that the Closed Session, Item VI-A.1 would be deferred to the end of the agenda.

Director Knight stated that he and Director Hartley will review the evaluation form for Chief Veerkamp. They are planning to have Board members and a couple of outside agencies evaluate the Chief. This will be agendized for the next meeting.

Chief Veerkamp met with Dennis Dong, the architect, regarding the submittals for the Training Facility. Chief Veerkamp stated that there were two big issues with the parcel. One was the drainage listed as a navigable waterway and secondly a fifty-foot easement. Chief Veerkamp and Director Knight will check with the County regarding the easement and the waterway. If they can get these removed, it will reduce time and expense dramatically. Dennis Dong had removed the siltation pond, which flows to Carson Creek. There will be further discussion on that issue.

Director Knight stated that he would like to contact the right people at the County to get this easement narrowed. President Hidahl requested that this be done in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers. It was noted that this has to be done before a grading permit will be issued.

Counsel Cook stated that the District would need to demonstrate that all permits necessary have been received or have a consultant firm with you to verify this.

The Fire Committee did not meet regarding recording meetings. Staff gave the Board an update of cost and the problems with the audio last month. This was referred back to the Committee for further discussion.

The Committee on Solar Power met and reviewed the sample Request for Proposals. They are working towards melding them into one proposal and will bring it back for discussion.

Chief Veerkamp met with Chief Couper of Latrobe who made a few proposals for coverage of their District. The Board Committee will meet to discuss Chief Couper's requests and the possibility of contracting and/or other ways to increase the response to Latrobe.

A stipend policy for out of county incidents/exempt employees was discussed. The Committee had met and stated that the policy appeared to meet the needs of the District. However, they noted that there may need to be some time constraints written into the policy.

After some discussion it was decided to have the Committee meet again to set the time parameters for the policy.

The Volunteer Stipend Policy was also discussed. Chief Veerkamp is working with the legal counsel for personnel and will bring it back to the October meeting.

Chief Veerkamp gave the Operations Report. He also reviewed the Building, the Prevention and Training Reports.

Chief Veerkamp advised the Board that Medic 86 would move and become Medic 28 on October 1, 2008. It was stated that the JPA's Policy #403 retains the ability to move units where they are most needed. Chief Veerkamp stated that Medic 85 has been in its home area more and it is anticipated that this will continue with the Medic housed at Station 28.

Director Hartley was not comfortable with the fact that the Casino was dictating where the ambulance would be housed. He stated that the Chiefs should have the ability to respond in an effective manner without violating the contract. Chief Veerkamp stated that he had discussed this with Supervisor Dupray. Supervisor Dupray had stated that the County wanted committed money for the medic unit from the Casino. With the medic unit being moved from Station 86 to Station 28, the Board agreed that it is necessary for Medic 85 to stay in compliance with the contracted agreement.

It was discussed that this item should be discussed in Strategic Planning. Items to be discussed are ambulance deployment, billable costs, augmented funding, and what can be done within the District. It was also discussed that there are many elements that can be worked on, such as, time at scene, turn-out time, etc.

The JPA at their recent meeting also increased FTO stipends and chose to reimburse \$11,000 for ALS gear for the engines. They would be reimbursing the \$6,500 for the gurney the District had previously purchased. The Board of Supervisors increased the ambulance billing rates by 13% at their last meeting.

The Board reviewed the request for stipends from three of the Fire Chiefs.

President Hidahl stated that these stipends had been reviewed by Committee and that it was determined that it was an abnormal year, that inequities were not created between staff, that the payment followed the exempt pay policy, and that the payment was not reportable to PERS.

With those conditions satisfied, the Committee recommended approval of the stipends to Chief Veerkamp in the amount of \$79,800, Chief Planje in the amount of \$20,410, and Chief O'Camb in the amount of \$825. Counsel Cook also stated that the Committee found that the District is not interested in accruing additional revenue and that the District would not have any negative fiscal impact in paying these stipends.

Director Knight moved to approve the staff and committee recommendation for payment of the three stipends, seconded by Director Hidahl and unanimously carried.

Staff researched the costs of outside maintenance for vehicle maintenance. It was determined that the District could save on labor costs by using Doug Veerkamp Engineering. Staff stated that the District could not use any one vendor exclusively due to warranties and type of service required. However, Doug Veerkamp Engineering is a local shop willing to perform the repairs mostly at the stations themselves which saves time and travel costs. Doug Veerkamp is Chief Veerkamp's brother which is why this issue was being brought before the Board. Counsel Cook stated that the Board could use safeguards to protect the relationship from being a conflict. If the Board is uncomfortable, they could disallow it. The Board can review exactly what checks are going to Doug Veerkamp Engineering. Since he would be a vendor of the District, the Chief would need to disclose any gifts from him. It was decided that Counsel Cook will work on practical safeguards and this will be agendaized for the next meeting.

The Appropriation Limits for the 2008/2009 fiscal year were calculated at \$23,979,221. There was no public comment.

Director Knight moved to approve Resolution 2008-08, adopting the Appropriation Limits for the 2008/09 fiscal year as calculated, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried. (Roll Call: Ayes, all. Absent, Durante. Noes, none.)

Directors Knight and Hartley, Chief Veerkamp, and Chief Financial Officer Bair reviewed the Tentative Final Budget prior to submitting it to the Board. Director Knight stated that additional categories were added to better track overtime. An amount of \$160,000 was added as a placeholder only for the possible pandemic flu event. The revenue and reserve projections should be reviewed in Strategic Planning. Chief Veerkamp reviewed the changes made to the Tentative Final Budget with the Board. There was no public comment.

Director Knight moved to approve the 2008/09 Final Budget as submitted in the amount of \$16,666.432, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried.

The Chief also requested to hire the Training Captain as listed in the budget. The Board requested that a staff report be brought to the next meeting for this position.

Chief Financial Officer Bair solicited quotes for the Annual Audit for fiscal year 2007/08. Three quotes were received. Staff recommended Robert Johnson, CPA be selected at a cost of \$8,000 to perform the Annual Audit.

Director Hidahl moved to accept staff recommendation and establish an agreement with Robert Johnson, CPA for the Annual Audit for 2007/08, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried.

Director Hartley thanked the Honor Guard for representing El Dorado Hills at the services for Sacramento Fire personnel Werner. He also thanked everyone for the ceremony and plaque for the Senior Center in honor of Ramona “Moni” Gilmore.

All of the Directors have been invited to a Yes on Y Committee event at Serrano. October 10 is the Senior Oktoberfest.

A discussion regarding the District policy on photographs was held as a result of a photograph that Director Knight had used for his campaign. Since the use of the photograph had been challenged, Director Knight asked for clarification as to what photos he could use. Chief Veerkamp explained that the policy is that a photo of themselves could be used as long as it had no recognizable link to El Dorado Hills, including signs, helmet, badge, or El Dorado Hills equipment, personnel or citizens. Director Knight would be allowed to use a photo adhering to this policy.

Directors Durante and Hidahl will be addressing the Board Policy Manual as it relates to Board Policies that were not originally included. The purpose of the manual would be to give a new Board member complete information. An Adhoc Committee of Durante and Hidahl will review this and make a recommendation of how to handle these various policies that were not originally included in the Board Policy Manual.

Director Thomsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Approved:

John Hidahl, President

Connie Bair, Board Secretary