

**SIX HUNDRED THIRTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
EI DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

The six hundred thirty fourth meeting of the Board of Directors of the El Dorado Hills County Water District was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place of the District, the District Office, 1050 Wilson Blvd., El Dorado Hills, California. Present were Directors Durante, Thomsen and Winn with President Hartley presiding. Counsel Mike Cook was in attendance. (Director Hidahl arrived at 5:56 p.m.) Chief Veerkamp, Chief Planje, Chief O’Camb and Chief Financial Officer Bair were also in attendance.

President Hartley called the meeting to order and asked Sandy Sanders to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that Sandy will now be taking Board minutes and thanked her for her participation as Recording Secretary.

The first order of business was a hearing for an employee’s appeal regarding the District Tattoo/Body Art/Piercing Policy. The grievant, Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Bailey, presented his concerns regarding the current policy that requires employees to cover up visible tattoos. His concern is that enforcement of this policy could result in a safety issue; a heat related injury to himself or others that are required to wear more clothing in order to cover up their tattoos. He also stated that his research shows that the average age citizen in El Dorado Hills is 37 years of age and that 40 percent of Americans ages 26 to 40 have tattoos. He stated that he would never treat a patient differently if they had a tattoo and feels that it is wrong for the Department to allow this treatment internally. Josh requested to have the current policy suspended until a committee could be assembled and a policy written that is positive for the Department and the community which we serve.

Chief Veerkamp stated that after receiving two citizen concerns, the Tattoo Policy and Grooming Policy were put into place in an effort to uphold the Department's high public image. The policy was presented at the General Staff Meeting on December 13, 2007, and rolled out to the Volunteer Association as well. Comments were solicited. Chief Veerkamp stated that there were no negative comments received until Josh brought up this issue on April 6, 2009, during the week of Honor Guard camp. Josh raised this concern sixteen months after the policy was put in place and after receiving his full sleeve tattoo. Director Thomsen asked Josh if he was in attendance at the General Staff Meeting and Josh said that he was; however, he was never solicited for comments. Chief Veerkamp also noted that the policy was established prior to January 1, 2008, and therefore, the Firefighters' Bill of Rights "Meet and Confer" requirement did not apply. Director Thomsen expressed concern that the policy had not been brought before the Board yet the Board was being asked to rule on the policy. Chief Veerkamp stated that policies have historically not been brought before the Board; President Hartley cautioned the Board on getting involved in operational policies. Mike Cook reiterated that Josh was grieving the policy and not the action and that there was no disciplinary action involved.

President Hartley moved to send Josh Bailey's grievance of the Tattoo Policy to the Department's Safety Committee and Policy Review Committee for review and report of their findings no later than the next Board Meeting as well as continuance of this item to the next Board Meeting pending results of the committees. The motion was seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried.

Director Winn asked that the financial statements be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

Director Durante moved to approve the Consent Calendar which included the minutes of the 633rd meeting held April 22, 2009. The motion was seconded by Jim Hartley and unanimously carried.

Director Winn stated that she was not comfortable approving the Financial Statement for April 2009 and was concerned with the fluctuating numbers in the salaries account. She requested an itemized breakdown of the salaries (6001) account and expressed concern about having accurate costs in the budget going forward. Chief Financial Officer Bair invited Director Winn to review any of the financial documentation she needs and stated that her office is always open.

Director Durante made a motion to approve the Financial Statements for April 2009. The motion was seconded by Director Hidahl and carried. (Ayes: Durante, Hidahl and Hartley) (Abstained: Thomsen and Winn).

Chief Veerkamp reviewed an FDAC letter opposing the shift of local property taxes and the support of exemption of fire protection districts from any loss of local government property taxes. Director Winn encouraged participation at the Budget Briefing to be held on Legislative Day, Wednesday, June 3.

President Hartley stated that Item VII-A.1, Chief Evaluation; Item VII-A.2, Real Property Negotiations, and Item VII-A.3, Wage and Benefit Negotiations will be deferred to a Closed Session later in the meeting after Oral Communications.

Counsel Cook discussed the revision of the Board Policy Manual. He stated that Director Hidahl had requested a reformatting of the manual which Staff will be working on. The only substantive change made was to Policy #25, relating to previous Board policies and reserve funds.

Director Hidahl moved to adopt the Board Policy Manual as stated after reformatting and making the recommended changes by Counsel. The motion was seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried.

Director Hidahl suggested that the Bylaws also be revisited and made consistent with the intent of the Board.

Counsel Cook stated that the Admin Committee met regarding the Conference Room Policy. He asked that the Board review the proposed Conference Room Policy and Signboard Policy and provide input at the next Board Meeting so that these policies can be finalized and adopted.

Chief Veerkamp gave an update on the Training Facility. All items have been submitted to the County and are awaiting approval.

The Fire Committee reported on the budget development for fiscal year 2009/10. Directors Durante and Winn expressed concern about the zero-growth projection and potential of a serious deficit. Chief Veerkamp stated that another Budget Advisory Committee Meeting will take place after more information is available from the state at which time staff will reevaluate the situation and make additional recommendations. Director Winn asked for a worse case scenario contingency plan. President Hartley directed Staff to establish two reserve accounts within the budget, an economic uncertainty reserve and an ERAF shift reserve.

Chief Veerkamp reported that the Apparatus Committee is requesting that two engines be replaced to maintain our fleet and will be generating a recommendation to the Board.

Chief Veerkamp gave an update on the contracting with Latrobe Fire Protection Services. Chief Cooper of Latrobe Fire is still very interested in contracting with us for fuel; this will very likely happen as soon as a card lock system is installed. He is also interested in

prevention and accounting services but this will be a matter of being able to pay for our services due to the Aid to Fire cutback.

The Operation Reports for April were received and filed.

Chief Veerkamp updated the Board on the JPA. After an executive search process, Chief Veerkamp reported that he is pleased with the selection of Marty Hackett who retired from the Sheriff's Department and also held the position of OES Coordinator for the County. He will assume the position of Executive Director on June 1, 2009, and serve a one year contract.

Chief Planje gave an update of four-person staffing; \$37,000 over a 30 day period. President Hartley asked for an ongoing monthly summary.

Chief Veerkamp submitted a draft Resolution to the Board of Supervisors in support of continuing the Aid to Fire.

Director Hidahl moved to approve Resolution 2009-05 supporting the Aid to Fire, seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried. (Roll Call: Ayes (Hartley, Thomsen and Winn); Noes, none.)

Chief Financial Officer Bair asked for Board approval for electronic transfer payments to PERS Retirement, PERS Health, and PERS Deferred Comp.

Director Hidahl moved to approve setting up electronic transfer payments to PERS Retirement, PERS Health and PERS Deferred Comp, seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried.

LAFCO sent a request to Special Districts to vote for five candidates for Special District Representative.

President Hidahl moved to elect Barbara Winn as the Board's first choice, seconded by Director Thomsen and unanimously carried.

Director Hidahl moved to elect Harris Norris as second choice, seconded by Director Durante, and unanimously carried.

Director Hartley moved to select Ed Courtial as third choice, seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried.

Director Durante moved to elect Robert Larsen as fourth choice, seconded by Director Hartley and unanimously carried.

Director Hidahl moved to elect Gary Richardson as fifth choice, seconded by Director Durante and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Director Hidahl to approve Director Durante's request to attend a Special District Institute on Administration on June 18 and 19 in Seaside, California, seconded by Director Thomsen and unanimously carried.

After considerable discussion regarding the scheduling of future Board Meetings, Director Durante moved that Board Meetings be held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Director Thomsen and unanimously carried.

President Hartley suggested that a review of the meeting date be reviewed annually at the Strategic Planning Meeting or during the election process to allow for flexibility.

President Hartley complimented Staff on the newly formatted Budget Report and thanked the many volunteers who made the Pancake Breakfast a great success by raising \$10,000 for the Jeff Mitchell Memorial Baseball Field.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss VII-A.1 pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Public Employee Evaluation; Item VII-A.2 pursuant to

Government Code Section 54956.8, Real Property Negotiations; and Item VII-A.3 pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 and 54957.6, El Dorado Hills Associated Firefighters' Wage and Benefit Negotiations.

The meeting reconvened at 9:37 p.m. President Hartley announced that during Closed Session, the Board took no action and gave direction to all committees.

Director Thomsen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Winn and unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Approved:

Connie Bair, Board Secretary

Jim Hartley, President