

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THORNTON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
25999 Thornton Rd., Thornton, CA. 95686
January 9, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Allan called the regular meeting of the Thornton County Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Directors Present: Jim Allan, William Stokes, Frank Yoka, and Jose Torres
Absent: Sharon Tucker and Alix Strapp
Staff Present: Fire Chief Alberto Garcia and Administrative Officer Diana Tidwell

GUESTS ATTENDING:

Bill Goulart

AGENDA:

On motion of Director Stokes, seconded by Director Yoka, agenda for January 9, 2025, meeting approved. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Guest attendee, Bill Goulart advised people of the circle contributed money to put rock in. They would like Fire Department to donate one hundred dollars towards. Chairman Allan requested adding appropriating the funds for the rock to the agenda for next meeting. Motion by Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Director Yoka. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED:

Per Chief Garcia the district received one application for Measure S Committee bringing the total of applications received to two.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

On motion of Director Yoka, seconded by Director Torres, minutes for December 12, 2024, regular meeting approved. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT & BILL LOG:

On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Director Yoka, financials and bill logs in the amount of \$12,129.28 approved. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

Chairman Allan has been in communication with attorney regarding a resolution and/or policy to collect on parcels that were previously missed on San Joaquin County tax roll. The resolution to invoice for taxes not collected by tax collector is back and forth because the district is not the taxing authority and not many fire departments do what the district is proposing to do. Out of an abundance of caution because taxes are such a heavily regulated part of the law, the attorney would like to research and look in to it further. Chief Garcia advised the resolution was suggested at the direction of county when they rejected the 75 parcels. Chairman Allan is working on an application form for committee to fill out. Chief Garcia will send a draft of an application.

FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION REPORT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

No action taken on motion to add Alix Strapp to bank accounts. Died due to lack of motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

The same officers were nominated at the December 12, 2024, board of directors meeting. On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Yokes, Jim Allan to remain Chairman, and William

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Stokes to remain Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the 2025 calendar year. All ayes.
Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEFS REPORT:

- A. Chief Garcia advised hometown generators came by auxiliary and the power is back up and running.
- B. The Christmas event was a huge success and there was a substantial turnout from the community.
- C. PPE bi-annual sets have been ordered.
- D. The district is still short two fire officers with no applications received as of yet. He is waiting on 3 interns to start; one is starting Sunday, on on January 19, 2025 and one on February 1, 2025.
- E. All fire apparatus still having the same issues as far as ball valves. The master drain came in for E17-1 and Lieutenant Caamal will be working on it. E17-2 needs service at Caterpillar. E17-3 still has a leaking rear valve. There is nothing to report on WT and command vehicle.
- F. The district received 24 EMS, 9 vehicle accidents, 4 vehicle fires, 1 false alarm, 3 public assists, and 2 mutual aid calls for a total of 43 calls for the month of December bringing the yearly total to 369 calls.
- G. The district was denied for the cyber security grant. Chief Garcia has appealed. The homeland security grant is still pending awards and the OTS grant is in the application process.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Chairman Allan bought half a dozen 3 ring binders and tabs on Amazon and will be donating them to district so each board member has a board binder with paper copies of packets to review.

CLOSED SESSION:

Personnel Issue pursuant to California Government Code Section §54957.

The meeting convened into closed session at 6:48 p.m.

The meeting reconvened into open session at 7:42 p.m. with the following action from the Board of Directors:

- A. On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Torres, approve Chief Garcia to draft resolution terminating Sharon Tucker and Taxes & Accounting Xclusive Service from all accounts held by Thornton Rural Fire Protection District and bringing all accounting, taxes, and payroll services in house. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Torres, approved Chief Garcia, Vice Chairman Stokes and Chairman Allen to draft another resolution to open a new bank account with Farmers & Merchants Bank. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Director Torres, approve Chief Garcia to be accompanied by a second person to collect all property owned by Thornton Rural Fire Protection District, electronic and hard copy, from Sharon Tucker & Taxes & Accounting Xclusive Service at their earliest convenience. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING:

On motion of Vice Chairman Stokes, seconded by Director Yoka, the Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

DIANA TIDWELL