

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: AUGUST 15, 2022**

Directors Present: Directors Bill Hudson and Katy Hover-Smoot

Attendees: Jessica Asher, Board Secretary; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Allen Riley, Fire Chief

A. Call to order at 9:00 A.M.

B. Public comment.

Chief Riley brought to the Board's attention that the District entered into an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to move the regional repeater into the FAA Building. This work will be completed this fall and will improve winter access.

C. Ambulance Service Study – Project Update

Chief Riley provided background on the historical context of ambulance service within Olympic Valley. Riley noted that updated financial analyses will be needed before the service is reconsidered due to changes in staffing and administrative workload, including expansion of the Fuels Management program, since the District last considered adding emergency transportation services in 2020.

Chief Riley provided a summary of the Ambulance Service Study drafted by A.P. Triton. The study shows that Olympic Valley is an open market and does not provide a clear recommendation on if the District should, or should not, provide ambulance services. It is unlikely there would be a significant impact on response times and patient care and the decision is likely to be based on financial analysis. While there are days when the regional network is overly taxed, it is not possible to only offer ambulance services seasonally or during peak times. The report is in draft form and Chief Riley reviewed the items the District, and likely neighboring Districts, will comment on.

The discussion included information about the response time calculation in the study, ALS paramedics at Palisades Tahoe, the anticipated financial impact to the District and our neighbors were the District to begin emergency transport services, concern about down staffing the Alpine Meadows station when required, and information about how the region currently operates in a consolidated manner.

Staff is hoping to receive a public draft in September that could be presented to the Board and community in October.

D. Defensible Space Program

Chief Riley provided a summary of the status of the program.

Programs such as AB 38, which requires a defensible space inspection prior to real estate transactions, and short-term rental defensible space inspections, have improved defensible space compliance despite taxing Fire Department Personnel. Monthly Green Waste Days are having very positive outcomes.

Chief Riley said the Department has some software and customer support issues with the platform previously used and is moving to a different software system.

Chief Riley explained that by September/October there is typically good compliance with Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291, last year there were approximately 24 properties not in compliance. However, there are enforcement and timing challenges (due to late precipitation and snow accumulation). There was a discussion about potential benefits of creating more stringent defensible space regulations, but also workforce and enforcement concerns. State regulations may become more stringent as well. Placer County has tripled enforcement staffing and the District is hopeful that will help our Department.

The Directors compared our defensible space program to neighboring agencies and felt that the District's program was robust in comparison. There was a discussion about possibly using the "Fire Aside" program used by Truckee Fire Protection District next year to provide more thorough reporting.

E. Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Project Update

Chief Riley provided a summary of the initial report recently provided to the District. A key concern was defensible space within the community. Staff discussed field surveying information from the lidar mapping, reviewing compliance with PRC 4291 with Deer Creek Resources, and suggesting the study include more data on the Valley's hazards overall; for example, providing an aggregate percentage of how many parcels have "high" and "low" lidar fuels from the parcel-by-parcel analysis provided visually. Staff expects to receive a public draft document to be reviewed with the Board and Community in October.

F. CAL FIRE Grant / Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction – Project Update

Staff will ask the Board to consider a resolution to enter into the grant agreement with CAL FIRE at the August meeting. After the agreement is executed, project expenses are eligible for reimbursement with the grant funds. Staff expects that plans and specifications will be prepared this winter, bid this spring, and tree thinning work initiated next summer.

G. Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) Forest Futures Grant

The District is working to manage the \$50,000 grant for fuel thinning and briefly discussed a Palisades Tahoe / Alpine Meadows project with funding from TTCF south of the Valley. The \$10,000 originally committed to the CWPP will be used for the planning and permitting of that project.

H. Five Creeks Project

Staff noted that the Five Creeks project continues to move through the permitting phase and staff is hopeful the fuels thinning work will commence in 2023 or 2024.

I. No further business coming before the Personnel Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

By, JA/AR