

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – August 28th, 2024, at 3:00 pm A.N.F. Building 48 Yaney Ave 3rd Floor, Sonora CA 95370

- I. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 3:00 PM. Roll call taken.
- II. Roll Call – Quorum established with 8
 - a. Committee Members present
 1. District 2 Supervisor – Ryan Campbell
 2. District 1 Supervisor – David Goldemberg
 3. Public Rep – Scott Fremd
 4. Public Rep – Betsy Hurst
 5. Public Rep – Chuck Sloan
 6. Tuolumne County Fire – Chief Andy Murphy
 7. Tuolumne County Sheriff Dave Vasquez
 8. Sonora City – Melissa Eads
 - b. Advisory Committee Members
 1. Mike Olenchak – Tuolumne Fire Safe Council
 2. Bec Johnson – Stanislaus National Forest
 - c. Others present
 1. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 2. Public – Various
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Jim Wegner spoke regarding his concern over Old Buchanan Mine Road. Staff will meet with him and report out at next meeting.
 - b. Betsy Hurst spoke about the issue of a fire starting, asked about reporting. Chief Murphy was going to follow up.
- IV. Approval of minutes 7/24/2024:
 - a. Motion was made by Betsy Hurst- Younger and second by Supervisor Goldemberg to approve with corrections. All in favor, no nays, no abstention. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Public Comment.

V. Partner Agency Updates/Presentations

- a. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Mike Olenchak spoke about the Mira Monte Shaded fuel break, and its effectiveness on the Canyon Fire. Staff will send out a copy of the two page flyer regarding.
- b. USFS Stanislaus – continue to work on the SERAL Project. Spoke about recent visit by the Washington DC projects and to look at how we would move forward to future projects and funding.
- c. Cal Fire – spoke about grants awarded recently, fuels reduction projects awarded in Tuolumne County.

VI. Committee Business

- a. Staff Reports and Recommendations
 - Evacuation Planning with OES, Fire, Sheriff and GIS to explore two existing platforms out there (Genasys and Perimeter) to aid in evacuation planning or use of zones.
 - Series of Public meetings regarding the Cal OES jumpstart funded program to focus on 5 census tracts that are most socially and economically vulnerable. Each community will get an in -person and a virtual component. This grant focus on educating the community about mitigation steps which include fuels reduction.
 - Sent via email the stakeholder perception of wildfire mitigation for Homes Survey and Research results.
 - Internal AAR on Canyon Fire yesterday discussing what worked well and what we can improve upon.
- b. Report out on Commissioner Ricardo Lara and CSAC Briefing with County Supervisors
 - In addition to the last meeting with a representative of the Dept of Insurance, staff reported out on a meeting held with County Supervisors on the Insurance Commissioners plan to get many homeowners off the fair plan. The Insurance Commissioner is working with insurance companies to develop business plans that are due by the end of the year and come January 1, they will be making those plans available. They will also be having a hearing on Sept 17th with regards to the cat modeling. Counties are also encouraged to request staff present at Town Halls and Preparedness meetings with communities to encourage home hardening and making our communities safer from wildfires.
- c. Updates on Home Hardening and Community Wildfire Defense Grant
 - Staff updated on recent Canyon Fire and the calls regarding the grant. We are in Phase 1 of the project that includes EHP review of conditions such as biological, botanical and cultural issues within the project area. Our consultants submitted the phase 1 of that document to FEMA for review back in June and we are awaiting their response. This process could take a minimum of 6 months and will result in identifying those homes that have no issues. Once we have the no issue list, we can begin outreach to those property owners at that time. While we wait, we are developing an RFP for the project management position who will be hired to oversee the day-to-day operations. We anticipate having this person in place sometime by the end of October, they will then begin and hopefully by end of the year, FEMA will have approved the initial list so we can begin contacting those property owners, hire our home assessors and construction managers who then focus in the springtime to begin work. It is our hope that once we have the project manager on board, we will then have another public meeting to discuss further the process and anticipated timeline. This project is both funded by FEMA and Cal OES and while we have received the award, we have not received actual funds. It is all through a reimbursement process as objectives are met.

Committee member questions/comments:

- Asked about CEQA review of individual parcels. Staff explained the FEMA NEPA process.
- Requested that CWPP priority projects be included in annual fuels treatment priority workshop. Staff stated they would pass that on.

Public Comment

Carol Dodd spoke of Downtown Business concerns for emergency alerts and communication. Requested that we give a little more effort in communicating emergency alerts in downtown business community. Staff will supply more brochures.

VII. Discussion and Approval of

- a. Update on strategic goals and recommendations to Board on:
 - 1 – Support sustainable funding for fire services.
 - Chief Murphy spoke of the Fire Department Budget story that was emailed out and will be made public. Spoke of current or proposed options for funding. Supervisor Campbell asked about how do we get the process for fees for service. Chief Murphy stated that fire budget includes the recommendation of a CFD and Geiger fees, it does not address the extension of SAFER grant employees.
 - Committee members asked about a plan to continue funding the SAFER grant staff. Committee members emphasized that we want to keep fire at the very least at the funding level we currently have.
 - The committee agreed unanimously to support the recommended funding for sustainable fire. The committee also agrees that Fire Chief Murphy and OES staff will develop and strategic analysis of fire services and sustainable funding to be presented to the BOS later. Moved by Sheriff Vasquez, seconded by Betsy Hurst-Younger. All in favor.
 - 2 – Develop recommendations to the BOS for fees for service. (see above).
 - 3 – Support hazardous vegetation ordinance inspectors to be included in Fire Budget.
 - Haz Vegetation Ordinance staffing. Chief Murphy reported that if there is an opportunity to bring up request to fund the 2 staff with fund balance, he would like the committee's support. Committee members asked about if they could be grant funded or relief employees. Sheriff spoke of a grant that could include some options.
 - Chief Murphy and OES staff will explore those options that could be presented to BOS.
 - 4 – Support recommendation for relocation/improvement of county sheriff's dispatch.
 - Sheriff updated progress of relocation of dispatch. Committee has already supported that recommendation.

Public Comment

VIII. Committee Member Reports

Supervisor Goldemberg spoke of local congressional visit scheduled for Sept 18th. Supervisor Campbell spoke of district 2 state of the county 5:30 pm Sept 16th at Soulsbyville Elementary.

Public comment - none

IX. Next Meeting and Adjournment

a. Meeting Adjourned at 4:44 pm

b. Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – September 25th, 2024 @ 3:00 pm