

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**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*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Fire Safety Advisory Committee – April 26, 2023, at 10:30 am
Board Chambers, 2 South Green Street, Sonora CA 95370**

1. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 11:00 AM. Roll call taken. Quorum Established
 - a. Committee Members present
 - a. District 1 Supervisor – Supervisor Goldemberg
 - b. District 2 Supervisor -Kathleen Haff
 - c. District 3 public representative Wesley Brinegar
 - d. Tuolumne County Fire – Andy Murphy
 - e. Tuolumne County Sheriff – Neil Evans
 - f. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians – Jerry McGowan
 - g. Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association - Chief Gamez
 - h. City of Sonora – Captain John Rock
 - i. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council - Glen Gottschall
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - a. District 2 – vacant
 - b. District 4 – vacant
 - c. District 5 – vacant
 - d. District 1 – absent
 - e. Chicken Ranch Band of Me Wuk
 - c. Others present
 - a. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - b. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - c. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment – None
3. Approval of minutes 2/22/2023:

- a. Motion was made by Wes Brinegar 2nd by Sherriff Pooley to approve. All in favor, no nays, 1 abstention. The motion was approved unanimously.
No Public Comment.
4. Old Business
 - a. Report on final evacuation needs assessment (report link provided in agenda and to be sent by email to committee members)
5. Reports/Presentation
 - a. County Fire Services Presentations
 - a. Groveland Community Service District – Pete Kampa GCSD GM gave a history. Formed in 50's one of the first CSD in the State of California includes Groveland and Big Oak Flat PML increased tax rev now includes fire station in Groveland. In 2012 there was a change to special tax funding status and the fire department was disbanded. GCSD entered an agreement with Tuolumne County to maintain a schedule A engine which is in effect to this day. 2007 master plan recommended deployment standards of coverage to include a rural response time standard of 14 minutes for 90% of incidents. It also recommended an increase in staffing to 6 firefighters in a cost-share agreement mutual aid with the County. County has allocated one engine with a staffing of three with GCSD. 1.17 million property taxes total budget 1.2 mil current budget 570k in deficit annually. Development impact fees and other fees are proposed to offset the deficit. Recommending special tax on ballot in 2024. Andy Murphy stated it is the second largest district in the County. CAL FIRE has one type-1 engine with staffing of three. Looking for a secondary station location currently. There are 500 miles in the district. In 2022 there were 571 incidents, 49 fires, 408 medical aids. Resources include one type-3 and one type-? engine, and one pickup. The equipment is aging and will need to be updated soon. Technical rescues on Priest Grade are common. Wildfire incidents are common. Currently, there are two long-term closed egress roads (Wards Ferry, and Old Priests Grade).
 - b. Jamestown Fire Protection District – Andy Murphy talked about cooperative district with Tuolumne County with an elected 5-person board. In 2022, there were 274 incidents. 2012 safer grant started funding resources for the station including a trailer as a temporary residence for staff sleeping quarters. Matrix study predominately residential. Resources include Sparton 2008 engine and a utility pickup. We are looking for an additional station location. There are no volunteers at this station. Volunteers declining due in part to high state requirements. The State requirements for volunteers are the same as professional positions. Pandemic impacts likely also affect the change.

Public Comment – None

- b. Staff Report – OES updated on projects/grants
 - i. Notice of Vacancy for Fire safety advisory District 2, 4,5 posted, applications due May 5th. Applications will go to the Board on May 16th
 - ii. BOS approved May 1-7 as Wildfire Preparedness Week
 - iii. Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall this Saturday April 29 12:30-5pm at Tuolumne CRC
 - iv. Grants that we are currently managing
 - a. California FireSafe Council
 - b. USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant funding

- 23 miles roadside brushing
 - 1290 homes defensible space Yankee Hill, Cedar Ridge, Me-Wuk
- v. Finalizing the 20 million Home Hardening Grant that will focus on Ponderosa hills, Mira Monte and Canyon view home hardening of up to 415 homes

Public comments – None

6. New Business – None

7. Working group updates:

- a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup – Road sign for visitors on Hwy 108 is pending. Discussed smaller signs for visitor areas, example: Pinecrest and Pine Mountain Lake, etc. for preparedness QR codes. Discussed vegetation management mailer finalization with County fire and OES. Will have it in draft form for the next FSAC meeting. Advertisement funding was obtained to present at the theater.
- b. Governance workgroup – Will be looking at red-flag warning days ordinance change and emergency access changes. GIS investigating.
- c. Emergency Planning workgroup – Sherriff Pooley talking about egress road signage and/or road painting Supervisor Haff should invite Cal Trans to the next meeting regarding this.

Public comments - none

8. Member Reports & Discussion – general updates/reports from committee members

- a. Chief Andy Murphy – Chief Casci replacing Chief Wood as TCU Unit Chief.
- b. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council - Glenn – Gary Whitson stated there were 22 million in applications for this round of CCI Prevention grants with an expected funding pool of 4 million. TFSC projects underway include: Belview top priority, Groveland fuel break maintenance, Sunshine Hill, Apple Valle, CWPP underway
- c. Tuolumne Me Wuk – Is staffed up to a three-person crew for planting from tree mortality and fuel breaks around the Rancheria.

Public comments:

Inquiry was made about permitting for short-term rentals.

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting Adjourned 12:05
- b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – May 24 @ 10:30 am at the Board of Supervisors Chambers**