



Staff report for meeting date 1/20/2022

Prepared by Rae Bell – *disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not represent the official stance of the district.*

Agenda item 4. a) Correspondence

Incoming: Certificate of insurance coverage from Golden State Risk Management Authority, Letter from State Controller re 20-21 Special District's Financial Transactions Report – forwarded to PRCSD auditor, Letter from Alleghany County Water District re: recent water supply issues, thank you letter with \$50 donation from Tim Alexander in appreciation of EMS services rendered last summer, request from radio tech for Downieville Fire Protection District for a letter to the FCC authorizing DFPD to use the frequency of the Pike repeater owned by PRCSD.

Outgoing: Abatement for OSHA citation for propane tank at Pike Firehouse mailed via certified mail on November 15, 2021, Letter of authorization to the FCC allowing DFPD to use Pike's radio frequency, Letter to Sierra County Board of Supervisors to address public comments received about the Wayman Dam project, Nineteen New Year's/Thank you cards sent to all Pike and Alleghany first responders on the rosters with a memo about upcoming title 22 first aid for public safety personnel training, updated Rosters for the Pike City and Alleghany Fire Departments sent to Downieville Fire Dispatch.

Agenda item 4. b) 5 Board member/Staff reports

- Website updates: I created a page named "Agreements" that can be found on the Policy and Procedure page. I am posting copies of all MOUs and other agreements there to help us keep track of them and so that anyone who needs to can access them. This is a "work in progress"
- Audit for Fiscal Year ended 6/30/2021 – The management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) should be done today (1/20/22) and we should have the audit report in time for next month's meeting.
- As reported last October: *"In June the district declared 3 firetrucks as surplus property and authorized staff to sell them. Staff is currently working on figuring out values for the trucks and looking at optional ways to sell them in compliance with the rules for Special Districts. One option that we are looking at is an online auction site called govdeals.com."* There has been little progress on this item. There is a glut of older used firetrucks on the market. The exception is 7180 which is in excellent shape and is a collector's item. If anybody has time to research good places to advertise it, the help would be appreciated!
- NFIRS (National FIRE Incident Reporting System) as reported last summer, fire districts are required by state law to report all fire incidents in this system. Last summer I spent a half a day communicating with CDF about the program and getting the district set up on their online interface. In early December I spent another four to six hours watching tutorials about the system but I have yet to enter the runs. The system can be used to track all runs, trainings, apparatus etc. and I can see that it is a really good tool. Utilizing it will also streamline the grant application process for several federal grants. One issue that I came across is whether we should report for each fire department separately or report as a district. In some ways it would be better to set up an account for each fire department, but because of our lack of staffing we are opting to report for both departments as PRCSD for now. This can always be changed in the future. The state is OK either way.

- I have been researching many grant opportunities and have attended a few webinars. I have hit a few brick walls, but I learn something from each “wall”. Some of what I am learning ties into our need for an organizational chart for the district. I have been in communication with other CSD’s that provide fire protection to see how they are organized. The NFIRS question above is another issue that I ran into. Next webinar is the day of our meeting: CDF will host an informational webinar from **10-11am on Thursday, January 20th** to introduce the regulations and application process for the forthcoming Fire Risk Reduction Communities List.

Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise Communities – It was reported in October that the committees would be meeting soon for both communities. I panicked in late October when I got notice from firewise USA that we had to submit the 2021 community work by November. I logged into the online portal and discovered that because both Pike and Alleghany were granted firewise recognition in early 2021 we are GOOD for 2021. We don’t have anything due until Nov of 2022 and it is ok to enter all work done after the initial work was submitted for 2021. Because firewise USA works on a CALENDAR year it behooves us to wait until 2022 to do the required community outreach etc.

I am working on a mail-out/survey to all residents of Pike and Alleghany that will include both firewise questions but also things like: are you dependent upon electricity for medical needs? Things of that nature. Input is welcome. I will be sending for an updated address list from the County Assessor’s office soon.

Agenda item 4. b) 7 Firehouse Projects and ADA compliance –

This topic needs to be moved up on the district’s priority list. The reason that the proposed 2022 meeting calendar does not include locations is because we do not have an ADA accessible space in Pike to hold meetings as required. Station 2 in Alleghany is the only ADA compliant building in either community. The fact that we know of at least one community member who cannot attend meetings, tells me that there might be more. There are people who make a living suing government agencies for this very thing.

The PRCSB Board did approve moving forward with the plan for the Pike firehouse developed by ADA architect Bruce Boyd several months ago but nothing has happened. The plan is to build an ADA compliant bathroom in the bay where the rescue truck is parked and install a heater in that room as well. The truck will be pulled out for meetings. We need to get moving on this. WHO CAN HELP?

Re: the project for Station 1 in Alleghany: Ever since we got the estimate of \$200,000 for the ADA project for that building several people have made comments that: “we could build a new firehouse for that” This is NOT TRUE! Not if it is built by a contractor under the prevailing wage and other rules that are in place for public buildings. I will place this on a future agenda for further discussion. I will get an estimate of what it would cost to build a new firehouse so that we have something to compare it to.

SUGGESTED SHORT TERM PLAN FOR ALLEGHANY STATION 1: move propane tank further from the building and get Dave Jeffries with Josh’s excavator to do some grading to fix the drainage, repair the wall that is rotted out. The entire roof needs to be screwed down again (it was last done when the front of the building was rebuilt several years ago).

LONG-TERM PLAN: Keep looking for grants.

Neither Pike nor Alleghany have a community hall. The firehouses essentially do double-duty and I hope that we can find funding to help us address the problems with both buildings. A long-term plan to add a wheelchair lift to the Pike Firehouse should still be considered if we can find funding. (In my opinion)

This is a “non-action” item because I forgot that it was supposed to be moved to action items. It will be under action items next month.

Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants

- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 20/21 has been completed, everything was purchased and CDF reimbursed the district for half of the cost.
- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 21/22 - The authorization to make purchases was received last fall and the 10 rolls of structure hose have been ordered, Kevin Trent with Cascade fire is coming to do a fitting for the two sets of turn-outs on Feb. 7th , it is yet to be determined if we have bodies for the wildland gear that was requested.
- ❖ Homeland Security Grants
SIREN FOR STATION 2 IN ALLEGHANY nothing to report
LIFT KITS & THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FOR PIKE FIRE nothing to report

Agenda item 5. b) 1 Wayman Dam Project

The draft special use permit was finally issued last October. It has many onerous requirements, such as: initial and ongoing engineering studies. The Forest Service representative for the project told me that the permit to dredge out the pond is part-and-parcel with the special use permit, the two cannot be separated. Possibly, there is a way that the Pipeline association could contract Pliocene Ridge CSD to do the work. However, there is no way this work could be done within the title 22 budget and time restrictions. Considering these facts, my recommendation is to rescind resolution 21-086 to administer the project.

I shared this information with the Board of Supervisors in December and they held off on allocating the title 22 money until after the PRCSD board meets to discuss it. Lee Adams did convince the board to keep the money “set aside” for now rather than putting it back into the pool of unallocated money.

PRCSD staff has come up with an alternative project to install two 5,000 gallon water storage tanks above the Pike firehouse. Camptonville Fire recently did the same thing at their firehouse. They used Peter Well Drilling for the work and the total cost was around \$15,500. Staff suggests that if the PRCSD board does rescind resolution 21-086, the board should pass a motion to request title 22 money from the Board of Supervisors for the installation of two 5,000 gallon water storage tanks at the Pike City firehouse as an alternative project. We spoke to Peter’s Well Drilling about getting an updated quote but decided to wait until after tonight’s meeting before proceeding.