



## Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

100 Pike City Road  
Pike City, CA 95960

plioceneridge.org

plioceneridge@gmail.com

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday August 15, 2024, 6:30 pm

Location: Alleghany Firehouse Station 2

VIA Phone Conference available for non-board members call 978-990-5144 Access code 6919768#

**ALL MEETING DOCUMENTS ARE POSTED ONLINE [plioceneridge.org](http://plioceneridge.org)**

#### 1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE

#### 2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approval of Agenda b) Approve Minutes for regular meeting held June 20, 2024 c) Ratify Treasurer's reports & bill payments for June and July 2024

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Complaints about individuals are to be submitted in writing per Article II section 15 of the bylaws. The public may be heard before or during the consideration of any agenda item to be considered by the board, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Members of the public may address matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, and not on the posted agenda, provided that no action shall be taken by the board unless the matter is deemed urgent by a 2/3 vote.

#### 4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS, STAFF &/OR COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Correspondence since last meeting –  
b) Committee/Member/Business Reports:  
1. District Chief's report  
2. Assistant Chiefs' reports  
3. Alleghany Fire Department Auxiliary  
4. Pike Community Support Foundation  
5. Board Member/Staff Reports ~  
6. Firewise Communities –  
7. Firehouse Projects & ADA Compliance ~ Both Departments  
8. Pending Grants –

#### 5. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Unfinished business:  
1. Appoint Officers  
2. Discussion re: Chief Dorn to utilize new command vehicle on workdays.  
b) New business  
1. Biennial Review of Conflict of Interest Code  
2. Establish Rae Bell Arbogast terms of employment  
3. Approve participation in planning grant for fuels reduction project for Pike and Alleghany firehouses.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA ITEMS ~ The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024 in Pike. Agenda items

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

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SEND AN EMAIL TO [plioceneridge@gmail.com](mailto:plioceneridge@gmail.com) to be added to the email list for meeting notices.



**MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the  
Pliocene Ridge CSD Board of Directors  
Date: Thursday June 20, 2024 Time: 6:30 pm  
Location: Pike City Firehouse.**

**1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE:** The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by Vice President Bruce Coons. **Flag Salute.** Present: Board members, Bruce Coons, Chris Mills and Burns Tenney. Directors Pam Davis and Grace Lundeen were absent. Also in attendance: Alleghany Assistant Chiefs David Arbogast (by phone) and Ned Cusato, Pike Community Support Foundation President Roland Robertson and Treasurer Denise Ruane. Public: Vicky Tenney. Pliocene Ridge CSD Secretary Rae Bell Arbogast attended by phone and took the minutes.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Approval of current Agenda, Minutes for regular meeting held May 16, 2024, and the Treasurer's report for May 2024. **A motion was made to approve the consent calendar by Chris Mills, seconded by Burns Tenney Ayes: Coons, Mills, Tenney Noes: none Absent: Davis, Lundeen Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a) **Correspondence Incoming.** Oath of Office Papers for Oregon Burns Tenney IV, Certificate of appreciation from NORCAL EMS for PRCSO's contribution to EMS services. **Outgoing** Oath of Office Papers for Oregon Burns Tenney IV mailed to Sierra County clerk-recorder's office **Email topics (in & out):** with Cal-Fire re Volunteer Capacity Grant (50/50 grant), Sierra County Firesafe Counsel RE: use of trailer for cemetery district, house of print and copy re new Patient Care Report form, NSJ Fire re patient care report that they use, C. Dorn and dispatch re updated rosters, Golden State RMA re: Rae Bell's contract for services, USDA re: vehicle grant, Cameron Shay re medical supplies/bags and RM position, PCSF re the timing of the architect fees for budget purposes, firewise communities re booth at 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Loyalton.

b) *Committee/Member/Business Reports:*

1. *Chief's Report* ~ Chief Dorn was on a fire in Calaveras County. Ned Cusato reported that there have been a few mutual aid calls to Camptonville and N. San Juan since the last board meeting. A Pike Crew is currently on a fire in Brownsville with engine 6760. Robinson Timber promised a \$2,000 donation for the Pike City Fire Department. Regarding the new command vehicle it will cost around \$3,000 to have it painted. This is about a \$10,000 discount [cost of paint job included in budget under action items]. They are plugging along on the Rescue Truck (6740) new engine installation. The accessories need to go on, it needs to be primed and timed and it should fire up.

2. *Assistant Chiefs' Report:* ABOVE

3. *Alleghany Fire Department Auxiliary:* ~ Auxiliary Secretary Rae Bell reported that the name change and updated purpose had been recorded by the Secretary of State. The paperwork for the name change with the IRS was mailed by certified mail at the end of May.

4. *Pike Community Support Foundation* ~ Roland Roberston reported that only a couple of people showed up for the cemetery clean-up, but they got it done and got their check. They still need a VP and Secretary; they are going to try advertising for the positions.

5. *Board Member/Staff Reports* ~ Secretary/Treasurer report provided in writing.

Director Burns Tenney had a question about the Streetlights in Forest City, how many are paid. There was some confusion, but based on the billing it is two. If anything more lights are on than are being billed rather than the opposite. Treasurer to do further research.

6. *Firewise Community Projects* ~ Bruce Coons commented that everyone is weedwhacking.

7. *Firehouse Projects & ADA Compliance*:~ Re: Pike City Firehouse, Roland reported that they sent the architect a reminder a week ago and they got no response. He was reminded again this week and he said that he didn't think it would take as long as it is. He did not provide a date for when it would be done.

8. *Pending Grants* – Report provided in writing.

## **5. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a) Unfinished Business**

1. *Appoint Officers* Tabled because two directors were absent.

### **b) New Business**

1. *Adopt Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 24/25*: After a brief discussion the budget was adopted as presented (2<sup>nd</sup> draft). **Motion made by Chris Mills, seconded by Burns Tenney Ayes: Coons, Mills, Tenney Noes: none Absent: Davis, Lundeen Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

2. *Discussion re: use of new Command Vehicle*, tabled because Chris Dorn was out on a fire.

3. *Appoint Cameron Shay as Risk Manager* It was explained that even though Cameron wasn't there (he also was on a fire) he had made it clear that he wants the position. **Motion made to appoint Cameron Shay as Risk Manager by Chris Mills, seconded by Burns Tenney Ayes: Coons, Mills, Tenney Noes: none Absent: Davis, Lundeen Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

4. *Renew Secretary/Treasurer's Contract* After a discussion regarding the recent correspondence with the insurance company a **motion was made to amend the agenda as an urgent item adding consideration of making Rae Bell Arbogast an employee rather than renewing her contract. Motion made to amend the agenda by Chris Mills, seconded by Burns Tenney Ayes: Coons, Mills, Tenney Noes: none Absent: Davis, Lundeen Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

**Motion to make Rae Bell Arbogast an employee of the district with the job description and compensation terms to be based on her existing contract, made by Burns Tenney, seconded by Chris Mills. Ayes: Coons, Mills, Tenney Noes: none Absent: Davis, Lundeen Abstain: none ~ Motion carried.**

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA ITEMS:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024 in Alleghany. Agenda items: Appoint Officers

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rae Bell Arbogast, Secretary



# Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Serving the Communities of Allegheny, Forest City and Pike City  
 100 Pike City Road  
 Pike City, CA 95960  
 plioceneridge.org

## Treasurer's Report for June 2024

**Beginning Checking Account Balance \$ 2,092.85**

### DEPOSITS

Date	From:	For:	Amount
24-Jun	USFS	Pendola Fire	\$ 2,376.77
27-Jun	Savings	Early July EFTs for PGE and CC Card	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Deposits Total</b>			<b>\$ 5,376.77</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Ck #	Date	To:	For:	Amount
EFT	6/3	PG&E	details below	\$ 526.76
			Allegheny Firehouse	\$ 70.04
			Pike Firehouse	\$ 127.26
			Allegheny Streetlights	\$ 308.33
			Forest City Streetlights	\$ 21.13
EFT	6/1	West America Bank CC Card	details below	\$ 759.64
			Fuel Pike City FD	\$ 139.14
			WT 67 keys	\$ 14.20
			staff of life decal for engine 7180	\$ 5.36
			medical supplies	\$ 200.05
			supplies PIKE FD (cliff bars for trucks)	\$ 25.00
			supplies Allegheny FD (cliff bars for trucks and paper tow	\$ 31.35
			Fraudulent charges to be refunded.	\$ 25.74
			Printer for Pike FH posted to district office exp.	\$ 318.80
812	6/1	ACWD	to repay cash from ACWD used to pay weed eater person for Station 1 in allegheny	\$ 110.00
813	6/1	C. Dorn reimburse	DMV fees for title transfer Chief 67 2010 Ford and 7145	\$ 57.18
2708	6/6	AT&T	phone paid two months	\$ 133.34
2709	6/6	Sierra County Public Works	Fuel Allegheny \$34.57 Fuel Pike 105.18	\$ 139.75
2710	6/30	C. Dorn	Pendola Fire Gross \$ 416.60	Net \$ 384.73
2711	6/30	C. King	Pendola Fire Gross \$ 416.60	Net \$ 384.73
<b>Expenditures/transfers Total</b>				<b>\$ 2,496.13</b>

Reserve Account Detail	
Contingency	\$ 24,500.00
Allegheny Fire Unallocated	\$ 8,000.00
Pike City Fire Unallocated	\$ 12,950.00
Allegheny Firehouses	\$ 11,409.37
Pike City Firehouse	\$ 3,064.76
Allegheny Fleet	\$ 4,588.78
Pike City Fleet	\$ 1,202.95
Allegheny Dispatch Office	\$ 700.00
Streetlights	\$ 8,213.38
EMS Vehicle Fund	\$ 250.00
Interest Earned	\$ 24.13
<b>Reserve Account Total</b>	<b>\$ 74,903.37</b>

<b>Ending Checking Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,973.49</b>
<b>Starting Savings account balance</b>	<b>\$ 25,419.67</b>
tr to checking at end of month to cover 7/1 EFTS	\$ (3,000.00)
interest earned	\$ 2.04
<b>Ending Savings Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 22,421.71</b>
<b>General Fire Fund Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,395.20</b>
All Fire Funds (including reserves)	\$ 94,085.19
Note: A small amount of streetlight funds are comingled with general fund during the year.	
<b>Reserve account Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,897.97</b>
Interest earned	\$ 5.40
deposits	
<b>Reserve account Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,903.37</b>

Report prepared by Rae Bell, Treasurer

Verified against bank statement and QB balances by: X  
 Note: Savings and Reserve account reconciled quarterly.

Name Printed

title

**Total All Funds \$ 102,298.57**



# Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Serving the Communities of Allegheny, Forest City and Pike City  
 100 Pike City Road  
 Pike City, CA 95960  
 plioceneridge.org

## Treasurer's Report for July 2024

**Beginning Checking Account Balance \$ 4,973.49**

### DEPOSITS

Date	From:	For:	Amount
1-Jul	Savings	Insurance payment	\$ 12,000.00
24-Jul	Savings		\$ 3,000.00
<b>Deposits Total</b>			<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Ck #	Date	To:	For:	Amount
EFT	7/1	PG&E	details below	\$ 519.12
			Allegheny Firehouse	\$ 66.89
			Pike Firehouse	\$ 122.75
			Allegheny Streetlights	\$ 308.33
			Forest City Streetlights	\$ 21.14
EFT	7/1	West America Bank CC Card	details below	\$ 1,609.59
			Life Assist Medical Supplies	\$ 1,471.53
			postmaster -postage	\$ 1.10
			B&C \$39.06 x 2 for electronic rodent deterrents both depts., \$84.58 4 personal headlamp	\$ 162.70
			credit for fraudulent charges	\$ (25.74)
EFT	7/1	NAPA Auto	details below	\$ 245.69
			Rescue 6740 Engine Parts	\$ 756.15
			C67 New command rig window parts	\$ 289.32
			Water Tender 67	\$ 23.87
			Credit for engine core Rescue 6740	\$ (823.65)
EFT	7/2	Golden State RMA	Annual Insurance Premium	\$ 13,488.00
2712	7/17	Allegheny Water	annual water bill for Station 1 in Allegheny	\$ 545.25
2713	7/24	AT&T	Phones at Staion 1 Allegheny and Pike FH	\$ 67.07
2714	7/24	Sierra County Public Works	Fuel Pike \$250.94 Fuel Allegheny \$19.75	\$ 270.69
2715	7/24	IRS	form 941 PR taxes for first and second quarter 2024	\$ 179.56
814	7/23	Rae Bell Arbogast	Final payment as independent contractor for quarter ended 6/30/2024	\$ 600.00
EFT	7/26	EDD	2nd quarter State Payroll taxes	\$ 29.16
<b>Expenditures/transfers Total</b>				<b>\$ 17,554.13</b>

Reserve Account Detail	
Contingency	\$ 24,500.00
Allegheny Fire Unallocated	\$ 8,000.00
Pike City Fire Unallocated	\$ 12,950.00
Allegheny Firehouses	\$ 11,409.37
Pike City Firehouse	\$ 3,064.76
Allegheny Fleet	\$ 4,588.78
Pike City Fleet	\$ 1,202.95
Allegheny Dispatch Office	\$ 700.00
Streetlights	\$ 8,213.38
EMS Vehicle Fund	\$ 250.00
Interest Earned	\$ 24.13
<b>Reserve Account Total</b>	<b>\$ 74,903.37</b>

<b>Ending Checking Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 2,419.36</b>
<b>Starting Savings account balance</b>		<b>\$ 22,421.71</b>
	7/1 to checking	\$ (12,000.00)
	7/24 to checking	\$ (3,000.00)
	interest earned	\$ 67.07
<b>Ending Savings Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 7,421.71</b>
<b>General Fire Fund Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,841.07</b>
All Fire Funds (including reserves)		\$ 76,531.06

Note: A small amount of streetlight funds are comingled with general fund during the year.

<b>Reserve account Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,903.37</b>
Interest earned	
deposits	
<b>Reserve account Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,903.37</b>

Report prepared by Rae Bell, Treasurer

Verified against bank statement and QB balances by: X

Name Printed

Note: Savings and Reserve account reconciled quarterly.

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**Total All Funds \$ 84,744.44**



Staff report for meeting date 8/15/2024

Prepared by Secretary/Treasurer Rae Bell Arbogast– *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 since last meeting.**

**Incoming.** Conflict of Interest Code docs from Sierra County Clerk Recorder **Outgoing**

Letter to the IRS explaining why form 944 was filed for Calendar Year 2023 and requesting a refund for the penalty and interest that was paid in May 2024 (thanks to Denise for suggesting this, we'll see if it pays off). Note: I could find no requirement for emails to be listed under correspondence. I put an inquiry on the CSDA Forum and got only one response from a special district secretary who stated that her district lists only emails that are pertinent to the board's business. That seems like another "can of worms" because who decides what is and is not pertinent? For this reason and reasons explained in my June Staff report, I am not listing emails under correspondence. The board could always adopt a policy regarding this to clarify the definition of "correspondence" if they choose to.

#### **Agenda item 4. b) 5 Staff Reports.**

**Status of request to Sierra County BOS for funding from Service area 2 for medical supplies.** Thanks in large part to the advocacy of Supervisor Lee Adams, the BOS voted on 8/6/2024 to allocate \$1,000 for this fiscal year, to PRSCD help pay for medical supplies. This will be tracked in a separate fund and a report will be made to the BOS next year. The hope is that we will be able to renew it again.

**Streetlights:** After the June meeting, I realized that I did not fully answer the question about why the streetlights' portion of the county management fee has risen over the years. As stated at the meeting, it is true that the percentage charged by the County has increased, but the revenue amount has also increased, so it is a combination of both that has caused the amount to increase.

I looked in Quickbooks and the billing for the lights in Forest City got reduced to only 2 lights in 2015. BUT according to Forest City resident Cheryl Durrett, three lights are currently on and an additional fourth light that was never upgraded to a LED went out just a couple of years ago. This is the light that they want back on, Badge #5. There is another one that is on that they want turned off.

I reached out to PG&E at the end of June 2024 to establish a new contact in the streetlight division but I never got a call back. In July I remembered that I had some email addresses from the LED upgrade was done in 2015. By searching my emails, I found them and sent out an inquiry. Three out of four addresses responded back! PRSCD now has a streetlight rep Ryan Gibbs, who is working with me. We will be working to get the billing side straightened out and the light in Forest badge #5 upgraded and turned on.

I had a phone meeting with Ryan on July 18<sup>th</sup> and I also spoke to Forest City resident Cheryl Durrett. On July 21<sup>st</sup> Ryan had me fill out a request form to turn badge #5 in Forest City back on and to add it to the bill. Ryan said this is the first step, then we can have it upgraded to LED. I sent a follow-up email on 8/8/2024 and on 8/9/2024 I got an attachment that I can't open, but the message was that I will need to make a phone call. Work ongoing.

**Status of Fiscal Year 23/24 bookkeeping close out.** I followed up with Sierra County Auditor Van Maddox on the status of the final tax payment for Fiscal year 23-24 and he said that it will be mailed no later than August 16<sup>th</sup>. The amount of that final check is not predetermined. Once we get the check (or the amount of the check anyway) I can close out the books and update the Funds accordingly. Then everything will be mailed to Boden, Klein and Sneesby CPA's for the independent audit.

## **Resignation of Frank Lang dated 8/9/2024**

*Good afternoon, I hereby am tendering my resignation from the Downieville Fire Protection District, my Deputy Medical Director role and my Urgent Care role effective September 1st, 2024, My life circumstances have changed so that I need to be a caregiver. I am humbled by the opportunity to have served the Department and the Community all these years.*

*Warm Regards,  
Frank J. Lang, NP, JD*

I was thinking that getting a card and having everyone sign might be more personal than a letter of appreciation, or we could do both.

**Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise** On July 27, 2024, the following email went out to the Pike and Alleghany residents who expressed interest in participating in a fire prevention grant last summer.

*My name is Danielle Bradfield and I am the consulting forester working with Sierra County on various fuel reduction projects throughout the County. Rae Bell Arbogast provided me with your contact information as part of a list of folks potentially interested in fuel reduction within your community.*

*Sierra County now has funding to put together potential community-level fuel reduction projects. In late August, myself and my staff foresters are preparing to take a look at properties of those interested in an effort to get a Alleghany/Pike project "shovel ready". This status would provide the Sierra County Fire Safe Council with the necessary information (total acres, treatment types, treatment prescriptions, and permit type needed) to write a grant to fund implementation of fuel reduction in the community. Having this information makes for a much more competitive grant application with a more accurate anticipated budget.*

*The initial information we would need to gather is:*

- general fuel types and extent (trees, brush, how much, how tall, how dense etc).*
- presence and abundance of watercourses*
- slope, topography*
- is obvious archaeology present (visible to the naked eye).*

*In order to gather this information I would need permission to access your property strictly for these purposes. For most properties, I would need access for approximately a half to 1 day. If preferred, I can have my foresters also meet you on site when they are there.*

*If you remain interested in this effort and would like a site visit, please let me know by responding to this email. You can also text or call me at (530)927-7095.*

*If you are no longer interested, that would be great to know as well, and if I don't hear from you, I will not include your parcel(s) in the project and will not access your property(s).*

*Last, if you know of others that are potentially interested, please feel free to forward this email and/or my contact info to them and I can add them to the list should they desire.*

*Thanks for your time and please feel free to reach out with any questions,*

*Danielle Bradfield RPF #2808 P.O. Box 1411, Quincy, CA. 95971 (530)927-7095 (cell)*

I posted the email on both of the firewise community facebook pages and the Alleghany outreach Facebook page. As of this writing I haven't heard anything else.

**Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants** Volunteer Capacity 50/50 grant. No word on our application for radios and pagers.

**Agenda item 5. b) 1 Biennial Review of Conflict of Interest Code.** This is required every two years. The pertinent policy is on pages 9-10 of the Bylaws included in the online meeting docs. Because PRCSD requires all board members, officers and fire chiefs to report on form 700, as far as I know there is no issue and the policy does not need to be updated. (It is a potential issue if reporting isn't required).

**Agenda item 5. b) 2. Establish terms of employment for Rae Bell Arbogast** At the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting an urgency item was added to the agenda because of feedback from the insurance pool regarding my contract for services and the board voted to make me an employee. Since my contract ended on June 30, 2024 I went ahead and submitted a final invoice through that date.

From my most recent contract: Compensation

*District agrees to compensate Contractor at the rate of \$200 per month and to reimburse contractor for actual expenses incurred upon presentation and Board approval of an itemized statement with supporting receipts. [For Secretary and Treasurer Duties plus other administrative duties]*

*Contractor shall be compensated for the performance of tasks for which reimbursement to the district either is, or becomes available at a rate of \$20 per hour.*

*This includes: Mutual Aid billings and the related payroll processing, billings to individuals and other agencies (for example Ordinance #1 non-resident billings and Title III billings), Grant Administration and Administration of the Firewise efforts.*

*Contractor shall be paid in the capacity of a Red Cross Instructor at a rate of \$25 per student per day for district personnel. (Classes are either one-day or two-days). District shall cover the cost of Red Cross fees and class materials in addition to paying contractor as outlined above. Contractor shall seek reimbursement to the district for training expenses whenever possible via outside funding sources. Contractor shall invoice other agencies for all class expenses when personnel from other agencies attend classes taught under the district's AP agreement.*

I would like to propose an hourly rate equal to minimum wage in place of the above terms. Currently minimum wage is \$16 per hour. I would continue to seek reimbursement for my wages whenever possible.

I am proposing this change for a few reasons: 1. It simplifies the payment terms and will actually take pressure off for me to "earn" that \$200 per month. 2. It will facilitate splitting my position into two positions (as explained in June I would like to retain the "Treasurer" position and pass along "Secretary"). 3. It complies with State Law but won't prevent me from continuing to donate time as well. I will try to provide hourly summaries for the last two years before this week's meeting.