

Escalon Consolidated Fire  
Protection District

1749 Coley Avenue  
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Board of Directors

Joe Camara, Board Chairperson  
Jason Koops, Vice Chairperson  
Mikey Schilber, Secretary  
Zach Hogan, Director  
Steven Gregg, Director

Rick Mello, Fire Chief

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ESCALON CONSOLIDATED FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2024

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Escalon Consolidated Fire Protection District was called to order by Director Joe Camara at 4:00 p.m. on February 8, 2024.

II. ROLL CALL

Directors present: Joe Camara, Jason Koops, Mickey Schilber, Zach Hogan, and Steven Gregg.

Others present Fire Chief Rick Mello, Administrative Assistant Katy House, and Battalion Chief Dan Morriss.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Notice of Agenda Items

- a. send items to the Fire Chief – Director Camara.

B. Introduction

- a. Volunteer Firefighter Dylan Criteser, Reserve Firefighter Nicholas Nava, and Reserve Firefighter Robert Vierra.

IV. MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting on January 11, 2024, were approved on a motion by Director Schilber and a second by Director Koops.  
5-AYES 0-NAYES 0-ABSENT

V. BILLS

January bills in the amount of \$30,878.35 were approved to be paid on a motion by Director Hogan and a second by Director Gregg.  
5-AYES 0-NAYES 0-ABSENT

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Ayera Email – Tower Inspection

VII. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – February 2024

A. Status of Fire Department

a. 95 calls for the month and 95 for 2024.

B. Training

a. January Drills

|           |                              |                   |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1-9-2024  | Advancing Fire Attack Lines  | (7 participants)  |
| 1-17-2024 | MCI Training (New Equipment) | (10 participants) |
| 1-25-2024 | Simulated Fire Attack        | (11 participants) |

We currently have 7 reserve applications that we will be reviewing and setting up interviews in the coming weeks. We are looking at offering an in-house Driver/Operator 1B in April or May. The class focuses on pump operations. We will look into offering the Driver/Operator 1A class as some of our new reserves get more experienced in firefighting.

C. Prevention

Public Safety Education: Our outreach to the K-6 community at our local schools occurred in October. This event coincides with Fire Prevention Week and is a huge success.

Smoke Detector Battery Replacement: Every fall crews replaces the batteries in smoke detectors for the elderly and physically disabled. This past year 22 homes were serviced through this program.

Fire Prevention: Several new projects were submitted by the City for approval. Most notably, McDonalds. Orlando's Market also captured lots of attention from the community. Both businesses have been hugely successful and bring lots of new business to town.

Fire Inspections: A new online data storage was created to store all of our Inspection data. This paperless system will save cost on printing and paper, as well as ease of retrieving data.

Fire Investigation: We now have four trained fire investigators on the roster. These four firefighters will share day to day response coverage.

Weed Abatement: Every spring presents a challenge in preparing for "fire season". As seasonal grasses begin to dry we try to identify areas of concern. This past year was especially challenging as high rainfall amounts led to a tall grasses. An early die off, spring rain led to a second growth, and a second die off led to a late cutting season. The weed abatement went deeper into the fire season but we were able to avoid any major incident that resulted in structures being destroyed. We anticipate the same pattern this spring.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

XIV. ADJOURN

XV. CERTIFICATION

Date: March 21, 2024

  
By: Joe Camara, Board Chairperson

AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS: All public records relating to open session items on this Agenda which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, and which are distributed in connection with the open session items are available for public inspection at the District Office, 1749 Coley Avenue, Escalon, California 95320 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. If, however, the public records are not distributed until the Meeting at which the Agenda item is considered, then the public records will be made available to the public at the location of the Meeting as listed on the Agenda at the District Office, 1749 Coley Avenue, Escalon, California 95320. Persons who require disability-related accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, should contact the Fire Chief at least 24 hours prior to the meeting for which accommodation is required. The Fire Chief, Rick Mello, can be contacted in person or by mail at the District Office, 1749 Coley Avenue, Escalon, California 95320 or by telephone at (209) 838-7500.

D. Apparatus and Equipment

- E 1-1 went to Burton's for repairs.

E. Buildings and Grounds

- Bids for the Station 1 solar project have been received.
- New washer and dryer units (dual stackable) have been installed and are in service.

F. San Joaquin County Fire Chief's Association

- Meeting 2-7-24, general business.

G. San Joaquin County Radio Users Group

- Meeting 1-17-24, meeting canceled.

H. Miscellaneous

- We have received ten Motorola APX 8500 mobile radios as part of multiple grants and other funding from San Joaquin County. Costs for the radios were approximately \$93,000.00, with no District funds expended.
- We are part of a Regional Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant for extrication equipment. The grant is being hosted by French Camp Fire and includes Escalon, Montezuma and Ripon. Our request is for three sets of e-draulic extrication tools and stabilization equipment. The total grant request is for \$403,000.00. This is a zero-match grant, so no District funds will be used.
- The Appreciation Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 26 at the Escalon Azores Band Hall.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Form 700

- a. Deadline April 1, 2024

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Solar Bids – ARPA Funding

- a. Approved Masellis Solar on a motion by Director Hogan and second by Director Schilber.

5-AYES 0-NAYES 0-ABSENT

X. ACCOUNCEMENTS OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m. located at 1531 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Escalon, California. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 p.m.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

- A. No closed session.

XII. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION