

Escalon Consolidated Fire  
Protection District

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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  
SEPTEMBER 2023

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 4:05 p.m. on September 14, 2023.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Directors absent: Mickey Schilber arrived late to the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Others present Fire Chief Rick Mello, Administrative Assistant Katy House, and Battalion Chief Joe Pelot, Firefighter Engineer Ryan Burr, Volunteer Firefighter Kaden Christensen, and Reserve Firefighter Robert Vierra.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Chief Mello presented Director Camara with a certificate from Heath Flora for 10 years of service.
- B. Volunteer Firefighter presented Director Koops an appreciation plaque for donating meat to the Fill the Boot event.

IV. MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting on July 13, 2023, were approved on a motion by Director Koops and a second by Director Hogan.  
4-AYES 0-NAYES 1-ABSENT

V. BILLS

July bills in the amount of \$97,280.56 were approved to be paid on a motion by Director Hogan and a second by Director Gregg.  
4-AYES 0-NAYES 1-ABSENT

August bills in the amount of \$59,898.83 were approved to be paid on a motion by Director Koops and a second by Director Hogan.

4-AYES 0-NAYES 1-ABSENT

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Chief Mello – VFIS Insurance – No longer offering building coverage.
- B. Chief Mello – Presented Director Schilber certificate from Assemblyman Heath Flora for 30 years of service.

VII. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - August 2023

A. Status of Fire Department

- a. 108 calls for the month and 692 for 2023.

B. Training

a. July Drills

7-11-2023	Ladder Training	(7 participants)
7-19-2023	EMS Skills	(11 participants)
7-27-2023	New Radio Training	(12 participants)

Our 7 new reserves have begun their orientation training. The first month of their training is safety orientation and basic skills training. Their training will continue until their new hire task book is completed.

We have interviewed 4 potential candidates for the reserve program.

We received our new radios that were purchased through the joint county grant. The radios have been programmed and placed into service.

C. Prevention

Fire Prevention: July was slow regarding new business. That gave us the opportunity to complete several business inspections, assist with hose testing and training or new reserves.

Public Education: We continue to make a presence at the Farmers Market. The response has been very positive.

D. Apparatus and Equipment

- Nothing to report.

E. Buildings and Grounds

- Nothing to report.

F. San Joaquin County Fire Chief's Association

- a. Meeting 7-19-23, general business and annual luncheon.

G. San Joaquin County Radio Users Group

- a. Meeting 7-19-23, general business.

H. Miscellaneous

- Reimbursement from San Joaquin County for ARPA funds expended for the new SCBA's and Compressor/Fill Station have been received.
- The Kenwood Viking portable radios received via the nine-agency regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) have been received, programmed, and placed in-service.
- Our annual 9-11 Community Moment of Silence and Prayer will be on Monday, September 11, at 9:11 a.m. in front of the station.

VIII. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – September 2023

A. Status of Fire Department

- b. 117 calls for the month and 809 for 2023.

B. Training

a. August Drills

8-1-2023	National Night Out	(14 participants)
8-9-2023	EMS Skills	(12 participants)
8-17-2023	LDH Training	(14 participants)

We have 6 out of the 7 reserves remaining and they are doing well with their orientation and training.

We have offered positions to two of the candidates we interviewed. They should be receiving their background packages shortly.

Engineer Burr is currently working on getting new collection boxes for the Christmas toy drive. We will be confirming the toy give away day in the next few weeks.

C. Prevention

Fire Prevention: Our final Farmers Markey display was met by a small crowd due to the heat. Overall, our presence there has been a huge success. It is our desire to be more of a presence during community events. It is a great way to reach out to our constituents outside of emergency situations.

Fire Prevention Week is October 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. We will be visiting elementary schools during the week for our annual fire safety demonstration.

New businesses: Orlando's has finally completed its renovation and a final walk through has been completed. They opened on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Wong's Delli has closed but another business is rapidly renovating the site and is set to open on September 19<sup>th</sup>. It will feature Japanese Cuisine. Two new projects have been submitted for plan approval. The Brennan Project is a new commercial site for metal fabrication and will be located on Brennan just north of State Route 120. The Jackson Project is a mixed site that will feature 20 apartments and at least two store fronts. This project is propped for the corner of Elizabeth and State route 120.

Mercantile Inspections took a bit of a back seat for the month of August as crew efforts were focused on training the new added recruits.



D. Apparatus and Equipment

- E 1-1 went to McCoy Tires for four new drive tires.
- The 2010 Ford Expedition went to McDowell & Davis for an oil change and radiator replacement.
- Battalion pickup went to McCoy for four new tires.
- E 1-4 is currently out of service for a steering box leak. Parts are on order from International Trucks.

E. Buildings and Grounds

- Nothing to report.

F. San Joaquin County Fire Chief's Association

- b. Meeting 9-6-23, general business (unable to attend due to eye doctor appointment).

G. San Joaquin County Radio Users Group

- b. Meeting 8-16-23, general business (information only / lack of quorum).

I. Miscellaneous

- Our annual 9-11 Community Moment of Silence and Prayer was held on Monday, September 11, at 9:11 a.m. Fifty-five people attended, including first responders. Representatives for Assemblyman Heath Flora and Supervisor Robert Rickman were also in attendance.
- On Tuesday, September 12, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors recognized first responders and proclaimed September, "First Responder Appreciation Month."

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. No old business

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize Sale Fire Prevention Trailer

- a. Approved for Chief Mello to sell and/or donate the Fire Prevention Trailer on a motion by Director Schilber and a second by Director Koops.

B. Authorize Sale of Mercury Inflatable Boat and Outboard Motor

- a. Approved for Chief Mello to sell and/or donate Mercury Inflatable Boat and Outboard Motor on a motion by Director Koops and a second by Director Hogan.

XI. 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 October 12, 2023.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

A. Employee Contracts (Section 54957)

Title: Fire Chief

XIII. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

A. Employee Contracts (Section 54957) – Title: Fire Chief

a. 5-year contract in principle, pending final details at the next Board Meeting.

XV. ADJOURN

XVI. CERTIFICATION

Date: October 12, 2023

  
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.