

Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370
Phone (209) 533-5521
Fax (209) 533-6549

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Mike Holland, *First District*
Steve Grier, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

Minutes

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – January 22, 2025, at 3:00 pm A.N.F. Building 48 Yaney Ave 3rd Floor, Sonora CA 95370

- I. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 3:02 pm . Roll call taken.
- II. Roll Call – Quorum established with 6
 - a. Committee Members present
 1. District 2 Supervisor – Ryan Campbell
 2. District 1 Supervisor (Alternate for District 4) – Mike Holland
 3. Public Rep – Betsy Hurst
 4. Public Rep – Chuck Sloan
 5. Tuolumne Fire Chiefs Association – Chief Gamez
 6. Tuolumne County Fire – Chief Murphy
 7. Sonora City Fire – Chief New
 - b. Advisory Members
 1. Cal Fire –
 - c. Others present
 1. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 2. Public – Various
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Members of Friends of Pinecrest and Pinecrest permittees association about sirens and helping with the situation with Pinecrest area. Staff updated about current siren issue.
 - b. Cell tower at MiWuk Sugar Pine and concern of citizens. Committee suggested calling Chief Klyn at Miwuk Sugar-Pine Fire .
 - c. Concern with rental properties and price gauging of rentals.
- IV. Approval of minutes 12/9/2024:
 - a. Motion was made by Chief Gamez seconded by Chief Murphy. All in favor, no nays, no abstention. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Public Comment.

V. Partner Agency Updates/Presentations

- a. Cal Fire – challenges and updates regarding fires in Southern Ca. Seasonal hires happening now. State is covering costs up to (Amador staffing plan) March 24th but question is will there be a savings in fire contract costs. Gov signed executive order to waive the 9 month seasonal limitation.
- b. Sonora City Fire – Type 6 in service, Type 3 should be in service end of the month. Chief New will be retiring in next few months.
- c. Tuolumne County Chiefs – Strike team Task Force sent to southern ca fires. All back home, one injury.
- d. Tuolumne County Sheriff – grateful with partnerships and responses are all up. EOC dispatch move temp as they awaiting approval for Dambacher jail site.
- e. TUD – Visible more often as a partner agency and will be active.
- f. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Input regarding Cal Fire funded defensible space project and CEQA compliance, requesting categorical exemption.

VI. Committee Business

- a. Staff Reports and Recommendations –
 1. EOC will be moving to ANF Building (this room) starting Feb 14th
 2. Meeting dates and times
 3. TUD Wildfire Risk Mitigation Plan and Raw Water Plan to be presented next meeting. Moved to future committee meeting.

Committee member questions/comments: none

Public Comment - none

VII. Discussion and Approval of

- a. Insurance Commissioner, staff spoke about importance of having the Insurance commissioner come to Tuolumne County. Staff have requested through the Insurance Commissioner process to be present. Staff recommend that Fire Safety Committee formally request of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors to request that the Insurance Commissioner come to Tuolumne County in person to explain the new regulations as well as hear what is happening to residents.
 1. Motion by Chief Gamez motioned, Rep Betsy Hurst-Younger seconded. All in in favor. No abstentions. Motion approved.
 1. Discussion – committee members asked about percentage of fair plan. Less risk but how many residents were on the fair plan? That number may change. The goal is to through in the risk factors vs. the actual costs of. They are moving towards the direction. Staff recommended that if we have time next meeting to focus on some of the meeting on insurance and asking SME to come or present virtually. Chief New spoke of the push legislative
- b. Review of 2025 goals.
 1. **Support recommendations to improve and secure sustainable funding for fire safety.**
 2. **Support increased education and outreach of Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparedness campaigns.**
 3. **Support coordinated fuels reduction projects and secure funding for prioritized fuels management projects.**
 4. **Support advocacy to address fire insurance rate impacts for Tuolumne County residents and businesses.**

Committee discussion – Supervisor Campbell asked about idea of reorganizations and board goals. Sheriff said he is open to looking at general fund relief for

Tuolumne County so if the BOS wants to reorganize then we are looking at a collective solution. He has heard about both ideas for OES and Animal Control. Committee members asked questions regarding about organizational how it would work.

Public Comment - None

VIII. Committee Member Reports

- a. Chuck Sloan – commented about tax measure, and that we should try again but make it specific language.

Public comment

- Discussion about doing another Visitor tax (TOT)
 - Chief Murphy talked that the trend is that we will not be able to sustain fire services unless we increase revenues. Listed various measures in neighboring counties that have worked.

IX. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 4:26 pm..
- b. Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – February 26, 2025**