

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

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

MINUTES

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – March 23, 2022 @ 10:30 am

AGENDA

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:33 am, roll call taken.
 - a. Committee Members present (quorum established with members present)
 - i. Supervisor Ryan Campbell -District 2
 - ii. Supervisor David Goldemberg – District 1
 - iii. Chief Andy Murphy- Tuolumne County Fire
 - iv. Sheriff Bill Pooley – Tuolumne County Sheriff
 - v. Wesley Brinegar – District 3
 - vi. Jerry McGowan -Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
 - vii. Glen Gotschall – Tuolumne Firesafe Council representative
 - viii. Chief Mark Ferreira – Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association (virtual)
 - ix. Dennis Randall – District 2 public representative
 - x. Scott Fremd – District 1(absent)
 - xi. Monica Fox – Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians (absent)
 - xii. Eric Holly – District 4 public representative
 - xiii. Chief Aimee New – Sonora City Fire (listening but not available to vote)
 - xiv. No representative – District 5 – public representative (absent due to resignation)
 - b. Others present via Zoom
 - i. Dore Bietz and Tracey McKnight – OES Staff
 - ii. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Weldon, resides on Zelinsky Court, presented the question of a prescribed right of way off his property. His concerns stem from a previous easement that he believes has been used for over 20 years. The subject property is off Eden Lane to Knotts and Cheryl Way. To his knowledge some of this area is primarily maintained by TUD because it parallels to the adjacent utilities. Steve noted the subject property easement serves as a secondary escape route in the event of a fire. He had concerns regarding the current access to this route as it is no longer accessible. The current property owner has closed off the previously used easement and/or access with two locked gates that CalFire has access to. He reached out to the property owner to address his concerns but couldn’t obtain resolution. Steve noted he did some due diligence to inquire some additional information to formalize a proper way to address his concern. In doing

so, he reached out to a Supervisor Kirk and County staff. Staff provided Steve with the recommendation of providing his concerns in public comment at today FSAC's meeting. Steve is voicing his concern to recommend the need to have a prescribed easement for this area and provide access.

- i. Supervisor Campbell, asked for clarification of the location of the subject project which was described as the access off of Eden and Half Mile Road and said Tuolumne County is riddled with these type of easement issues and many of them have been unaddressed.
- b. Susan Munsel, is a surrounding resident of the area that Steve Weldon addressed. She shared that on late last year, her husband passed in their home and family came out to her home late January to attend the service of her late husband. Susan and her family were on their way to attend the memorial when a series of events took place including the power going out in the area. Power lines were down, and crews were on site but there wasn't a secondary route to get out of the area. The weather forecast that day was that it was snowing. Susan and her family attempted to use the previous accessible easement but found there was a gate and no accessible way to exit. She expressed that eventually with the assistance of the fire department, they were able to get out and make it to the memorial, late but they made it.
- c. David Marquez, Yosemite Title company, who resides on Eden lane also spoke to the subject property that Steve and Susan commented on. David provided input on the parcel being subdivided and reference to the easement as "to be dedicated" however, he doesn't believe the easement was ever "dedicated" and therefore neither were the rights to an established prescript right of way. His input included the need for the right-of-way.
- d. Matt Zelinsky, FireBack. Agree with the community of the access and easement in question. He recommended ways to provide added protection to reduce fire hazardous by suggesting a fire retard agent. He would like this recommendation of using necessary chemical to be taken into consideration when writing up the vegetation ordinance to help prevent fire spreading.
- e. Edward Nesson, 2380 Compstock road, property owner 3.9 that sits on Lazy Z Lane (off of Lazy Z resort) He had concerns related to the County proposing a road close to his property that was subject to be turned from one lane into a two lane road. This would translate into getting the property owners to comply for fire purposes and had concerns that this may not be financially feasible for property owners. Request is to provide the property owners with financial assistance and for the planning department should discuss the possibility of dividing adjacent parcels into single family parcels. This would be beneficial to the area by allowing new development to occur.

Supervisor Goldberg commented that public comment time is for the committee to hear from the public, but the committee will take in consideration the information but will not comment on elaborated that this is a time. He also thanked the public for their comments.

3. Approval of minutes for February 23, 2022 –

- a. Supervisor Goldemberg motioned to approve, seconded by Supervisor Campbell
- b. Vote taken all in favor, no nays

4. Old Business

- a. FM Alert Proposal – Sheriff/OES opened the conversation related to the FM Alert system. Matthew, Straeb, Alert FM, provided a presentation on the FM Alert system – Presentation Title: The FM Radio broadcast/Satellite Message distribution system. In the event of a power outage, the FM Alert system would not rely on internet for cell service and instead radio frequency waves. The FM Alert is currently being utilized in various surrounding counties. Matthew stated the FM Alert system offers competitive pricing and his company is seasoned in the BOS approval process. A system analysis of the radio systems was presented which further elevated on having established contract agreements with other surrounding counties. The presentation provided a visional snapshot of the map coverage area. The proposal included a 5-year service contract, which included equipment, operation, maintenance, and monitoring. Individual equipment for the consumer would be a separate cost. Discount for bundling surrounding

counties was also presented. A population study was presented, which provided an overview of most of the rural areas in Tuolumne County. The Sheriff noted that he reached out to PG&E for any additional assistance and was told and currently there is no funding available and have exhausted available funding. Matt noted that Butte County and Shasta were able to secure PG&E funding including nonprofit and other resources. Considering all the proposed pricing for the County and the consumer and the funding limitations, the Sheriff asked the committee has asked the committee to consider all the information presented and to advise and explore next steps. The FM Alert system could potentially replace the current Everbridge system. Discussion was focused on system costs and price point for TC citizens.

Sheriff raised the question related to asking the committee their recommendation to be presented to Board of Supervisors for consideration of adding to our emergency alert notification system and potential funding options.

Public Comment

- i. Michael with Cedar Ridge community referenced the previous initiatives and resources utilized in the Tuolumne County Tree Morality project including the support from the Sonora Sunrise Rotary efforts and recommends looking at these types of these potential resources for funding.

Chief Murphy motioned to recommend the FM Alert to the Board of Supervisors and use any available resources to fund it, seconded by Chief McGowan. Vote taken all in favor, no nays

5. Reports/Presentation

a. OES Update

- a. Update on relocation of OES Staff- OES Staff is currently located on the 4th floor of the Albert N. Francisco (ANF) building.

6. Working groups

i. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup

- a. Supervisor Campbell updated the group regarding meeting with Superintendent of schools and approval to disseminate emergency preparedness materials to students and their families through the schools.

ii. Governance Workgroup

- a. Update and discussion of vegetation ordinance language, approve recommended amended timeline

- a. Staff updated the committee, addressing the need for an extended timeline for the vegetation ordinance from the original proposed timeline, the current objective is to account for adequate time to draft a prepare a cohesive vegetation ordinance. The extended time with ensure accuracy and timeliness for presenting the draft vegetation ordinance and corresponding information to the BOS in a successful manner.

- b. Kelly Schroeder, Agricultural Commissioner for Tuolumne County, provide a brief update on the concerns from the Farm Bureau as she has been attending meetings related to the vegetation ordinance topic.

Concerns related to the vegetation ordinance that have been presented to her include parcels relate to the Williamson Act, appropriate parcels that should or should not be address in the vegetation ordinance, compliance concerns, financial concerns, open space and related costs, and the potential impacts on the production of crops for the agricultural community.

- c. Chief McGowan – reiterated the concerns that derive from the Farm Burau including the impacts of the open space.

- d. Staff provided an overview of definitions and sample proposed language of the proposed vegetation ordinance that addressed potential fire hazardous, safety, improvements, egress, ingress, addressing structure(s) language, property owners, private lands, etc.

Public Comment

- Does this effect TUD district? No this will only affect the private lands.
- Repeat of language was noticed within the language of vegetation ordinance and asked was this intentional? This information is still in the planning phases, this will be reviewed, and any necessary additional language could be eliminated to avoid redundancy.

On April 19th, the workgroup will provide an update on the status of the vegetation ordinance and other information to the BOS. The specific agenda item is to discuss any draft so far and ask the BOS for direction.

- iii. Emergency Planning workgroup
 - a. Update on evacuation planning grant, alert & warning plan
 - a. Continue meetings with TCTC on Evacuation planning
 - b. Continue to work on drafting an Alert and Warning plan
 1. Chief Ferreira – Question for the Sheriff, were there any calls for the Alert and Warning with the recent alerts. Sheriff – zero calls

7. New Business

- a. Acceptance of resignation of committee member District 5 – Malcom Carden,
 - i. Supervisor Goldemberg received a resignation request from Malcom. The committee will reach out to Supervisor Brandon to find a replacement for the district and further discuss next steps through the committee application process.

8. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m. Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – **April 27th @ 10:30 am IN PERSON.**