



Mosquito Fire Protection District

Consolidation Workshop Meeting

Mosquito Fire Protection District Board of Directors
Mosquito Fire Protection, Chief Ed Dwyer
Garden Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors
Garden Valley Fire Protection, Chief Clive Savacool
El Dorado Board of Supervisors District IV, Michael Ranalli
El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office, Sue Henneke
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Jose Henriquez
Cal Fire Division Chief, Scott Lindgren.

Thursday September 13, 7:00 p.m.
Mosquito Fire Protection District Station 75
8801 Rock Creek Rd

MINUTES

Note: This is a workshop meeting held by the Mosquito Fire Protection District and the Garden Valley Fire Protection District for the purposes of discussing a possible, future consolidation of the two Districts. The Mosquito Fire Protection District Board will take no formal action at this meeting.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call. 7:02 PM

MFPD Board: R. Hern, W Buhnerkempe, B. Mikel, K. Morris
GVFPD Board: D. Sousa

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda. No approval happened.

4. Public comment

This is a special meeting under government Code Section 54954.3. Public comment is limited to item(s) appearing on this agenda. The public shall have the right to comment on the agenda items prior to or during consideration of those items. Please limit your comments to no more than 3 minutes in duration. *No comments.*

5. Introduction of Guests. Chief Dwyer introduced Supervisor Ranalli, *Garden Valley Board Director Souza, Fire Chief Savacool, CalFire Chief Scott Lindgren, LAFCO Exec. Director Jose Henriquez, County CAO's Office Sue Henneke, County Assessor Karl Weiland.*

6. Workshop:

Opening Statement: Chief Dwyer; *It has become apparent that as a stand-alone Fire District, we will keep struggling. We need to look at alternatives, Joining with the Garden Valley Fire District*

could build a stronger District. It will give us the potential to provide better services and increase the skillset of our Mosquito personnel.

6.1 Review progress of Consolidation discussions. *Director Mikel; The District started renewed consolidation discussions after Chief Dwyer brought an operational consolidation plan to the board, which was then approved. Two Board members undertook to continue discussions for a general overall consolidation with Garden Valley Fire District. Various workshops were held with the MFPD Board and a community Survey taken. Today, again we are holding another community workshop. I believe the future of this District is in some form of consolidation.*

6.2 Discussion of goals and objectives of Consolidation. *Chief Dwyer; Greater operational capabilities in both communities. We share borders, so with consolidation we can coordinate better response, draw more personnel in, increase access to more vehicles and personnel. Increase response capabilities, increase the pace to replace equipment, increase training and staff pools and increase services.*

Chief Savacool; The end goal is more efficiency and better levels of service. With a consolidation or annexation there would be one Fire District operation and budgets, reserves would be combined. There would be maximizing of resources, i.e. equipment, Paramedics and Battalion Chief 24/7. Now there are 2 p/t chiefs.

Community Question; *Are there any down sides to consolidation? Jose Henriquez (LAFCO); There have been many consolidations of smaller districts in the State and I have not seen many problems. Mostly there are perceived downsides; loss of control, loss of revenue, the worry that revenue will not stay in the community. There are ways to mitigate these concerns and minimize or eliminate the chance of this occurring.*

Community Question; *The consolidation of Latrobe and ED Hills, were there any problems? Chief Savacool; Seems to have worked out very well. Lafco: The 2 districts, in their agreement, addressed the difference in sizes and members of both districts being on the board.*

Chief Savacool: Consolidation vs Annexation. Consolidation, both districts would dissolve and become one new District. Annexation is when one district absorbed another.

Community Question: *What do we have now, in terms of income to bring to a consolidation and how will it be after a consolidation. Chief Savacool; Garden Valley has a 1.4 million operating expenses, revenue is 800K and the difference is made up with incident and strike team income.*

MFPD has a 4.5 k operating budget and the revenue is around 3.25K. Director Hern; The current revenue does not maintain the service model we want to have. We're taking money from reserves. Combined FD is 1.9 Million. Handout "Chart of scales of services possible" shows models of how it would function.

Community Question: *Annexation vs Consolidation - for GVFD, is that because of Calpers? Chief Savacool; Consolidation of the two Districts means we have to dissolve GVFD and that would mean also dissolving the contract with Calpers. If this causes a loss of the pension plan, GVFD may prefer annexation so the Calpers status is not lost.*

Community Question: *How will consolidation affect local response? Chief Dwyer; The goal is to have service 24/7. Also, equipment belonging to this community remains here to be used for this community. The station is to be manned with paid staff and volunteers. There are very few volunteers here in the Mosquito District due to new regulations. It now takes 2 1/2 years to complete training for a volunteer and they just are not there.*

Community Question to Supervisor Ranalli; The grand jury recommended consolidation, what is the Board of Supervisors' position on consolidation? Supervisor Ranalli; The notion of consolidation is looked at favorably. In this process it is important to see the outcome and the goal is met. It doesn't matter how, just keep the end result in mind. The County wide standpoint is it benefits us when it works. We have 14 Fire Districts which means 14 Fire chiefs and 14 boards. That is a lot of work.

Community Question; Do we have maps of the areas, how big is the area of coverage. Chief Savacool; GVFD is 60 Square miles. Director Hern; MFPD is 13 Square Miles.

Community Question; When calls come in for one area, is the Mosquito station left empty? Chief Savacool; Currently we are considered all part of the west slope area. Camino Dispatch considers this whole area and sends the closest resources in. Chief Dwyer; GVFD has a larger volunteer staff and we would be drawing from GV volunteers to augment our station.

Community Question; What are the financial projections? Chief Savacool; 1.2 to 1.5 million is required to staff a station.

Community Question; Has a consolidation with other nearby Fire Districts been considered? Chief Dwyer; in conversations with Chief Harding from County FD, they have no plans to consolidate with MFPD. Director Hern; The MFPD Board, many years ago approached EL Dorado County Fire District to discuss Consolidation and they had no interest at all.

Lafco Executive Henriquez (explaining the LAFCO role); LAFCO, in a consolidation, is a disinterested third party that will look over the consolidation proposal and consider all the points and see if it makes sense. Typically, both districts will initially adopt resolutions of application and forward them to LAFCO. The Districts (Chiefs) need to present finances, resource allocations and a proposed government model for consideration. A public hearing date will be set where the public can give input on their opinions concerning the consolidation. The LAFCO board will review all input and approve or deny application. If denied, that's it. It dies there. If approved there will be one more public hearing with a chance to protest. You can fill out a form to formally protest. The Lafco board will then decide if the approval moves forward or goes to an election. If approved there will be conditions of approval. The opportunity for the public to affect the approval process is once again offered.

Community Question: How many paramedics are in the districts. Chief Savacool: GVFD has 6 full time staff, of which 5 are paramedics. Chief Dwyer: MFPD has 3 part time Paramedics and the chief is a fulltime Paramedic. The station has 2 full time staff and 8 part time fire fighters. The station is manned Daily with 2 firefighters from 8 am to 5 pm. The 8 part time firefighters are on a non-benefitted status and are on the schedule when needed.

Community Question: How will the staffing be with consolidation? Chief Savacool: the resources would be one Paramedic at Mosquito 24/7. Staff can be supplemented from GVFD when acting as one district. Chief Dwyer; To increase services to the community and have paramedics available 24/7 a consolidation with GVFD is necessary. The revenue, assessment amount is 15 years old. We can augment personnel with volunteers from GVFD. We can create a stronger team to be send out on strike team incidents.

Community Question: What are the insurance implications for residents? Chief Dwyer: With consolidation the ISO rating could possibly go down which will reduce insurance costs.

Community Question: Who will govern the district? LAFCO Exec. Henriquez: The matter of government of the consolidated Fire District will have to be spelled out in the consolidation Application.

Question from Director Buhnerkempe: It's been said that Calfire will take over the Mosquito Fire station. Is this true? Calfire Chief Lindgren: No. The Mosquito District is 100% within the CalFire's wildland fire jurisdictional responsibility. And, if there is a fire that is a perceived wildland threat, it's Calfire jurisdiction. You get Calfire now, it's just part of this area. I'm here today to support a consolidation of 2 districts. In my professional opinion what Mosquito FPD will be gaining from GVFD is depth of service. When there are issues of staffing, they can help each other.

Community Question: Is LAFCO hired by the board? LAFCO Director; No, LAFCO is an independent organization. The consolidation agreement is between the two fire districts. LAFCO is an impartial entity that will study the application and consider all aspects.

Community Question: What's the distance between GVFD and MFPD? 18 miles

6.3 Discuss roles and responsibilities of individuals and agencies. Combined with 6.2.

In conclusion:

Supervisor Ranalli; Great questions tonight. For a consolidation to work, a high level of cooperation is needed. By all persons here tonight asking and answering questions it's obvious you have it.

Director Buhnerkempe: Thanks to everyone for being here, and we need to increase revenues before moving forward on consolidation.

Director Morris: Thanks to guests for all the great information. And thanks to the community.

Chief Savacool: Keep researching, do your homework and be involved.

Calfire Chief Lindgren: Thanks for your presence and all the great questions. Before coming here today I did my homework on the MFPD and am impressed with your defensible space compliance.

Lafco Executive Jose Henriquez: Thanks for the invite. Good questions.

Director Mikel: Thanks to everybody for being involved. In my dealings with the Consolidation I have encountered a high level of professionalism and commitment.

Chief Dwyer: My focus and goal is to create the very best fire station for this community. Consolidation is a great opportunity to increase fire protection services and emergency medical Services. Thanks to the firefighters and everyone here tonight.

Director Hern: Thank you all for attending, especially our guests. Consolidation is not final. We will have more meetings. Some of our current relief personnel are from GVFD.

7. Adjourn 9:13 PM