

HAYWARD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE SPECAIL BOARD MEETING/ELECTION JUNE 22, 2017

Tonight's meeting was scheduled in response to a petition that was signed by more than 5% of the registered voters residing in the Hayward Fire Protection District (29 signers) and called for an election to determine whether or not the Hayward district should proceed with the consolidation of the Hayward, Hermosa and Keystone Fire Protection Districts into one fire district.

John Esposti, Hayward Fire Board President, opened the meeting at 7:04 PM and explained the rules/agenda for tonight's meeting. Before beginning the election at 8:00 PM, the petitioners and Hayward Fire Board were each allotted a ten-minute period to present their case for not proceeding or for proceeding with the consolidation, respectively. A question-and-answer session filled the remaining portion of the pre-election period.

Dennis McMillin, Hayward Fire Chief, represented the viewpoint of the petitioners to not proceed with consolidation at this time. He is not against consolidation but thinks the board is moving too fast without adequate advance planning. John Esposti presented the viewpoint of the fire board to now proceed with consolidation. He indicated that planning has been underway for nearly 18 months and that suggested bylaws and several memoranda of understanding have been adopted by the three existing districts; however, these can only serve as guidelines because the final decisions lie with the board for the new fire district, which will be more subject to taxpayer input than is presently the case. Further arguments made by the petitioners and existing fire board are contained in the accompanying letters mailed to landowners residing in the Hayward Fire Protection District before the election. The fire board used no taxpayer funds for its mailing.

A lively question-and-answer period followed the two presentations, with more than 70 people attending the pre-election session.

The question-and-answer period was terminated at 8:00 PM to begin a one-hour voting period. Entry to the polls ended promptly at 9:00 PM. The ballots were then counted, and the tallies were confirmed with a recount. The decision to now proceed with the consolidation passed 67 to 3.

John Esposti and Ray Summers agreed to run for election to the Board of Directors of the newly consolidated district, representing the Hayward district on that board. This election was planned for July in all three current districts, tentatively on July 11, 2017. The meeting ended by 9:30 PM.