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FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA



Firefighters from various departments, including the Suisun Fire Protection District, take part in a training exercise Feb. 22, 2015, in Fairfield. The top executive of the Local Agency Formation Commission, Rich Seithel, would like to complete service reviews on each fire district for future planning needs, including the possibility of future consolidations. (Daily Republic file)

LAFCO busy with Flyway Center, Vaca annexations, fire districts

By **Todd R. Hansen**

FAIRFIELD — Rich Seithel and his one-person staff are by no means lacking specific things to do in 2019, but would like to add a couple of big-picture items to the LAFCO agenda.

The executive officer of the Solano Local Agency Formation Commission thinks service reviews of reclamation districts and fire districts are needed.

In fact, he said he hopes to organize a February workshop with the reclamation districts, but admits the fire district work may be more of a distant-horizon project, and would explore the possible need for future consolidations.

The recent north state wildfires have reignited consolidation discussions in a number of counties, and Seithel knows the very idea raises the political temperature.

“We are looking particularly when there are fire chief openings. Typically, that is a good time to look at consolidations,” Seithel said.

Solano County districts have consolidated in the past – and while the work has been delayed by the wildfires and more pressing annexation issues – Seithel said the proposed consolidation of the rural Vacaville and the Cordelia fire protection districts is still very much alive.

“The fire (district consolidation) is an interesting one because for consolidation we need to get a really good grasp on costs and current call data,” Seithel said in an interview at his office on the sixth floor of the Solano County government center. “We need to know about alternatives, and by alternatives, in general conversations, we have talked to Cal Fire.”

The proposal has a lot of hurdles to get past, not the least of which is the two districts are separated by a finger of the rural Suisun Fire Protection District, which according to Chief Ron Glantz, has no interest in consolidation.

Additionally, Cordelia has a fire service parcel tax, so there is the issue of whether any of those funds could be spent outside the current district boundaries.

The same kind of cost and call information, Seithel said, needs to be amassed for all the districts to improve planning and service efficiency.

“Part of our charter is to look at services,” Seithel said of LAFCO.

More pressing for the commission right now, however, is a series of annexation issues.

That and other concerns is also why he said he hopes he will get the funding for the already-approved technician position the commission has approved.

Seithel had hoped the commission would be able to take up the Fairfield annexation of 280 acres for the Pacific Flyway Center at its February meeting, but that is not likely to happen.

The issue of the property tax exchange between the county and the city still has to be worked out, and Seithel has asked Cordelia and Fairfield fire officials to develop a service agreement for the two parcels that were removed from the annexation plan, but are still part of the Flyway Center footprint.

Also on the immediate LAFCO agenda are two annexation projects in Vacaville, the centerpiece of which is the 20.5-acre Farmstead project, which includes proposed construction of 130 medium-density homes, a 3-acre park and a pedestrian/cyclist pathway that will encircle the development.

Just north of that is the existing 10-home Fruitvale area.

“It’s an unincorporated island that we have recommended to the city that it be annexed into the city,” Seithel said.

The reclamation district review was prompted, in part, by an application of a property owner to be detached from Reclamation District 2034.

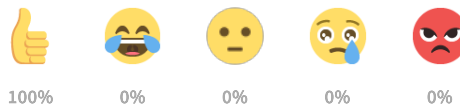
A Municipal Service Review was completed and three options were put forth, including the possibility of dissolving the district. Seithel said his recommendation will likely be to grant the applicant’s request.

Seithel said he now wants to develop a single report on the rest of the reclamation districts in the county, with each getting its own chapter in that report.

Also on the LAFCO worksheet is the General Plan update Dixon has started.

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Person takes place on Air Force leadership group

By [Daily Republic Staff](#)

FAIRFIELD — Sandy Person, a longtime advocate for Travis Air Force Base and the community, has joined the Air Force Civic Leader Program.

Person was selected for the program Nov. 29 by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

“This is an incredible honor for both Sandy and the Travis Air Force Base community,” Len Augustine, chairman of the Travis Community Consortium and former mayor of Vacaville, said in a prepared statement, “and given Sandy’s decades of commitment on behalf of the airmen of Travis and Solano County, it is extremely well-deserved.”

Person, a former chairwoman of the Travis Community Consortium and president of the Solano County Economic Development Corporation, currently serves as industry engagement officer at the Solano Economic Development Corporation where she focuses on Travis Air Force Base advocacy and defense industry initiatives.



Sandy Person

“I’m humbled to be selected by General Goldfein to serve on such a respected advisory panel with so many esteemed colleagues and alumni,” Person said in the statement. “But moreover, it’s a testament to the service of our airmen and the importance Travis Air Force Base and its Air Mobility Command missions, which are the bedrock of our community. I look forward to bringing the same energy to the Civic Leader Program that I have to my work for Travis.”

The Air Force Civic Leader Program is a high-level advisory group that advises the top Air Force military and civilian leadership, including the Secretary of the Air Force and chief of staff, and serves as the civilian interface between the Air Force and civilian community.

Program members provide insight about public attitudes toward the Air Force, and on how Air Force missions can best be accomplished in their respective areas. Civic leaders are asked to serve for terms of four years – Person will serve until at least 2023.

The Travis Community Consortium was formed in 2003 to formalize the community’s support ensuring Travis personnel are equipped and have the resources they need to meet the national security demands of today and the future. Members include Solano County and its affiliated city governments, the Solano County Economic Development Corporation and the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee.

The consortium works closely with base leadership and the area’s congressional delegation to advocate for the long-term sustainability of the Fairfield installation.

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Montezuma fire searches for new chief; investigates deputy chief

By **Todd R. Hansen**

RIO VISTA – Ron Glantz has told the Montezuma Fire Protection District commission he intends to step down as chief after more than 2 1/2 years – leaving as he came in to the “temporary” position with the district embroiled in an investigation linked to the chief’s office.

Assistant Chief Dan Schindler confirmed Friday that he is the target of an investigation that, at least at the beginning, was focused on a sexual harassment complaint by a female district firefighter.

“That’s what it started out as, but it’s not that,” said Schindler, who is one of 15 applicants to replace Glantz.

Schindler started his career as a junior firefighter with the Rio Vista Fire Department when he was in high school. His father was a firefighter in Rio Vista. Schindler later came to work for that department for 10 years, and has been with Montezuma for a little more than 20 years.

Schindler declined to offer more details of the investigation, saying he has an attorney who is handling the matter for him.

The commission met Wednesday about the Schindler matter, with Commissioner Joanna Myer absent, and is scheduled to meet in closed session at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Station 51 in Rio Vista.

The commission also is scheduled to meet for its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at Station 52 in Birds Landing. The chief’s position is part of the closed session of that agenda.

Bernadette Curry, a Solano County deputy county counsel who serves as the district’s attorney, declined to comment on the investigation, explaining that it is a personnel matter.

Glantz, who also serves as the volunteer chief for the rural Suisun Fire Protection District, also declined to comment.

Both confirmed that the commission is working to whittle down the list of 15 applicants to the top three to five candidates, who would then face an oral review board comprised of outside fire chiefs or similar officers.

Curry said the commission would then make a decision from the top candidates who emerge from that professional review.

Glantz was hired as interim chief in August 2016, a month after longtime Chief Joe Rosewall had been pulled from a fire event and dismissed. He appealed the termination and the matter was settled in December of that year.

The commission indicated in July 2017 it was in no hurry to hire a new chief and was happy with Glantz. He told the commission two months ago he was stepping down.

Glantz, who retired as deputy chief of the Fairfield Fire Department prior to taking over at Suisun rural, indicated at one time that he would prefer the next chief come from inside the Montezuma ranks.

The chief is a paid position. The position oversees a staff that includes the paid assistant chief, a paid captain, four volunteer captains, four volunteer engineers and 20 volunteer firefighters.

The department services the towns of Birds Landing, Collinsville, Hastings Island, Prospect Island, Ryer Island and Holland Tract. Its district covers about 230 square miles.

The district merged with the 30-square-mile Ryer Island Fire Protection District on Jan. 1, 2004.

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FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA



Montezuma fire chief search down to 8 candidates

By **Todd R. Hansen**

RIO VISTA — Montezuma Fire Protection District commissioners this week cut the candidates list for a new chief in half.

“They reduced the (number) down from 15 to eight applicants,” outgoing Fire Chief Ron Glantz said.

“There were a lot of locals (Solano residents) who applied and some are (among the eight who are left),” said Glantz, who was appointed as the interim chief in August 2016 and informed the commission in recent months he is stepping down.

Glantz, who retired as deputy chief of the Fairfield Fire Department, also serves as the volunteer chief of the rural Suisun Fire Protection District.

The commission met Tuesday morning in a special closed session as part of its efforts to whittle down the list, with a goal to have no more than five finalists – and preferably fewer, Glantz said – who would go through a professional review with outside chiefs.

Montezuma Assistant Chief Dan Schindler, who has confirmed he is a target of an internal investigation for sexual harassment, was among the 15 candidates. It was not immediately clear if his application advanced.

The commission meets Thursday, 7 p.m., for its regularly scheduled meeting, which includes a closed session to address that investigation. The meeting will be held at Station 51, 21 N. Fourth St., in Rio Vista.

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City appoints own police chief

County can't fulfill pact for deputies

By JULIE DRAKE Valley Press Staff Writer Dec 23, 2018



LANCASTER — With the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department unable to fulfill its contract with the city because of a shortage of deputies, the City Council appointed Public Safety Director Lee D'Errico police chief, and established a hybrid law enforcement model and directed staff to hire a consultant firm to develop options for the city to work in partnership with the Lancaster Sheriff's Station.

That would allow the Sheriff's Department to focus on what they do best, then have other entities focus on the quality-of-life issues that take a lot of time, former City Manager Mark Bozigian said at the council's Dec. 11 meeting.

"If we continue to do what we're doing, we're going to continue to get those same results," Bozigian said. "If we look at how we use our best resources — what we do best, and what everyone else and the Sheriff's Department can do best we're going to make this community

safer.”

The report is due back in 90 days. The consultant will work with city staff with detailed services that should be provided by different entities.

“We would like to see an ability to pick up the slack rather than have deputies working double shifts, working without breaks, without days off, which has been the current state of affairs,” Parris said.

The mayor asked that D’Errico be appointed chief of police to put together a group of retired deputies for the hybrid law enforcement model.

The council voted unanimously to add the appointment to the agenda since it was not on the agenda.

“And that’s an interim situation until we get everything planned out,” Parris said.

D’Errico will not receive a pay raise as police chief. He has been with the city since 2008 when he joined the Public Safety Department..

D’Errico has more than 25 years of law enforcement and public, policing program for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

D’Errico spent 16 years as a Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputy, then served several years as a senior investigator for the Los Angeles County Housing Authority, investigating Section 8 rental aid fraud and other cases.

“We’re paying the best police force in the country to take care of this city, and if they’re not doing it I think we should pull for breach of contract instead of forming a police department that we don’t know anything about yet,” resident Ed Galindo said.

The city has the largest contract in the county with the sheriff’s department, But the sheriff’s department is unable to fulfill the contract by about 24 deputies a month.

Vice Mayor Marvin Crist said the city is down about eight patrol units per shift.

Lancaster resident Melissa Cushman asked why the council decided to create the hybrid law enforcement model now.

"If it's changed on the agenda why didn't we hear, like why wasn't this a public meeting, something that everybody could have input into," Cushman said.

"I think there's plenty of time for them to do that input," Parris said.

Parris added D'Errico will serve on an interim basis while the program is being put together.

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