

Calaveras Consolidated to consider selling one of its fire stations

By Nick Baptista/ The Valley Springs News/ March 21, 2014

The Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District Board of Directors will consider whether to declare one of CalCo's stations surplus and put it up for sale at a meeting on Monday.

The board meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Jenny Lind fire station, 6501 Jenny Lind Road.

The district is dealing with declining revenue from property taxes and "we need to streamline our budget and live within our means," said Deputy Chief Jason Robitaille.

One way to streamline operations, reduce expenses and bring in some one-time revenue is to surplus and sell the station at Danaher Drive and Silver Rapids Road.

The station is not manned and has been used for storage, said Robitaille, adding CalCo's manned stations at Jenny Lind and Valley Springs adequately cover the area.

With consolidation of the former Foothills and Jenny Lind fire protection districts, CalCo has been reducing its fleet and no longer has any vehicles to store in the Danaher-Silver Rapids station, he said.

The board will discuss the issue and decide whether to declare the property as surplus. If so, the district will consult with legal counsel to determine the proper procedure for liquidation, Robitaille said, and it is his understanding that would include offering it to any other interested public entity before it would be made available for a private sale.

The district is entering the next fiscal year with property tax revenue estimated at \$422,000, a 5 percent decline from the previous year due to continued decreases in property values.

The district has an operating budget of \$611,000 this fiscal year. Most of the gap between tax revenue and operating expenses has been made up by providing "strike teams" to help the state during the wildfire season. However, strike team income varies year-to-year and is not guaranteed.

Then board will also meet in closed session to review Chief Kim Olsen's and Deputy Chief Robitaille's terms of contract.