

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 15, 2024 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mark Hemmendinger, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on May 10, 2024.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Sage Howell, Ray Peterson, Bret Herman, Michael Gadoua (arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

Directors Absent: Brian Proteau

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizen Business/Public Comments on Items not appearing on Agenda

There was no public comment.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

The Continuing Disclosure Annual Report was enclosed in Board packets.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of April 17, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of April 17, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the consent calendar and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala mentioned the Union is working on negotiations at this time.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

There was no report filed.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following items:

- 1.) Preliminary budget preparation – adoption at the June Board meeting.
- 2.) The Capital committee is looking at financing and RFP for architectural firm to assist.
- 3.) Defensible space inspections have begun and we have two inspectors working on 400 assigned parcels. 97 inspections have been completed so far, with many properties already in compliance.
- 4.) Dental and vision plans renewal occur on July 1. Plan comparisons were made and we found the current coverage we carry is most cost effective. No changes will be made.
- 5.) Working on property and liability insurance quotes. Our WC cost this FY is \$254K and will increase 45% to \$367K next FY. VFIS quoted us between \$768K - \$827K per year with State Fund, which would mean a 330% increase. Property/liability insurance will increase from \$250K to \$298K next fiscal year, which is an 18% increase. VFIS has not sent their quote yet on property/liability insurance.
- 6.) April calls for service: 104 EMS, 87 good intent, 14 service, 11 fire, 9 false alarm and 7 hazardous conditions.
- 7.) Initiative 1935 is still a threat for November 2024 election.
- 8.) Measure H – established ad-hoc facilities committee and are analyzing and working on implementing new positions and pay changes.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Peterson has been opening communications with Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Connolly and Elections Officer Deva Proto. He has learned SSU has businesses operating on campus, most notably Barnes and Nobel, who does pay sales tax. The Green Music Center and restaurant also pay sales tax. We may be able to collect a small portion of these funds. Mr. Peterson is also looking into grants being offered that we may be eligible for. Mr. Hemmendinger also noted there may be some other federal grants such as the SAFER grant being renewed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger noted the Finance/Budget committee will be meeting again between now and the June Board meeting.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

Mr. Herman noted the committee met and there is a list of improvements for each of the stations. An RFP and RFQ are being created to find an architect. Chief Veliquette commented there is a timing issue with Measure H funds, however we can use the \$500K loan until Measure H funds come in.

c. Ad Hoc Negotiations

Mr. Hemmendinger commented that the committee is working on a presentation to the Union and hopefully an agreement will be reached before the June Board meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Action on Resolution R-8 Ordering an Election to be Held and Requesting the Consolidation with the November 5, 2024 General District Election

This Resolution will allow us to have an election if needed for Directors Howell, Herman, Proteau and Hemmendinger whose terms expire in December 2024. Incumbents must file their paperwork by the first week in August.

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to adopt Resolution R-8, Ordering an Election to be Held on November 5, 2024, and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – absent

Mr. Howell – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – aye

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution R-9 Opposing Initiative 1935

Language for Resolution R-9 has been provided to us by CSDA.

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to adopt Resolution R-9, Opposing Initiative 1935, and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – absent

Mr. Howell – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – aye

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

C. Presentation and Discussion on the Fire Impact Fee Nexus Study

Item was moved to follow Chief Veliquette’s report.

Chief Veliquette introduced Blair Aas, Vice President of SCI Consulting Group. Mr. Aas spoke about development impact fees and how they became prominent in helping expansion of infrastructure in growing communities. The fees are imposed on new development and are collected by the land use authorities in our District. These land use authorities are the City of Cotati and the County of Sonoma. Both agencies must adopt the fire impact fee nexus study.

Mr. Aas further reviewed some of the fees that would be collected on new development and explained how those fees can be used for equipment, apparatus and facilities. The funds do need to be kept in a separate bank account and there are

annual and five-year reports that need to be filed. As part of the fee study, an annual CPI adjustment has also been built in.

At the June Board meeting, there will be a public hearing. A resolution to approve the nexus study and proposed fees will be introduced to the Board. This resolution will also serve as a formal request to County BOS and Cotati City Council to adopt these fees on our behalf. Further, the resolution indemnifies the City and County against any legal challenges should they occur.

Mr. Moretti asked about the costs the County or City will charge us for collection of the fees. Mr. Aas said there are just minor costs that may be requested but this should be covered by the fee program itself. Mr. Gadoua said the District will indemnify the municipalities and asked if that has ever been needed. Mr. Aas said there were only a couple issues he was aware of but those were fees being assessed by school districts rather than these types of fees. Mr. Hemmendinger asked about the population used to calculate fees. Mr. Aas explained the complex process they go through to verify data.

Mr. Hemmendinger would like clarification before the next Board meeting on who will be collecting the fees. Chief Veliquette believes the collection will be completed by the fire district, but he will confirm with the two other fire districts currently collecting impact fees.

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Resolution adopting preliminary budget for FY 24/25**
- **Resolution to adopt Fire Nexus Fee Study**
- **Closed Session for negotiations**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: June 19, 2024