

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2023 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

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

President Brian Proteau, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on October 13, 2023.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Sage Howell, Ray Peterson, Bret Herman, Brian Proteau

Directors Absent: Michael Gadoua

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

There was no correspondence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of September 20, 2023

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Firefighter Wesley Rager reported on behalf of Captain Gromala who stated the Union is working on fundraising and education efforts for the sales tax measure.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

The annual pumpkin patch fundraiser will be held at Groverman's on October 21.

C. Chief's Report

Battalion Chief Andy Taylor reported on behalf of Chief Veliquette:

- 1.) Ribbon Cutting and Open House was held at the Penngrove Station on September 30.
- 2.) FF Gardner will complete training this week. His first shift is next Thursday.
- 3.) Major focus has been on facilities and recruitment.
- 4.) Penngrove remodel is now complete, and we are wrapping up the paperwork. Move-in is happening this week.
- 5.) Weed inspections are concluding this week. Funding will be available for June inspections next year.
- 6.) Two Halloween events are being supported by engine crews on October 31st in Rohnert Park and Cotati.
- 7.) Total September calls for service: 96 rescue, 68 good intent, 12 false alarms, 9 hazardous conditions, 5 fires and 16 service calls.
- 8.) October is fire prevention month, and we are participating with local elementary schools.
- 9.) November 2nd is the District promotional ceremony.
- 10.) November 14th is the tax measure presentation to Cotati City Council.

Chief Veliquette noted the Firefighters' Association gave a \$40K check to the District for the ring-down system, and has spent over \$80K on furnishings, appliances and other items for the Penngrove remodel. If there are leftover designated funds, the Association will forward that money to the District as well. The Chief and Board thanked the Association for their gracious donations.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Peterson has been looking into fire grant programs throughout the County. The first step is to produce a plan for what you are going to do in wildland areas, and if there is no plan, you would apply for a \$400K grant. Mr. Peterson will share any further information he finds with Chief Veliquette.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger noted he reviewed the year-to-date budget, and it is too early to draw conclusions. He noticed the strike team revenue we have collected and what is outstanding will fall short of what we budgeted. The overtime projected which includes strike teams is on target to exceed the budget. The budget committee will review this in more detail.

b. Long Range Planning

No report filed.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Proposed Sales Tax

Chief Veliquette received an update from FSWG yesterday. The Board Of Supervisors has endorsed and provided a letter of support for the tax measure. More presentations have been given to city councils and at events with well received support. Presentations at the Rohnert Park City Council are set for October 24 and November 14 at Cotati City Council. FSWG has developed one-page flyers specific to each agency and Chief Veliquette will circulate these for us to share with the community.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution R-4: Designating the Fire Chief As the Officer Responsible for Making the Initial Determination of Disability for District Safety Employees Covered Through CalPERS

Mrs. Bechtold commented that to her knowledge, the District has not designated authority to the Fire Chief in the past to make initial industrial disability recommendations to CalPERS. Resolution R-4 grants this authority to the Fire Chief who is involved in the care and treatment of workers compensation cases within the District. This authority also maintains a level of confidentiality of medical records, thereby protecting employees. Once the initial determination is made by the District, CalPERS then reviews all medical findings before authorizing industrial disability retirements.

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger to approve Resolution R-4 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – aye
Mr. Howell – aye
Mr. Peterson – aye
Mr. Gadoua – absent
Mr. Moretti – aye
Mr. Hemmendinger – aye
Mr. Herman – aye

VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Closed Session for Fire Chiefs Evaluation
- Healthcare Renewal for 2024
- Resolution R-5 for Fire and Life Safety Inspections
- Redrafting of Loan Documents for Fire Station Remodel

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:23 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
Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: November 15, 2023