

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2019 — 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 January 11, 2019.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Brian Proteau, Carla Grube, Leslie Cozad, Nole Pacheco

Directors Absent: Harold Griffith, Michael Gadoua

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

II. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. George Barich commented that he was hoping since he did not campaign against Measure W, that he might be invited to be apply for a position on the Board of Directors. He also mentioned that he would like to see our meeting noticed on our Facebook page in the future and requested in the past that the Board livestream our meetings. He suggested partnering with the City of Cotati and using their chambers and equipment. Mr. Barich would also like to know where to find fire regulations on outdoor fireplaces and fire smokers and asked that this information be emailed to him.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

SCFDA is hosting the free ethics and harassment training on March 23rd and RSVPs can be given to Mrs. Bechtold.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of January 16, 2019

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger and seconded by Mrs. Cozad.
Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger and seconded by Mr. Pacheco.
Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chief's Report

Chief Thompson commented on the following items:

- Total incidents for January: 113 with 57 of those EMS calls.
- No significant calls during the recent rainstorms.
- EMT Refresher and Expanded Scope Training was completed February 11 – 13 and taught by Cathy Dooyes.
- The Captain's Assessment Center is set for March 21st and there will be 10 participants. A pre-assessment meeting will be held on February 21st.
- S230-S231 Engine Boss class as held February 4 – 8 at the Cotati station and 16 personnel attended.
- No applications have been received to date for the Zone Training Coordinator position. Options are being discussed on how to move forward.
- Nine and 12-month probationary testing is ongoing.
- The Engineer Academy is progressing well with the final evaluation will be this Friday, February 22.
- The operations committee has met to discuss needs related to Measure W.
- The pinning ceremony for Morgan DeJong and Brian Sweet will be held tomorrow, February 21st at station 2 at 2:00 p.m.

B. Director Reports

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that he and Mr. Proteau attended the SCFDA meeting last month. There was nothing big to report, other than a lot of anger over the failed attempts to pass the Gold Ridge fire consolidation proposal through the Board of Supervisors. There was also some discussion on weed abatement within the County.

C. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Proteau reported the finance committee met a week ago and reviewed the budget and looked at the items we need to work on for the new revenue coming in. Many of these expenditures will hinge on how we go about hiring based on Measure W passing. We seem to be doing ok this fiscal year on the budget.

b. Negotiations

Mr. Pacheco noted we have a closed session this evening to begin speaking about negotiations.

c. Equipment

No report filed.

d. Legislative

No report filed.

e. Chief's Evaluation

Mr. Pacheco commented that the Chief's evaluation has concluded. He met with Chief Thompson and reviewed this last month.

f. Long Range Planning

Mr. Hemmendinger stated there was a report in packets about the LRPC meeting. One of the issues that came out was that we would need to go about our hiring in a way that we promised with Measure W.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

BC Mike Weihman reported the crab feed was successful with the highest profit in some number of years. The fire district awards dinner will be on April 5th. He also asked to assign a Board member to sit on the committee for Firefighter of the Year. Mrs. Cozad offered her time to the committee. BC Weihman also noted the Association split the cost of the new beds with the district. The staff seems pleased with this purchase.

E. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Bernal commented there is a Union meeting with the volunteer companies coming up on Friday night, and our members will be present.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Replacing Roof at Liberty Fire Station

Mr. Proteau reached out to the estimator for the company that did the work and he no longer works for the company. Mr. Proteau will try to get in touch with the company again. We will continue to hold the final 5% due until this is complete.

B. Discussion of Sonoma State Funding

Mr. Proteau reported that Mr. Gadoua met with the Associate Vice President at the University and they talked about the relationship with the district. He felt the meeting was very positive. They did not speak about money but will be setting up another meeting at some point soon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Costs of Adding Two Full-Time Engineers to Staff (Staff Report Provided by Jennifer Bechtold)

Mrs. Bechtold commented that the Chief has promoted two part-time engineers to full-time. A brief staff report has been included on the cost, which is only for their benefits, since the position has been filled with part-time staff at the same rate of pay. The max cost per year is \$40K for both positions. This is our first step towards fulfilling our Measure W promises to the community.

B. Discussion on Change in Credit Card Vendors from Chase Bank to Umpqua Bank

Mrs. Bechtold said she has included a staff report in Board packets this month regarding the change in vendors for our district credit card. The application process is moving forward and will just take some time to go through underwriters at the bank. This will be a positive change for the district and once the cards are in place, we hope to eliminate the need for additional fuel cards we currently use through Chevron and Shell. Umpqua Bank offers a fleet program and the cards can be

limited on purchases to just fuel, which we plan to do. The only action needing Board approval tonight is on item C, adopting the resolution to change of credit card vendors to Umpqua Bank.

C. Review and Adoption of Resolution R-4: Authorizing Agreement with Umpqua Bank to Participate in the CSDA District Purchase Card Program

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger and seconded by Mrs. Cozad.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

Roll Call:

Mr. Griffith – absent
Mr. Pacheco – aye
Mrs. Grube – aye
Mrs. Cozad – aye
Mr. Proteau – aye
Mr. Hemmendinger – aye
Mr. Gadoua – absent

D. Discussion on Proposal for Sonoma County Fire Consolidation

Mr. Hemmendinger reviewed the history of the consolidation process, which began years ago, to how we came to be where we are today. Following the failure of the Gold Ridge FPDs proposal at the January Board of Supervisor's (BOS) meeting, labor and districts were asked to go back to the drawing board and work on a more sensible group of consolidations. In the past two weeks, Chief Thompson was approached by Bodega Bay FPD, who asked to join our proposal for Zone 9 and include Bloomfield and Valley Ford. This proposal would unify the corridor from Lakeville to Bodega Bay and improve the ambulance service in the south county. What is proposed to the County is to staff Wilmar, improve services throughout this entire boundary, and to call upon Shell Vista to respond to the more southern part of Lakeville's district. Rancho Adobe would be the leader in this contract and all entities would serve under one Chief and support staff. The revised proposal now will go to the Strategic Leadership Group and be hammered out in a fashion that one contract will be handed out to the Board of Supervisors on March 12. There is an open-door labor meeting this Friday at the union hall in Santa Rosa. This contract has union support and other district support, but still needs to be voted on by Bodega Bay and Rancho Adobe.

Mr. Hemmendinger stated that once the proposal is finalized, it would be distributed to our Board for review and discussion and then a vote. We hope this will be sent out sometime next week. Chief Thompson said he wants to see the Board get a copy of the proposal before the BOS meeting. Petaluma is also part of this contract and the goal ultimately will be to have a district throughout the entire corridor. It also has quasi-approval from LAFCO and makes sense.

Mr. Hemmendinger stated that if this proposal is presented to the BOS, the Rancho Adobe Board of Directors should meet prior to March 12th. Mr. Pacheco asked why the proposal has not been distributed to the entire Board since this is such a big change. Chief Thompson replied that the BOS put some time restraints on us, as they were not going to review his initial proposal from December after Gold Ridge submitted their proposal. This has all unraveled in a couple weeks time and the BOS wants a proposal by March 12th. Mr. Pacheco stated that the Board should be given more time since this changes our operations and feels we are being rushed into this. Mr. Pacheco is in favor of change if it makes sense but feels we should have more time to review this proposal before the BOS meeting. Mr. Proteau said that first we need the final draft of the proposal, which Chief Thompson will send out at the end of this week to Board members. Mr. Hemmendinger stated that even

action by the BOS does not mean we have to immediately move forward on this. Mr. Pacheco said this proposal should be voted on at a regular meeting.

The other important thing is this is a proposed contract with the County to provide funding to us. This is not going to cost our community a penny. Whatever this ends up being, the County would pay us for the additional staffing. Not one penny out of our new measure would end up paying for the contract. We would work toward annexation in the future. There was further discussion on the contract, boundary drops and responses out of the district. Ultimately, this will provide better service to our community with the increasing call volume each year. Captain Bernal commented that we are already are responding to many calls in these districts, and often there is a delayed response coming to our district because it takes longer to get volunteers in the stations. This would also assist with that process. The service level will improve tremendously.

VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There are no new items for the March Board meeting.

Closed Session opened at 8:10 p.m.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. District Subcommittee: Nole Pacheco, Michael Gadoua and Leslie Cozad
Employee Organization: Paid Firefighters Union
Action Taken: None

B. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. District Subcommittee: Nole Pacheco, Michael Gadoua and Leslie Cozad
Employee Organization: Administrative Manager
Action Taken: None

C. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. District Subcommittee: Nole Pacheco, Michael Gadoua and Leslie Cozad
Employee Organization: Battalion Chief's
Action Taken: None

Closed Session adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger and seconded by Mr. Pacheco.
Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

Date Approved: 3/20/19