

# Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

---

11000 Main Street  
P. O. Box 1029  
Penngrove, California 94951

Telephone: (707) 795-6011  
Fax: (707) 795-5177  
www.rafd.org

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 19, 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 7:12 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on April 14, 2023.

Directors Present: Michael Gadoua, Bob Moretti, Brian Proteau, Ray Peterson, Sage Howell

Directors Absent: Mark Hemmendinger, Bret Herman

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 were items of correspondence in Board packets.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting of March 15, 2023

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve the minutes of March 15, 2023, 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. Howell to approve the consent calendar and seconded by Mr. Moretti.

Motion Carried: Aye   5   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   2

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Engineer Daniel Ikalani thanked Chief Veliquette for his hard work and the Union is looking forward to negotiations.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Engineer Ikalani commented that the new Association Board term begins in May during Awards Dinner. The Association is gathering to plan a 30-year event, with details to follow.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) A conditional job offer has been given to a firefighter/paramedic candidate yesterday. He is starting the background process and should be ready in 7-8 weeks. We also have one paramedic who just completed their training and testing and one who is already employed.
- 2.) Focus on facilities on preparations for construction at station 2.
- 3.) The temporary housing unit is in service.
- 4.) Penngrove remodel begins April 24.
- 5.) HVAC work is in progress at Liberty.
- 6.) Rancho Adobe hosted an explorer training burn for SCFD, Gold Ridge and Schell Vista.
- 7.) Finance and committee budget preparation meeting was held, and a second follow-up meeting is scheduled for next week.
- 8.) Petition driven ballot measure should be placed on the ballot March 2024. Chief Veliquette met with the FSWG and reviewed our proposal. Our total ask is \$3,449,166 per year, which includes capital infrastructure, capital apparatus and personnel upgrades.
- 9.) 250 calls for service in March.
- 10.) Chief Veliquette recognized the upcoming retirement of BC Mike Weihman.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Peterson mentioned he recently attended a meet and greet in Petaluma with our new Assemblyman Mike Maguire. He feels we need to do some education with him regarding the consequences of building large buildings. We currently have no ladder truck or funding for one. Additionally, Mr. Peterson commented that he has learned fighting fires in five-story buildings is much more dangerous than one to two-story buildings.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Chief Veliquette said a finance meeting was held late last month and another one is scheduled for next week regarding to discuss the preliminary budget. The committee discussed the budget as of now and reviewed a rough draft of the preliminary budget. Additionally, the CalMuni pension analysis report was discussed. The FY 23/24 preliminary budget will be delivered to the full board in May.

b. Long Range Planning

A meeting will be scheduled in May.

c. Ad-Hoc Capital Improvements

Mr. Proteau said there is nothing to meet about at this time and this agenda item can be removed moving forward. He also thanked City of San Rafael for the donation of the mobile living quarters and noted this saved the District a lot of money. BC Wandel also commented that it has been a collective amount of work from staff on the remodel and a donation of time by Core Electric.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Proposed Sales Tax

Mr. Proteau acknowledged Chief Veliquette's presentation at the FSWG meeting and said his was by far the best, most concise and easy to follow of any of the presentations.

Chief Veliquette reviewed his critical needs assessment for infrastructure (30-year timeline), apparatus (10-year timeline) and personnel (salary and benefits). The total annual needs are \$3,449,167. Annually, infrastructure is \$416,666, apparatus is \$227,500 and personnel is \$2,805,000. Infrastructure needs are also broken down by stations and apparatus is broken down by what we will need to replace over the next ten years. Personnel costs include pay parity with SCFD, the addition of new positions and keeping our part-time firefighter program in place. Chief Veliquette reviewed the next steps for the ballot measure.

Mr. Peterson is concerned about how this tax measure is being governed. He feels we need to produce a formula that is given to the County Clerk to distribute the funds annually. Mr. Peterson believes that setting up a new government structure is the wrong way to go and is afraid we may get the short end of the stick. Chief Veliquette responded that by June 1 all details need to be locked down for the measure to happen, including how the funds will be distributed. He said we will start getting some good information from the FSWG moving forward, including funds distribution. Mr. Proteau asked what Wilmar's plan is going forward, as they will be consolidated into Gold Ridge as of July. Chief Veliquette will keep an eye on this. The FSWG plans to start meeting with the stakeholders of districts and cities soon.

Chief Veliquette reviewed the consultants polling information and key findings. Overall, of 400 surveyed, people seem to be in support of fire protection with an initial vote of approximately 65% in favor. One threat against the tax measure includes a business round table of high roller companies who are trying to place a measure on the ballot in November 2024 that will increase the vote count on taxes to 66 2/3rds percent. This would also be retro to three years. The Fire Chiefs are trying to speak as a unified voice about the sales tax measure and Chief Veliquette wants to keep messages moving through the staff and union.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion and Review of CalMuni UAL Policy Compliance Analysis

Item has been deferred to the May Board meeting.

**VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Will have dental plan reviews for new fiscal year.
- Preliminary budget presentation.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye   5   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   2  

Respectfully submitted,

---

Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk