

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 17, 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 July 12, 2024.

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

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 Board Meeting of June 19, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to approve the minutes of June 19, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 1 (Mr. Peterson) Absent 0

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

No report filed.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Engineer Daniel Ikalani mentioned the pancake breakfast was a success and everyone had a good time.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following items:

- 1.) District Activities: budget preparation, capital facilities ad-hoc committee meetings, labor negotiations, completed Captains promotional process, upcoming Engineers promotional process in early, 402 defensible space inspections completed, 202 violations found, 2nd inspections to begin soon, multiple strike team responses – Point Fire, Thompson Fire, Sites Fire, Shelley Fire.
- 2.) Information: Business Roundtable Initiative 1935 was struck down by CA Supreme Court, making it ineligible for ballot in November. Belief that this measure will be back in a different form in the future.
- 3.) Staff Vehicles: looking into the opportunity to procure several used vehicles being surplus by another fire department. Vehicles would be used for administrative support, fire prevention and the Fire Chief.
- 4.) Measure H – established ad-hoc capital facilities committee, prepare to implement fire mechanic program, firefighter paramedic trainee (academy) positions, overlay Measure H funding into budget categories for FY 24/25.
- 5.) Upcoming events – SCFDA meeting July 25, August 9 firefighter appreciation baseball game, August 11 open house and BBQ at Liberty station for community, family day for staff to follow.
- 6.) June Calls for Service: 7 hazardous, 9 false alarms, 11 fire, 14 service calls, 87 good intent and 104 EMS.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Peterson mentioned that the Governor had intended to take ERAF money from special districts, but this was pulled from legislation. We should keep an eye on this in the future.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger mentioned that the finance/budget committee has not met recently but we will need to do so before the August meeting to finalize the budget for FY 24/25.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

Mr. Proteau commented that he and Chief Veliquette had a conversation with a construction management firm. He feels someone needs to manage these larger projects and take that pressure off Chief and Herb. This firm will provide a proposal for some of the upfront work, help with the RFP for architect and construction management firms.

c. Ad Hoc Negotiations

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that negotiations are ongoing.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Resolution R-1 Setting the Special Tax Rate for FY 2024/2025

Mr. Hemmendinger noted we have an annual CPI cap of 3% on our parcel tax. Yearly, we review CPI values on a regional basis as well as in the Santa Rosa area and found that inflation on a rolling 12-month basis is 3.1-3.8%. The suggestion is to increase our parcel tax by 3% for FY 24/25.

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to adopt Resolution R-1, setting the special tax rate at \$341.00 for FY 2024/2025, and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Roll Call:

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

B. Discussion on Payment to CalPERS for FY 2024/2025 Unfunded Liability

Mr. Hemmendinger said our current policy is to keep our CalPERS accounts funded at 95%. The required unfunded liability payment for FY 24/25 is \$91,361 which maintains our plans at 91%. Chief Veliquette noted we will be bringing some new recommendations for our UAL policy and also a recommendation to invest funds in a Section 115 Trust at the August meeting.

Motion moved by Mr. Peterson to approve payment of \$91,361 from reserves to pay CalPERS and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CalPERS changes on policies
- Negotiations reports
- FY 24/25 final budget review
- Capital improvement committee report on construction management
- Prop 4 limit for FY 24/25
- FY 23/24 rollover funding suggestions
- Mechanics position approval
- Infrastructure funding presentation
- Approval of acquiring used vehicles if cost exceeds Chief's approval limit

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bechtold

Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: August 21, 2024