

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 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 November 15, 2024.

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

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

II. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

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

There was no comment from the public.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

There was no correspondence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of October 16, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of October 16, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Howell.

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

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issue

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala expressed support for consolidation with SCFD and offered help with the process.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Firefighter Achen mentioned the Association participated in the burn relay and pumpkin patch fundraiser. The holiday dinner will be held on December 14 at the Penngrove Social Fireman's Hall.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) District activities include the promotions of 2 Engineer's and hiring of 2 full-time Firefighter/EMTs and 3 part-time firefighters. Additionally, Mechanic interviews have started, facility assessments ongoing, South County Operational Meeting with PFD/Gold Ridge/Rohnert Park and the District hosted the Annual Promotional & Badge Pinning Ceremony. This year we promoted or hired 12 positions and last year we hired or promoted 11, which equates to almost half the department.
- 2.) Calls for service: 3 overpressure, 7 hazardous, 12 fire, 20 service, 26 false, 101 EMS, 106 good intent and 60 calls to SSU. Chief Veliquette had a meeting scheduled with the new SSU President last Monday, but it was cancelled due to illness.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that we have no bios attached to our website, and he feels we should add this information to our pages.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Chief Veliquette commented that the October budget shows we are on track. It is a bit hard to validate numbers at this time because we'll have a significant change in personnel costs come the first of the year. One category to watch is fleet maintenance revenue. We are not confident we will meet that number this fiscal year. Work on the SCFD BLS agreement continues with Coastal Valleys EMS. This may take some time.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

Mr. Proteau commented staff completed the walk-throughs of fire stations with Van Pelt and reviewed the to-do list at each station. Van Pelt is compiling information and will be finalizing the report in the next two weeks. The next committee meeting will be in December.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on Consolidation with Sonoma County Fire Protection District

Chief Veliquette provided a presentation on how consolidation can improve services to the district. We are not in a money savings situation, but we can improve services through ALS, fire prevention, community outreach, continuity of operations and essential administrative services.

Lengthy Board discussion ensued and included concerns about transparency to the community, Board representation at SCFD and the next steps. Chiefs Heine and Busch were in attendance and able to answer questions from the Board.

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B. Discussion on Resolution R-5: A Concurrent Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Fire District and the Board of Directors of the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District Constituting the Districts' Resolution of Application to the Local Agency Formation Commission of Sonoma County For Consolidation of the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District into the Sonoma County Fire District

Mr. Proteau commented that supporting this resolution shows our dedication towards improving the level of service in the District. Mr. Peterson said he only has two comments, representation of our Board members at SCFD and creating a sphere of influence without SSU in it. Chief Heine does not feel we should attach the SSU portion as part of the consolidation process at this time.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau to adopt Resolution R-5 and move the annexation process with SCFD forward and seconded by Mr. Howell.

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

C. Discussion and Approval of Agreement for Services between the County of Sonoma and the Rancho Adobe Fire District to Collect Fire Mitigation Impact Fees

Mr. Hemmendinger said this contract instructs the County to collect fire impact fees on behalf of the fire district and compensates them for 2% of total fees collected.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the fire mitigation impact fees agreement for services with the County of Sonoma and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ongoing discussion on consolidation with SCFD
- Special Meeting (Closed Session) on Chief's Review to be held December 9 at 7 a.m. at station 1

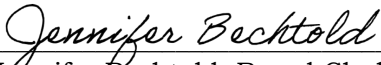
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: December 18, 2024