

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 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 April 9, 2024.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Sage Howell, Ray Peterson, Bret Herman, Brian Proteau, 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 Board Meeting of March 20, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

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

No report filed.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following items:

1.) District activities include budget preparation, capital facilities ad hoc committee meetings, labor negotiations, property and liability insurance work. Defensible space inspections begin May 1.

2.) FEMA Grants (BRIC – building resilient infrastructure communities) received by Sonoma County for wildfire protection totaling \$44 million. Scope of work will be developed by Permit Sonoma. \$37 million of the grants will affect our District where fuel breaks will be cut along the ridge of Sonoma Mountain. Work will be starting in the next few months.

3.) Calls – medical 101, 7 fires, 7 hazardous conditions, 19 service, 83 good intent, 12 false alarms, 1 special.

4.) Measure H – Nine months of sales tax revenues will be collected beginning October 1 and distributed quarterly, starting in January 2025.

5.) Business Roundtable – Initiative 1935, which poses a threat if it makes the ballot in November 2024. The state has requested the Supreme Court look at the legal validity of the initiative and have an opinion by June 27, 2024. The desire is to get them to the table to see what businesses really want. ACA-13 to require Initiative 1935 to also pass by 2/3rds.

6.) Measure H – moving forward with establishing ad-hoc capital committee, who will create a needs assessment, then work to prepare interviews of architectural firms. Work will also coincide with finance committee to determine funding. Additionally, we have analyzed and are prepared to implement the fire prevention position, fire mechanic program and paramedic positions. Budget overlay with Measure H funds for FY 24/25.

7.) Consolidation next steps – enhanced financial analysis with Measure H funding is in progress. Board leadership and Chiefs to meet next.

D. Director Reports

There were no reports filed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger noted the budget committee met and discussed the overlay of Measure H funds and threats to this revenue. Next steps are addressing negotiations before we can budget further.

Chief Veliquette mentioned that we are due to receive our second disbursement of property taxes next week. Will look at rates and terms for CD investments.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

Mr. Proteau noted that the committee has put together a list of capital improvement priorities. At the next meeting, RFP procedures will be developed to find an architect. Next meeting will be held on May 6th at 7:00 a.m. at Penngrove.

c. Ad Hoc Negotiations

According to Mr. Hemmendinger, committee chair, the Chief and Board committee met with the Union to listen to their thoughts and ideas on how to address pay parity under Measure H. Using those ideas, the committee has started to work on some budget numbers, and is meeting next Monday to discuss the Board suggestions and concepts on how to address pay parity and what that means for the budget.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Type 6 Chassis for 9132

Chief Veliquette asked the Board to approve the purchase of a 2024 chassis to replace 9132 at a cost not to exceed \$80K. The second part of this request is to authorize Chief Veliquette to find vendors to complete the chassis retrofit at a cost not to exceed a total of \$130K.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau to approve the purchase of one Type 6 chassis and approve Chief Veliquette to negotiate with vendors to complete retrofit and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Discussion and Action on Moving Westamerica Bank Loan Funds to Capital Buildings/Facility Reserve Account

Chief Veliquette noted that we would like to move the Westamerica loan proceeds of \$550,218.21 to our facilities reserve account to use as seed money for the next facilities project.

Motion moved by Mr. Peterson to move the Westamerica funds to Capital Buildings/Facility Reserve account and seconded by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Discussion on Adoption of Resolution to Oppose Initiative 1935**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Howell 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: May 15, 2024