

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
MARCH 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 March 15, 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. Special Board Meeting of January 26, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of January 26, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Regular Meeting of February 21, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to approve the minutes of February 21, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye 4 No 0 Abstain 3 (Mr. Herman, Mr. Moretti, Mr. Peterson) Absent 0

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala noted the Union is excited about Measure H passing and looking forward to negotiations. Mr. Peterson noted to celebrate the work the firefighters did with the notion that we'll hope the measure in November does not pass.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

No report filed.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following items:

- 1.) Updated agency photographs in the planning stage.
- 2.) Redcom adopted their budget, which is a bit higher this year, though Measure H will pay for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the costs next fiscal year.
- 3.) Met with two potential paramedic candidates.
- 4.) Budget preparation and scenarios.
- 5.) Property & liability and workers compensation insurance work for quotes with a new vendor. Large increases to our rates for next year. We have given SDRMA our intent to cancel should we decide to change vendors. Can withdraw this notice before the fiscal year begins.
- 6.) Calls for service- EMS 117, good intent 87, hazardous conditions 35, 8 fires, 25 service calls and 12 false alarms.
- 7.) Measure H – passed with 61.91% yes, no 38.09%. Sales tax collections begin October 1, 2024. Funds will be received quarterly (Jan, April, July/Aug, - arrears).
- 8.) Business Roundtable Measure - Still a threat for 2024. Request for CA supreme Court to take a look at the validity of the retroactive part. ACA-13 to require their measure to pass with 2/3rds vote.
- 9.) Measure H – establish an ad-hoc committee for facilities/infrastructure “master plan” (prioritize projects, work with finance committee to determine funding), begin funding fire prevention position, establish fire mechanic program, continued focus on paramedic positions, overlay Measure H funding into budget categories for FY 24/25.
- 10.) Fire Mechanic Program – provide in-house maintenance and repair for District apparatus, including annual inspections. May expand services to other agencies as availability allows. Lots of positives to the program, including the reduction of out of service time and significant cost recovery. Cost is \$90-103K salary (\$165-175K fully benefitted), will need a mobile repair vehicle (around \$85K if new) and enhanced tools cost of \$15-20K.
- 11.) Consolidation Next Steps – Chief to Chief exploratory meeting held in February, Union leadership meeting held in March, enhanced financial analysis with Measure H funds is pending. The Board leadership and Chiefs will be meeting sometime in March or April.

Chief Veliquette met with the SSU President and staff regarding their continuing issues with the false alarms. He feels they are disconnected from the reality of the partnerships they have in the community. False alarms for 2023 were noted in the meeting as adding over 319 calls which has cost the District \$139,000. The Chief is seeking steps the University can take to curb the false alarms that not only add cost to the District (without compensation) but also create potential liability with each

call. The President now lives in Cotati and Chief made a point to let him know that because of SSUs infrastructure issues, calls to the school take away our ability to respond to emergencies within the city. SSU is planning to invest around \$750K in alarm panels that would require two detectors to activate for notification which they believe will reduce the number of false calls. They hope to be complete with the modifications by the end of summer. Chief Veliquette will initiate sending a monthly report to the President with the number of alarms we responded to at the campus. The District can discuss at a future time what steps to take should the University not follow through.

Rancho Adobe will host the SCFDA meeting on April 18. Location and details TBD.

D. Director Reports

No report filed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

The finance committee meeting will be held on March 27. Mr. Hemmendinger noted that he will now serve on the budget committee, as Mr. Proteau will rotate to the capital equipment committee.

Mr. Hemmendinger mentioned that have not reassigned the bank loan and Chief Veliquette replied the money is in our account and. We will discuss what to do with this money at the finance committee meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Establishing Ad-Hoc Capital Improvements Committee

The ad-hoc committee will start by putting together a list and plan for facilities and what is needed. Mr. Proteau feels it is very important to get this committee up and running.

Board Committee members: Mr. Proteau (Chairman), Mr. Herman and Mr. Gadoua

The first meeting will be held Monday, April 8 at 7 a.m. at station 2. Mrs. Bechtold will send an invitation to all staff and Board members.

B. Discussion on Establishing Ad-Hoc Negotiations Committee

A committee will be established to begin wage and benefit discussions with the Union, Battalion Chiefs and Administrative Manager.

Board Committee Members: Mr. Hemmendinger, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Howell

The first meeting will be scheduled following the finance committee meeting.

C. Discussion and Possible Adoption of 2024 Strategic Plan

Chief Veliquette provided a brief overview of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Peterson mentioned that we show BC training and fire prevention as weaknesses, but these are not in the strategic plan as goals. Chief Veliquette replied that the committee decided we needed to focus on the high-level priorities instead of getting into the weeds on individual items. Mr. Peterson clarified that we need to focus on the prevention of injuries to bring down our workers' comp and overtime costs. Chief Veliquette said we can add accident and illness prevention to our goals. The Board

New Business Continued:

also requested a word change on page 14.

Motion moved by Mr. Howell to approve the 2024 Strategic Plan with noted amendments and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

D. Discussion and Approval to Remove Battalion Chief Andy Taylor as a Signer on the Summit State Bank Account and Add Battalion Chief Tim Caldwell as Signer

The Board reviewed the signer change and agreed to add Battalion Chief Tim Caldwell as a signer and remove retired Battalion Chief Andy Taylor.

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve the bank signer changes to Rancho Adobe and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9132 Chassis Purchase

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:26 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:
April 17, 2024