

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2021 — 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 12, 2021.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Michael Gadoua, Brian Proteau, Leslie Cozad, Bret Herman, Ray Peterson

Directors Absent: Carla Grube

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

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

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that Mrs. Grube had contacted him and she is doing much better and was hoping she could return to Board meetings soon.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of October 20, 2021

Motion moved by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Proteau.
Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

B. Special Meeting of November 10, 2021

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.
Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mrs. Cozad.
Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chief's Report

Chief Thompson reported that he will retire at the end of December and commented that it has been a privilege and honor to work with this Board and staff. He thanked the Board for their support over the years and said they have really stepped up and supplied the department with their needs. Chief Thompson also thanked BC's Wandel, Taylor and Weihman as well as Mrs. Bechtold for all they do and commented the District survived and prospered with their leadership, which extends down to Captains and beyond. He will miss Rancho Adobe and we will continue into the future with high hopes. Mr. Hemmendinger said this is a two way street and the Board and staff has appreciated all the Chief's hard work. He has improved morale. Mr. Hemmendinger is sorry to see what has occurred but wishes Chief Thompson the best in retirement. Mr. Gadoua also said Sonoma County is losing a great Fire Chief as well.

B. Director Reports

Mr. Hemmendinger noted yesterday the County was scheduled to approve a \$320K polling contract with a group out of San Francisco. The poll is supposed to show the viability of a new sales tax, the amount of tax and how it will be used. This group did a free telephone survey and the information has been published in Fire Safe Sonoma. The poll showed the sales tax support is less than 50%, which is far lower than the 66 2/3% needed. Mr. Hemmendinger was dismayed to find out that this item was on the County consent calendar and he can't find out if this money was spent or not.

C. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger answered Mr. Peterson's question about why the BLS staffing expense is down this compared to last fiscal year at this time. Mrs. Bechtold said that we have not been able to fill many of the open shifts. Mr. Hemmendinger noted we are down a bit on overall wages because we have not yet been able to staff the paramedic positions. We are over budget on overtime due to strike teams. He also noted that the balance sheet shows we are about \$1.4 million higher than last year at this time.

b. Negotiations

No report filed.

c. Equipment

BC Wandel noted the second pickup will go into production on December 13 and the lights for latest pickup are due to be installed next week. There is no production date for the chassis on the squad. The Type 1 will be in production soon here, with an 8-month production time.

d. Legislative

No report filed.

e. Chief's Evaluation

No report filed.

f. Long Range Planning

Mr. Hemmendinger commented there is a meeting scheduled for November 23rd.

g. Capital Improvements

Report under item A.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

No report filed.

E. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala thanked the Board for all their work and efforts in figuring out what we are doing moving forward following Chief Thompson's retirement.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Action on Reserve Policy (2nd Reading)

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that he added two comments at the bottom of the first paragraph, which clarify the reason for this policy. There are some grammatical issues to fix for next month and we will have this for a 3rd reading in December.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Fee Proposal for Capital Improvements at Station 2

Mr. Proteau noted the committee met last month to review the proposal from Strata. Included is a floor plan for work at station 2. In the proposal, Strata will give us working drawings, oversee the project and help us with bidding process. The fee is about 10% of the total project cost. Mr. Peterson asked how we would finance this. Mr. Hemmendinger replied that we have put aside funds for about half of the work, and then we will have to decide if we want to take funds out of reserves or take a construction loan. We can adjust next fiscal year's budget. We will need to be careful how much debt we take on according to our debt management policy. We can stretch out the timeframe of debt or have less debt. If we can do a shorter loan on apparatus purchases, that would be best. BC Wandel noted that if we stretch out loans, we do have some stacked apparatus purchases in coming years.

Mr. Proteau also mentioned that we still have the HVAC projects, and the architects work is not included in this proposal. Those costs will be \$72K for station 1 and \$32K for station 3. One of thoughts was to do work in small phases at station 2, but this this displaces staff too many times and we cannot work on one piece at a time. So for this reason we will do all of the work at one time and bring in a temporary mobile building to live in. Over next 18 months, project costs are close to \$1 million. Mr. Proteau noted the committee has recommended we use Strata.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

B. Discussion on Purchase of Body Armor

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that on August 25, he was advised there was a desire to purchase body armor for staff. The purchase would be not per person but per apparatus. In August, we had just concluded the budget process, so Mr. Hemmendinger asked BC Weihman to take this request to the Association and see if they would be willing to purchase it. Engineer DeJong said the request was turned

down by the Association, and there was no rationale for why it was turned down other than this was asked to be done by Mr. Hemmendinger. Mr. Hemmendinger corrected the information that was given to the Association and noted in the minutes and is unhappy about the lack of transparency. There has been a lot of misinformation between the Board and the Association and he is very frustrated by this.

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that we do not have any staff report to show what items need to be purchased nor how much this gear will cost. The Board has nothing to approve tonight. Mr. Weihman will write the staff report and apologized there was a breakdown in communication. The Association felt this was a PPE expense the district should fund it. Mr. Hemmendinger made it very clear the Association needs to write a set of policies and procedures on what they will be doing to support the District. BC Weihman said they are in the process of doing this.

Mr. Peterson is curious on how body armor will be used and wondered if this will be worn over turnouts. BC Weihman replied the body armor is worn over the uniform and under turnouts. Staff explained that the techniques have changed over the years to allow firefighters into warm zones along with law enforcement. There are also instances of domestic violence and psychiatric calls that do require this extra level of protection.

C. Resolution R-5: Authorizing the Adoption of the Sonoma County Local Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Hemmendinger noted that this is a plan put together with input from the District and addresses all kinds of natural hazards. If we want to get any funding from the County for any type of mitigation, the Board needs to approve this resolution.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Roll Call:

Mr. Peterson – aye
Mrs. Cozad – aye
Mr. Herman – aye
Mr. Proteau – aye
Mr. Hemmendinger – aye
Mr. Gadoua – aye
Mrs. Grube – absent

Closed Session was opened at 7:54 p.m.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. District Subcommittee: Mark Hemmendinger, Brian Proteau, Carla Grube
Employee Organization: Fire Chief Contract
Action Taken: A Closed Session meeting is scheduled for December 7th at 5 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

IX. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Review of Final Audit for FY 20/21**

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mrs. Cozad.
Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board:

December 15, 2021