

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2009 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman, Ed Gee, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on August 14, 2009.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Michael Caruana, Ed Gee, Bob Dunne, Robert Rippin, Brian Proteau (arrived at 7:13 p.m.)

Directors Absent: Harold Griffith

Conducting the Minutes: Jennifer Ober

Pledge of Allegiance said.

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

Items of correspondence were located in Board packets.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of July 15, 2009

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger and seconded by Mr. Caruana.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers

Motion moved by Mr. Dunne and seconded by Mr. Hemmendinger.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chief's Report

Chief Treanor read from his written report provided to the Board and the Public. He also noted the next Long Range Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2009 at 1600 hours at station 2.

Chief Treanor also commented that the Firefighters Association is hosting a free spaghetti dinner at the Cotati station on August 28th at 5:30 p.m.

B. Director Reports

There were no reports filed.

C. Budget Report

Chief Treanor commented that last Monday the Districts budget was out of balance by \$373K. We have now learned the following in the past week; the District can mitigate the State borrowing funds from us through a loan program with the California Fire Districts Association, the County is now stating that our property taxes are only decreasing by 2% this fiscal year as opposed to 6%, and in the close of the last fiscal year, we found that we rolled \$90K over. We are now approximately \$40K short of balancing our budget. Chief Treanor is meeting and conferring with the Union to balance the shortfalls, as well as looking at other options. There also may have been an overpayment on our PERS account where we could potentially recoup \$40K. The Board was pleased with the progress made to balance the budget.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

Engineer Scott Campbell commented that in conjunction with movies in the park, the Association will be hosting a free pasta feed on August 28th at the Cotati station.

E. Support Volunteers

Ms. Dawn Davis stated that the Support Volunteers had responded to two fires in the past month, and they expect in the next two weeks to have two more drivers added.

F. Firefighter's Union Report

There were no reports filed.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Final Budget FY 2009/2010 (2nd of Two Sessions)

The Board reviewed the budget briefly and Chief Treanor commented that he thought it was remarkable to come as close to balancing the budget we have. Mr. Hemmendinger asked if we'd have a balanced budget by next month, and Ms. Ober responded yes, we should.

With no further comment, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Joint Emergency Operations Center

Chief Treanor reviewed the proposal to set up an emergency operations center with Rohnert Park and Cotati. He explained that if, at any time, we decide this isn't working for the District, we can opt out. There is no cost to the District and, as Chief Treanor pointed out, the training is invaluable.

Mr. Hemmendinger commented that the Board was close to approving the EOC contract last month but there were many absences that prevented this motion. Chief Treanor suggested that he, Mr. Gee and possibly one more person should go through the training to learn how the EOC will work and who to be in touch with. BC Wandel noted that any requests in the event of an emergency will go through the County and this integrates a larger area into an EOC instead of multiple, smaller EOC's. Mr. Bill Paxton stated that there were no radio contacts within our District at this time and the EOC will help support this need.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mr. Dunne.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Suspension of Proposition 1A (Staff Report from Chief Treanor)

Chief Treanor commented that on July 28th, the Governor signed the bill to suspend Prop 1A. He provided a written report that explains how and when the funds will be taken from our property taxes.

Chief Treanor stated there are three options the Board has to choose from. One is taking money from the current budget, second is to take the money from reserves and third is to take a loan securitization fund.

Mr. Rippin asked if the State doesn't pay us back, do we have to pay the loan back ourselves. Chief Treanor responded that he is looking into the answer to that question.

Mr. Proteau inquired about the interest rate we'd be getting, and Chief Treanor responded that has yet to be determined. He reiterated that this information is coming in slowly and as we learn more, he will update the Board.

Mr. Paxton asked if there was a prioritization to who gets the money first and Chief Treanor replied that there would be enough for all applicants. Mr. Gee stated that he feels we should utilize the loan since it comes at no cost to us. Mr. Hemmendinger commented that we may be back in this financial situation again next year.

The Board deferred the item to next month until further information is received.

The Closed Session was opened at 7:36 p.m.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.
Employee Organization: Battalion Chief
Action Taken: Contract was approved for Battalion Chief

X. ADJOURNMENT

Closed Session ended at 7:48 p.m. and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. in memory of Mindy Berthold and Betty Kaupp.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mr. Dunne.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Date Approved: 9/16/09