

# Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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11000 Main Street  
P. O. Box 1029  
Penngrove, California 94951

Telephone: (707) 795-6011  
Fax: (707) 795-5177  
www.rancho-adobe-fire.org

## **DRAFT**

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MAY 20, 2009 — 7:00 P.M. COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE. COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

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

Vice-Chairman, Mark Hemmendinger, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on May 15, 2009.

##### Roll Call:

Directors Present: Robert Rippin, Bob Dunne, Mark Hemmendinger, Ed Gee, Harold Griffith, Brian Proteau

Directors Absent: Michael Caruana, Ed Gee

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 were no comments from the Public.

##### B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

Items of correspondence were located in Board packets.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### A. Regular Meeting of April 15, 2009

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

Motion Carried: Aye   5   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   2  

#### **IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers

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

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.

Mr. Griffith asked if the City was going to follow their past practice with regards to the weed abatement program. Chief Treanor replied that the City has stated they no longer have the funding for the program and has asked the fire department to assume this responsibility. Chief Treanor reviewed with the Board the new weed abatement plans the District has constructed in order to keep the problems minimal. Chief Treanor also commented that Cal Trans has been notified of their responsibility to have the weeds mowed along the freeway.

Mr. Proteau asked how hard it's going to be to track down property owners that have foreclosed. Chief Treanor responded that he has not yet encountered this problem.

Ms. Dawn Davis asked what length weeds need to be cut down to. Chief Treanor stated that the length depends upon how much fuel load is there is, and if the weeds are proximal to a structure or close to the property line they should be cut. Mr. Griffith commented that the weeds should be less than nine inches tall. Captain Bechtold cited that weeds should be cut back 30 ft. from the property line and 100 ft. from structures.

Mr. Hemmendinger asked if there would be a future presentation from the City of Cotati redevelopment group. Chief Treanor responded that the City of Cotati is holding a budget meeting this evening and Ms. Lustig committed there. He also asked if she'd attend a future Long Range Planning Committee Meeting (LRPC) and he'd videotape it; however she is unable to do so.

B. Director Reports

At the last LRPC meeting, Chief Treanor commented that there is a Penngrove citizen that would like to become part of the committee and will attend the next meeting.

Mr. Hemmendinger asked the Board if anyone was interested in attending the revenue seminar May 28<sup>th</sup> in Livermore. Mr. Gee will attend and Mr. Proteau will do his best to arrange his schedule around this date.

C. Budget Report

Chief Treanor commented that we are in line with the current budget. Next fiscal year the District is looking at a 3 ½ % decrease in ad velorum taxes, and if Prop IA is suspended, we'd lose another \$220K from our budget (or 8%), totaling \$316, 250. The budget is currently on hold for all expenditures. Mr. Hemmendinger pointed out that there are some items we are over budget on such as liability insurance. Chief Treanor noted that we are also over budget on our workers compensation insurance because of an additional assessment. Mr. Hemmendinger asked Ms. Ober about the increase in liability insurance and she stated that while we removed some inventory from our insurance, we also added equipment that had a higher value than what was removed. Equipment maintenance was addressed and Chief Treanor commented that there was a large repair expense on one of the pieces of apparatus. There were also issues with 9180 that had a large repair bill, however he expects there to be less expenses in the near future.

Chief Treanor commented that on a positive note, there is an excess of money remaining in the safety clothing account because of the grant we received. Mr.

Griffith noted that it's likely our budget will not look this good next fiscal year. Mr. Hemmendinger asked if the spending was being stopped unless it's an emergency. Chief Treanor responded yes, we are in emergency mode. Mr. Hemmendinger stated that we should not be spending additional money on anything that we don't absolutely need. If we have an idea to spend any money in the future, the Board should be made aware of this expense. Chief Treanor agreed and the Board also acknowledged this point.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

Captain Mike Bechtold noted that we had our Awards dinner last month and the next 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday dinner is on June 30<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Penngrove Park. Mr. Rippin commented that the Awards dinner was a very nice event.

E. Support Volunteers

Ms. Dawn Davis noted that several people showed up for the cascade training held the previous evening, and that training is on-going on the driving of 9140.

F. Firefighter's Union Report

No report was filed.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Status of Rohnert Park Truck (Staff Report by Chief Treanor)

Chief Treanor stated that the liability insurance will cost \$2350.00 to add the truck. He feels that we are in a position where we don't want to get involved with the truck and spend the money if we are going to have to find creative ways to make up for the money the State may take. He'd rather come back to the Board at another time and ask to have the truck put into service. One way to make up for the loss of funds is rolling blackouts of stations, and if this happens the truck would remain unstaffed at Cotati. The Board was in agreement of this proposal. Mr. Hemmendinger noted that we are probably going to be forced into going to the public to ask for an increase in the tax benefit, and we need to have a sterling appearance to get this passed. Mr. Hemmendinger also commented that Rohnert Park is in a precarious position with their safety personnel and he's afraid of getting into a contract with them. Chief Treanor noted that Rohnert Park is looking at perhaps cutting the third person on their engines and one of the deals with the truck was the additional manpower from their side.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

**The Public Hearing was opened at 7:32 p.m.**

A. Resolution R-7: Adoption of Preliminary Budget for 2009-2010 FY

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

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

Roll Call:

Hemmendinger – aye  
Dunne – aye  
Gee – absent  
Rippin – aye  
Proteau – aye  
Caruana – absent  
Griffith – aye

B. Fee Schedule Ordinance 2009-01 (1<sup>st</sup> of Two Readings)

Chief Treanor noted that the fee schedule has been revised by Fire Marshal Bechtold and Ms. Ober. Weed abatement fees and a few other items were added, and our fees were increased accordingly. Ms. Ober explained that a comparative analysis was performed amongst local cities and fire districts. Our fees were below most, and we've increased them approximately 10% across the Board.

Mr. Paxton asked why DES is doing inspections on care facilities, and Captain Bechtold replied that they must perform the inspection because the District is not trained in these areas. Mr. Hemmendinger asked if we are inspecting both County and City businesses and Captain Bechtold said yes, we do inspect all businesses within our District boundaries bi-annually. Mr. Proteau asked about the Meecham dumps and Captain Bechtold noted that this is County property. Mr. Hemmendinger asked if new businesses are inspected and Captain Bechtold noted that he wasn't sure what's happened in the past, but we are now doing fire and life safety checks in new businesses. He also noted that businesses are inspected by the County when they are new or change ownership.

Mr. Proteau asked if our fees cover the true costs of the engine company's time. Captain Bechtold explained that the costs cover the inspection and permits necessary to conduct business. He also stated that there are additional fees associated with opening a new business as noted on page 3 of the fee schedule. Mr. Proteau asked about our policy on re-inspections. Captain Bechtold replied that we now have a fee set in place for re-inspections.

Mr. Paxton asked what our liability is for businesses in the County that are not permitted, for instance home businesses. Since they are not permitted, the County would not know about the business nor would the District; therefore we don't receive fees for them. If businesses are run without permits, they are in violation of County guidelines, stated Captain Bechtold.

**The Public Hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution R-8: Citing a Severe Fiscal Hardship If Local Property Taxes are Seized and Additional Unfunded Mandates Are Adopted by the State of California

Chief Treanor commented that if Prop 1A is suspended, this will cause a hardship for the District. If the Board sees fit, they can adopt this resolution and it will be forwarded to the Legislature protesting the borrowing of money from our District.

Mr. Hemmendinger does not see value in the resolution or any harm in signing it. Chief Treanor noted that the citizens are raising their concerns about increasing taxes and this is a way to voice our concerns as a District. Mr. Hemmendinger suggested this resolution be forwarded to the press as well. He feels it would be good to get this out to the public so they understand the dire situation of the

*New Business Continued:*

District.

Mr. Proteau commented that in the first paragraph of the resolution we should include what services we will have to cut if the funds are taken. He feels this will get the attention of the Legislature. Chief Treanor commented that approving this resolution tonight gets it into action sooner.

Motion moved by Mr. Dunne and seconded by Mr. Griffith to adopt Resolution R-8 with amendments suggested by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye   5   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   2  

Roll Call:

Hemmendinger – aye

Dunne – aye

Gee – absent

Rippin – aye

Proteau – aye

Caruana – absent

Griffith – aye

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye   5   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   2