

# Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 15, 2025 — 7:00 P.M.  
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.  
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

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

President Bob Moretti, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on October 10, 2025.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Michael Gadoua, Brian Proteau, Pete Albin, Ray Peterson

Directors Absent: Bret Herman

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

**II. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Citizen Business/Public Comments on Items not appearing on Agenda

Mike Weihman asked about contractual obligations to retirees for the healthcare stipend and whether this would be included in the consolidation moving forward. Chief Veliquette replied that we have had discussions about this and will bring options back to the Board at the November meeting.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

There was no correspondence.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Special Board Meeting of September 16, 2025

Motion moved by Mr. Peterson to approve the minutes of September 16, 2025 and seconded by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye   6   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   1  

B. Regular Board Meeting of September 17, 2025

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger to approve the minutes of September 17, 2025 and seconded by Mr. Albin.

Motion Carried: Aye   6   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   1  

C. Special Board Meeting of October 8, 2025

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve the minutes of October 8, 2025 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye   6   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   1

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

##### **A. Ratification of Checks Issued**

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

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 1 (Mr. Albini) Absent 0

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **A. Firefighter's Union Report**

Captain Gromala commented that the Union is continuing to work on consolidation items. Members also attended the IAFF memorial in Colorado in September and the California State Firefighters Memorial in October to honor Captain Kyle Heard.

##### **B. Firefighters' Association Report**

The Association will have a static display at the Groverman's Pumpkin Patch this weekend. A date has been set for the holiday dinner.

##### **C. Chief's Report**

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) District Activities: IAFF Memorial in Colorado Springs, CA State Firefighter Memorial in Sacramento, attended Cotati City Council Meeting for a consolidation presentation, met with City Manager on station lease, 2025 CA Fire Code preparation, development review meetings with City of Cotati, fire prevention shared services program development and audit fieldwork. The SCFDA meeting will be held October 23 – please let Jennifer know if you plan to attend.
- 2.) Calls for Service: EMS 85, SSU 23, 69 good intent, 13 service.
- 3.) Operational Update: BC Deurloo mentioned there has been a lot of dedication to the firefighter memorials with coverage provided by SCFD and Petaluma. Crews are transitioning to winter, have had a couple horse rescues in Penngrove and Cotati with lengthy commitments of resources and a couple small structure fires.

##### **D. Director Reports**

No report filed.

##### **E. Committee Reports**

###### **a. Finance/Budget**

Mr. Hemmendinger noted the budget is behind on expenses because of the upfront costs we pay for insurance and other items. He suggested we hold a finance meeting before the end of the year.

###### **b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements**

No report filed.

###### **c. Ad Hoc Consolidation**

Chief Veliquette reported a consolidation update which includes a draft of the MSR and SOI, distribution of the 5-year financials, IAP distribution to RAFFD staff and update to FAQ's document. Our website has been updated with consolidation information. Next steps include the LAFCO application, a waiting period and protest period and effective consolidation date of July 1. Mr. Hemmendinger commented that LAFCO may review the MSR at their November 5 meeting.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Lease Agreement for Station 1 with the City of Cotati

No report filed.

**The Public Hearing was opened at: 7:36 p.m.**

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Ordinance 2025-02: Presentation of the 2025 California Fire Code (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

Chief Veliquette noted that California Fire Code is updated every three years throughout the entire state. Proposed amendments are made locally and can be more restrictive but not less. Once we adopt our ordinance, the City of Cotati will then adopt this into their Municipal Code.

**The Public Hearing was adjourned at: 7:38 p.m.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Resolution R-5: Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2024/2025 AB 1600 Fire Impact Fee Reports

Mrs. Bechtold explained that we must file annual reports to the County of Sonoma and City of Cotati for fire impact fees. Because our new fire impact fees only went into effect at the end of March 2025, we did not collect any funds for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Motion moved by Mr. Peterson to approve Resolution R-5 and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye   6   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   1  

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – aye

Mr. Albini – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – absent

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

**IX. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Retirement stipend options post-consolidation
- Update severance language in Administrative Manager contract
- 2nd Reading of Fire Code

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye   6   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   1

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Bechtold*  
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Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: November 19, 2025