

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
SEPTEMBER 17, 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 September 12, 2025.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Michael Gadoua, Brian Proteau, Pete Albini, Bret Herman, Ray Peterson

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

A letter from SDRMA was included in correspondence commending the fire district on no paid claims for five years in the property/liability program.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of August 20, 2025

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of August 20, 2025 and seconded by Mr. Hemmendinger.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Special Board Meeting of September 8, 2025

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau to approve the special meeting minutes of September 8, 2025 and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Ikalani noted that Kyle Heard will be honored at the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs this weekend.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Firefighter Phipps said the engine will be at the pumpkin patch on October 18.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

1. District Activities: final budget preparation, impact fee collections agreement presented at Cotati City Council meeting, attended Penngrove Town Hall, attended Cotati community meeting with Mike Thompson, attended legislators forum at SSU, followed by a meeting with government liaison and police chief at SSU, strike team deployments, wildland fire training and fire prevention meeting.
2. Calls for Service: 121 EMS, 77 good intent, 18 fire, 10 false alarm, 9 hazard and 6 service, 19 to SSU.
3. DSI: new inspections and reinspection's, completed the first of three chipper events, the second event is this week. Home hardening and property assessments for BRIC grant on Sonoma Mountain – 162 visual inspections, 58 full assessments and 228 parcels inaccessible due to gate access. Webinar held on Wildfire Risk to Reduction in our district.
4. Operational Update: Chief Caldwell noted we have been on three strike team deployments, worked on company training and probationary testing.

D. Director Reports

There were no reports.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Chief Veliquette noted that we received our 2026 Kaiser plan renewal at a rate increase of 7.99%.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

No report filed.

c. Ad Hoc Consolidation

Chief Veliquette provided an update on the consolidation efforts. Activities included working with Redcom to obtain RAFFD data, a draft of the LAFCO application is being written, FAQ document completed, met with Chief Busch to review a number of operational items, Chief Busch met with Administrative Manager, community messages being created, ad hoc consolidation committee meetings, and development of Incident Action Plan. Chief Busch noted that the development of IAP breaks down the areas of responsibilities that need to take place and who is in charge of those duties. He is working to refine the LAFCO application.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Veliquette commented that he met with the City Manager, and the current lease agreement will be updated in the next few weeks.

The Public Hearing was opened at: 7:25 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Presentation and Discussion on Final Budget FY 2025/2026 (2nd Reading)

Chief Veliquette said total operating revenues are \$10,330,536, expenses are \$9,758,779 and \$420,000 will be transferred to fund balance 8510 leaving a difference of \$151,757. Capital operating additions from FY 24/25 totaled \$1,706,445.39 with proposed expenditures of \$711,308.00 leaving a balance of \$1,866,230.39.

B. Discussion on Public Agency Vacancies (AB 2561)

Chief Veliquette noted the district has three vacancies and we are working to train, promote and hire these spots as soon as we can. Captain Ikalani acknowledged staff for stepping up to fill these vacancies and thanked those who are working in the Acting Captain positions. We will soon have one firefighter/paramedic position filled by an internal candidate.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at: 7:30 p.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Resolution R-4: Resolution Adopting a Final Budget for FY 2025/2026

Chief Veliquette noted Resolution R-4 adopts the final budget for FY 2025/2026 and reviewed distributions to capital accounts and Measure H funds.

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve Resolution R-4 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – aye

Mr. Albin – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – aye

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

IX. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session has been cancelled.

A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Title: Fire Chief

B. 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 and Ray Peterson
Employee Organization: Fire Chief

X. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

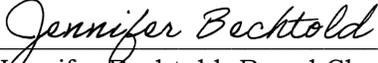
- First reading of 2025 California Fire Code

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Gadoua
Motion Carried: Aye __7__ No __0__ Abstain__0__ Absent __0__

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: October 15, 2025