

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2018 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

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

President, Carla Grube, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on May 8, 2018.

Roll Call:

Directors Present: Carla Grube, Mark Hemmendinger, Greg Karraker, Michael Gadoua, Nole Pacheco, Harold Griffith, Brian Proteau

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Ober

II. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

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

There was no citizen business.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

Mrs. Grube mentioned the thank you letter from Bob Stewart in packets.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of April 18, 2018

Motion moved by Mr. Karraker and seconded by Mr. Proteau.
Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Special Meeting of May 7, 2018

Motion moved by Mr Hemmendinger and seconded by Mr. Pacheco.
Motion Carried: Aye 4 No 0 Abstain 3 (Mr. Proteau, Mr. Gadoua, Mr. Karraker)
Absent 0

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers

Motion moved by Mr. Karraker and seconded by Mr. Griffith.
Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chief's Report

Chief Thompson read from his written report provided to the Board and the public. He made the following comments:

- 190 calls in April 80 of which were EMS;
- We are getting ready to start another round of interviews for new-hire firefighters;
- The Get Ready team has met, and they are researching prices to reprint the Marin County booklet and planning for a first presentation in July;
- Weed abatement process has begun and 54 letters have been sent out to past problem lots. Inspections will begin on June 1st.
- In-service training this month will focus on wildland components.
- Three and six-month testing is on-going for the probationary firefighters.
- Four participants in the Engineer training program have successfully completed the cone course.
- A Captains assessment center is being developed.
- Annual personnel evaluation options are being looked at, with review of what other agencies are currently using.
- Director Proteau continues to work on the research of a roof for station 3. The interior of the station has been completed with some sheet rock repairs to be done.
- Annual Fire Chief's inspections will be done at the end of June. Inspections include stations, members, equipment, apparatus, living-quarters and records.

B. Director Reports

Mr. Hemmendinger commented that he and Mr. Gadoua attended the SCFDA meeting in April and among items discussed were weed abatement and Jim Coleangelo's plans for the future of fire service in the County. Mr. Hemmendinger noted that the County Advisory Committee has received bids to provide services to the VFCs from all regions other than region 9. After speaking with Chief Thompson further, there is not cooperation from all the VFCs in our region to work together.

C. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger commented that with two months left in our budget, we have some savings in our expenses thanks to district personnel. Mr. Hemmendinger asked if we are expecting any more property taxes and Ms. Ober replied that we are expecting another \$237K in taxes. This added revenue may help us to break even at the end of the fiscal year. He also commented that we may be getting the \$63K back from the County that was taken due to the firestorm, though it won't likely hit our budget until next fiscal year.

b. Negotiations

Mr. Pacheco commented that we have the final MOU up for approval tonight.

c. Equipment

No report filed.

d. Legislative

No report filed.

e. Chief's Evaluation

No report filed.

f. Long Range Planning

Mr. Karraker commented that on April 29th, Mrs. Grube's editorial was published in the Press Democrat. He also stated that a letter was sent to Bill Dodd and Mark Levine reminding them about this SSU issue, but no response has been received to date.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

BC Weihman said the burn relay will be going on next week, and the Association will make a financial contribution but won't have an engine on the route this year. Additionally, the 5th Tuesday dinner will be moved to June 5th and group photos will be done tomorrow night.

E. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Bernal said the synagogue across the street from station 1 is working on a fundraiser to buy us a new washing machine extractor. The Fill the Boot fundraiser for the MDA will be happening soon, and he will notice the dates once we have them.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Ballot Measure for November 2018

Mr. Karraker reviewed the report from the PAC meeting on May 8th. Mr. Hemmendinger mentioned he spoke to Mark Heine Chief of the Windsor/Rincon Valley Fire Districts, and they have been working with a survey company to determine if they should go out for a ballot measure this year. They learned the community is not willing to pay more for salaries, equipment, etc. however they are willing to pay for additional services. Mr. Karraker noted that we will be running an educational campaign and attending as many public events as possible to get the information out to our community.

B. Discussion on Replacing Roof at Liberty Fire Station

Mr. Proteau commented that he has not had a chance to do anything on the roof bid since the last meeting. There was a discussion about laying a comp roof but there is a concern about the weight, so we may need to hire an engineer to look at this. Though we may spend a couple thousand for an engineer's report, it may save us money in the long run if we can do a comp roof overlay.

C. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding between the District and The Paid Firefighters Union for January 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 (Approval of Article 5 and Section 23.3)

Mr. Pacheco said there are still a few grammar issues that will be worked on next time.

Motion moved by Mr. Pacheco to accept changes to Article 5 and Section 23.3 and seconded by Mr. Karraker.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Public Hearing was Opened at 7:38 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Presentation and Discussion on Preliminary Budget for FY 18/19 (1st Reading)

Ms. Ober commented on the workers comp budget, stating that we received the invoice for FY 18/19 and are seeing a substantial increase from the current fiscal year. While wages are only \$10K higher in the next fiscal year, our experience modification factor went up from 110% to 133%. This resulted in an increase of almost \$50K to our workers comp. Mr. Hemmendinger noted that the extra help and permanent positions budgets are not expected to change, as they have been adjusted to our current salaries. There are some other notes for additional turnouts and wildland gear, as well as new AEDs. We have budgeted our revenues conservatively at 3% and are still receiving the \$300K from the casino.

Public Hearing was Adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Change in Dental and Vision Plans Effective July 1, 2018

Ms. Ober stated that historically, Rancho Adobe has had their vision and dental plans under the County umbrella, thereby allowing the district to save money on plans due to the size of the contracts. In April, the County informed us that they were no longer going to offer these plans and we would need to find our own insurance. Ms. Ober contacted our health insurance brokers at USI to find new plans and compare them with the alternates provided by the County. They did an incredible job and the two plans we are looking at as replacements, Cypress Dental and VSP Choice, ended up costing less than the plans we currently have. The Union has agreed to move coverage to these plans and Ms. Ober thanked them for their quick work in agreeing to the changes.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau to change dental to Cypress and vision to VSP Choice and seconded by Mr. Karraker.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Discussion on Weed Abatement

Mr. Karraker passed out a question/answer sheet regarding weed abatement. The questions were answered by BC Weihman about our weed abatement processes and policies. The Community Voice is also doing an article on our policy to show the community that we are working on the hazards and to change the perception that's out there. Mr. Proteau asked if Cal Fire is doing anything in the SRA to abate hazards. BC Weihman said that he has worked with them in the past, but they tend to target entire neighborhoods instead of individual homes. BC Weihman said we could talk in future meetings about forcing abatement on hazard properties, with the knowledge that we may not see all, if any, of those funds back. The cost of this process is estimated at around \$10K.

IX. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no new agenda items for June.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau and seconded by Mr. Karraker.
Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Date Approved: 6/20/18