

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2026 — 5:30 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 5:30 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on February 13, 2026.

Directors Present: Brian Proteau, Bob Moretti, Bret Herman, Ray Peterson, Pete Albini

Directors Absent: Mark Hemmendinger, Michael Gadoua

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Motion to Designate District's Labor Negotiator Under Gov. Code Section 54957.6: Appoint Negotiators to Negotiate Amendment to Employment Agreement for District Administrative Manager

The Board of Directors appointed Bob Moretti and Brian Proteau as members of the negotiations committee for the Administrative Manager's contract.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to appoint Directors Moretti and Proteau to negotiations committee and seconded by Mr. Albini.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

B. Discussion on Motion to Designate District's Labor Negotiator Under Gov. Code Section 54957.6: Appoint Negotiators to Negotiate With Unrepresented Battalion Chiefs and With Rancho Adobe Firefighters Association, Local 1401, IAFF, Regarding District Consolidation with Sonoma County Fire District

The Board of Directors appointed Bob Moretti and Ray Peterson as members of the negotiations committee for the Battalion Chiefs and Paid Firefighters Union.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to appoint Directors Moretti and Peterson to negotiations committee and seconded by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

Closed Session was opened at 5:34 p.m.

III. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.
Agency Designated Representative: President Bob Moretti
Unrepresented Employee: Administrative Manager
Action Taken: None

- B. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.
Agency Designated Representative: President Bob Moretti and One More
Unrepresented Employees: Battalion Chiefs Herb Wandel, James Deurloo and Tim Caldwell
Action Taken: None

- C. Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.
Agency Designated Representative: President Bob Moretti and One More
Employee Organization: Rancho Adobe Firefighters Association, Local 1401, IAFF
Action Taken: None

Closed Session was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

IV. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Citizen Business/Public Comments on Items not appearing on Correspondence and/or Presentations

There was no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Board Meeting of January 21, 2026

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026 and seconded by Mr. Albini.

Motion Carried: Aye 4 No 0 Abstain 1 (Mr. Proteau) Absent 2

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala said the Union continues their work on consolidation.

- B. Firefighters' Association Report

Captain McClendon thanked everyone for their help at the crab feed. The event was sold out and another success.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) District Activities: Crab feed, consolidation meetings, labor meetings, operations meeting. Good progress is being made on the Captains' promotional process and engineers training. There continues to be movement and sharing of personnel between RAFD and SCFD. Type 6 is nearing completion and almost ready for service.
- 2.) Operational Update: BC Deurloo shared there has been a lot of time put into consolidation in addition to numerous vehicle accidents related to the weather. Crews have completed multi-company, nighttime live fire training. There was also another horse rescue on Ormsby Lane.

D. Director Reports

Mr. Herman mentioned there will be supply shortages happening soon that will affect radios and other electronics, due to a shortage of silica which affects chip manufacturing.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Chief Veliquette said overtime is higher than budgeted but some of this will be offset through strike team reimbursements.

b. Ad Hoc Consolidation

Chief Veliquette noted the consolidation application will be heard by LAFCO on March 3rd at 2pm at the Board of Supervisors chambers. Both fire chiefs have participated in many meetings with the commission. The 45-day protest period begins after adoption of the application.

VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


- **Resolution R-7 Adopting Fire Chief's Salary and Employment Agreement**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Herman.
Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 2

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: March 18, 2026