

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
APRIL 15, 2026 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

Assistance for the Disabled: If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the meeting, please call 707-795-6011 for assistance so the necessary arrangements can be made.

The Board meeting agenda and all supporting documents are available for public review at 11000 Main Street, Penngrove, CA 94951, 72 hours in advance of a scheduled board meeting. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet, and not otherwise exempt from disclosure, will be made available for public inspection at the District Office at 11000 Main Street, Penngrove, during normal business hours, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Copies of supplemental materials distributed at the Board meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting location.

The Closed Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Regular Board Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

I. 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: Bob Moretti, Ray Peterson
Employee organization: International Firefighters Association, Local 1401,
Professional Firefighters of Sonoma County, Rancho Adobe Division
Action Taken: None

The Closed Session was moved after the Open Session and opened at 7:45 p.m. and closed at 9:10 p.m. No action was taken in the Closed Session

II. 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 April 10, 2026.

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

Minutes Conducted by: Fire Chief Jeff Veliquette

III. 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

There was no correspondence.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of March 18, 2026

Motion moved by Mr. Hemmendinger to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026, and seconded by Mr. Albini.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

B. RATIFICATION OF SEVERANCE AGREEMENT FOR JENNIFER BECHTOLD.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Gromala mentioned that the Union has been busy with Engineer testing, Captain joint testing and Battalion Chief joint testing with SCFD. He also mentioned that the crew supported the mechanic in pulling the radiator from the engine and was appreciative of the new apparatus lifts. He is thankful for the ongoing support from SCFD personnel who continue to fill open spots at Rancho Adobe.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

The Association reported they have installed the following new officers: President Max Gaddie, VP Matt Achen, Secretary Kyle Fairbanks, Treasurer Bruce Linscott, Community Relations Jake McClendon, Member-at-large Jack Phipps.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

1.) District Activities: Acting captain training, engineer academy completion and 2 new acting engineers, development meetings with the City of Cotati, shared services program with fire prevention, individual consolidation projects and committees, shaded fuel break project on Sonoma Mountain Road, Facility maintenance and repairs.

2.) Operational Update: BC Wandel said they are using a new reporting system, moving the fleet into more of a preventative maintenance program, having had a few structure fires and an increase in extrication assignments. He stated some crews have attended water rescue training and that we are beginning wildland training soon.

D. Director Reports

No reports filed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Chief Veliquette reported that an updated look to our financial reports will be forthcoming in next month's Board packets. He also stated that a Finance Committee meeting would take place this quarter.

b. Ad Hoc Consolidation

Chief Veliquette said work continues on the IAP, employee benefits presentations upcoming, joint agency budgeting, facilities and fleet working on projects, cross training and shared personnel and labor management meetings. The protest period is currently ongoing through May 6 to be followed by the LAFCO public hearing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action of Fire Station 3 flooring replacement.

Chief Wandel commented that this was a needed project and that the price quote was from a competitive bidding process. The project would cover removal of asbestos and non-asbestos floor tile and replacement with a carpet and LVT flooring combination throughout the station.

Director Proteau asked how the total cost was being calculated based on the quote provided. He suggested that a letter of intent be provided to the vendor and offered to work with Chief Wandel to develop the contract with the vendors. He asked that a contingency be added to cover the potential needs for Alternate #1- moisture barrier in the amount of \$15,749

Motion with added contingency in the amount of \$15,749 moved by Mr. Gadoua and seconded by Mr. Herman.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

B. Discussion and possible action on the Graton Casino MOU for FY2025-2026

Chief Veliquette stated that this is an agreement that provides funding to the District to offset the operational impact of the Graton Casino. He stated that the funding is provided to the County and then a portion is identified for Sonoma County Fire District, Rancho Adobe Fire District and City of Rohnert Park. He stated that this is the same amount we have received in the last 2 previous years.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mike Weihman stated that the retiree medical program is still in libmo.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0



Jeff Veliquette, Fire Chief

