

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

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**NOTICE & AGENDA OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2024 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

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

President Mark Hemmendinger, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on September 12, 2024.

Directors Present: Mark Hemmendinger, Bob Moretti, Sage Howell, Bret Herman, Michael Gadoua, Ray Peterson

Directors Absent: Brian Proteau

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

There was no correspondence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2024

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of September 18, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

No report filed.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Engineer Jake McClendon noted the Association is continuing to support the Heard Family. This Saturday, at the Groverman's pumpkin patch, the fire engine will be on display.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) Activities – September's focus was Kyle Heard's memorial. Concluded 9 months of engineer's academy and all three candidates have passed. Engineer Jake McClendon is being promoted to Captain as of November 1. We have two FF/EMTs in background for full-time positions and five new part-time firefighters should be ready to begin the academy in December. We will also be promoting two engineers to backfill vacant spots. Additionally, the defensible space program has concluded for the season, with over 600 parcels inspected and 85% compliance.
- 2.) Notable incidents: threat at Penngrove School, firehouse was used as reunification area for parents and kids. We also had a vegetation fire on Cold Springs which was contained at 4 acres. Cause was mylar balloons that got into power lines. All staff did amazing work at both of these incidents.
- 3.) September calls for service: 217 which included 102 EMS, 78 good intent, 9 fires, 7 hazardous conditions. 47 of these calls (20%) were to SSU. Mr. Hemmendinger would like to put more pressure on SSU regarding the numerous false alarms continuing to occur. Chief Veliquette will reach out to the new Chancellor to set up a meeting.
- 4.) Battery Energy Storage System – proposed to go in at the former Green Strings Farm at Adobe/Frates. This is for lithium battery storage which are held in 8x8 steel containers and the holding spot for energy. This is one of two proposals in our District. The other facility is slated to be next to the PG&E substation on Adobe. The County is requiring a full EIR be completed, which will take about a year. Construction would then take another year to be completed.
- 5.) Other major projects within the District include an apartment complex in Penngrove off Hatchery Lane, 12 live/work units next Penngrove Park, 13 units off Lasker Lane, 35 residential units off Old Redwood in Cotati, 157 homes called Redwood Row by Lowes and 177 apartments and 126 homes in another parcel near Lowes.
- 6.) Upcoming Events – facilities assessment with VanPelt this Friday, completion of Type 3 spec, preparing chassis remount of 9132.
- 7.) Fire Districts Conference will be held in Napa, April 2025. Date to come. FDAC Leadership Symposium was attended by management staff in September. We are in the planning stage for our annual badge pinning that will happen November 22 or 23. Red Flag warning is in effect this Thursday through Saturday.
- 8.) Chief Veliquette also noted that Chief Doug Williams passed away this morning at home. Flags will be flown at half-staff. A moment of silence was held in Chief Williams' honor.

D. Director Reports

No report filed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

Mr. Hemmendinger noted the finance committee met and reviewed revisions to our UAL policy. The committee also reviewed proposals from two vendors who

offer Section 115 Trusts.

b. Ad Hoc Capital Improvements

Chief Veliquette clarified that once VanPelt completes their inspections, we get a master plan at granular level ready to go out to architects. Also included in their documentation are budget numbers and capital outlay, critical path schedule, plans to move forward, and what the cost will be for projects. The anticipated timeline completion is less than three months. Once the report is compiled, the Board will receive the master plan.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Action on Kaiser Healthcare Plan for 2025

Mr. Hemmendinger noted the Kaiser renewal is 11.8% which is about twice what we had anticipated. In comparison, other healthcare plan costs were 4.5% - 67% higher, but also at much higher out of pocket costs to staff.

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve the Kaiser healthcare plan for 2025 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

B. Discussion on Resolution R-4 Amending the District's Existing Pension Management Policy #7030

The finance committee has reviewed the policy amendments, most notably, revising the funding ratio from 95% down to 85% to prevent overfunding of CalPERS pension plans. The policy also incorporates the utilization of the Section 115 Trust plan and other suggested language changes. There was no public comment.

Motion moved by Mr. Petersen to amend Policy 7030 and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – absent

Mr. Howell – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – aye

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

C. Discussion on Creating a Section 115 Trust Plan with Public Agency Retirement

Mr. Hemmendinger commented that we are in a great position to establish a Section 115 Trust as we have paid off the unfunded liabilities with PERS through the pension obligation bonds. Two vendors were reviewed: CalPERS and PARS. While PARS had slightly higher fees, the returns far outweighed the costs. There are also many different investment options through PARS than what is offered by PERS. Utilization of PARS has also been recommended by the finance committee. Mr. Hemmendinger feels it is important to note that with the Section 115 Trust, our funds are not protected and they can go up and down with market variations.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to establish a Section 115 Trust Plan with PARS and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

D. Discussion on Purchase of LED Signs for the Penngrove and Liberty Fire Stations

Chief Veliquette commented that we received \$140,000 from the County to purchase two LED station signs, one at Penngrove and another at Liberty. These signs will communicate public messages. Mr. Herman asked about working with Liberty School to share messaging on the sign and in return, request they pay a portion of the trenching costs necessary to power the sign. Chief Veliquette replied that he has not had a conversation with the school about this, but with Board direction, he will reach out. Mr. Moretti feels the price for the signs is very high. He asked how much trouble it would be to put our own RFP out to bid. Chief Veliquette said we would have to go through the RFP process from start to finish, which can take 30 or more days. The cost of the signs does seem to be in alignment with the bids other agencies received.

Motion moved by Mr. Moretti to approve a “piggyback” bid agreement awarded by Sonoma County Fire District to Robert Sanders & Co. for the purchase of LED signs at Penngrove and Liberty Fire Stations and seconded by Mr. Gadoua.

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

VII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Funding of PARS Section 115 Trust and Investment Strategies


VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

Motion Carried: Aye 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 1

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk

Date Approved by Board: November 20, 2024