

# Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

---

11000 Main Street  
P. O. Box 1029  
Penngrove, California 94951

Telephone: (707) 795-6011  
Fax: (707) 795-5177  
www.ranchofire.com

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 18, 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 April 13, 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 comment.

B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

Mrs. Grube announced there is an LCW seminar on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at SOMO and an SCFDA meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

C. Presentation from William Berry, Consultant

Mr. Berry was not in attendance.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting of March 21, 2018

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

Motion Carried: Aye   7   No   0   Abstain   0   Absent   0

#### **IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **A. Ratification of Claims and Journal Vouchers**

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

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **A. Chief's Report**

Chief Thompson reported the following items:

- New hires have been guided through an introduction and initial training.
- Probationary firefighters have participated in 3 and 6-month evaluation testing.
- We have enough part-time applications to hold another agility test soon.
- Get Ready project will be meeting with interested agencies next week.
- The engineer academy has begun and several days have been spent on the cone course.
- Mandatory harassment training was held and instructed by Gordon Graham.
- Vegetation management reminders will be sent to property owners next month.
- The man-down feature has still not been programmed on the radios so Chief will be speaking with a Motorola tech soon.
- Rancho Adobe assisted with the Engineer exam for Petaluma Fire.
- As assessment center for acting-captains will be held utilizing in-house evaluators from RAFD/PFD.

Mrs. Grube asked how we will be notifying the homeowners about weed abatement and Ms. Ober replied it's the same process, which is by complaint-based.

Mr. Pacheco asked if the recent part-time wage increase was a factor in getting more applications. Chief Thompson said it was not a factor initially but has helped since.

##### **B. Director Reports**

There was no report filed.

##### **C. Committee Reports**

###### **a. Finance/Budget**

Mrs. Grube reported that our expenses are \$3,350,207 with 18% remaining. In revenues, we have received \$3,057,718 and have 23% left to collect. We have a current deficit of \$292,489 but will be receiving our tax infusion soon.

###### **b. Negotiations**

Mr. Pacheco noted there was an error in the MOU language on the copies in packets, so the two articles up for discussion will have to be ratified next meeting.

###### **c. Equipment**

No report filed.

d. Legislative

No report filed.

e. Chief's Evaluation

No report filed.

f. Long Range Planning

Mr. Karraker updated the Board on the letter to the Press Democrat asking for assistance from SSU and said that it was still not put into the paper. The Press feels it's too personal calling the SSU President out by her name. Mrs. Grube and Mr. Karraker have revised the letter and resubmitted it to the Press Democrat. We hope to see it published soon.

D. Firefighters' Association Report

BC Taylor commented the Awards Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse on Friday night. He also noted that individual staff and Board pictures will be held tomorrow, April 19th at 5:30 p.m.

E. Firefighter's Union Report

No report filed.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Ballot Measure for November 2018

Mr. Karraker noted there is a report from the PAC meeting yesterday and he reviewed this with the Board. He also reported that the Social Fireman cannot donate to the PAC due to the political nature. Mr. Hemmendinger asked what types of promotional items we have available to use at public events we are attending. Mr. Karraker said we are looking into the cost of blowing up the picture of Kyle with the costs of equipment. He also commented that there are many items percolating for fundraising, and in addition, this year is also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rancho Adobe and we are looking at an event at SSU to celebrate. This may also be a good public relations event. Mr. Karraker said the first round of the survey will be sent out tomorrow by Ms. Ober through an email list of voters in our district. There are five questions that we are asking for feedback on.

Mr. Hemmendinger asked if we have had any feedback on the ballot measure. Mr. Karraker said that we did hear some feedback at the presentation to the Penngrove Social Fireman's group. Mr. Gadoua said he also heard some comments about the cost being too high, and BC Weihman heard some of the same. There was also a lot of support for the measure. Mrs. Grube said keep in mind that not all the folks in the Social Fireman's group are residents in our district.

B. Discussion on Replacing Roof at Liberty Fire Station

Mr. Proteau said he has a call out to another contractor to give us a bid on the roof. Chief Thompson said it's a dismal situation at this time unfortunately.

- 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)

The MOU in packets is not the final version so we can't ratify it. Captain Bernal apologized for the mistake. Mrs. Grube asked a question regarding the last paragraph in Article 23, regarding 40-hour employees. It was noted that there are currently no 40-hour employees, but if we had them, they will take the holiday as opposed to receiving a holiday payout.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion on Time Change for All Future Board Meetings

Mr. Hemmendinger stated that this topic came up in recently in a discussion being that the Chief waits a long time between the end of the day and meeting time. Chief Thompson said he does not want to affect anyone who currently works if we were to change the meeting time. Mr. Gadoua said the reason we have a night meeting is to be available to the public too. Mr. Proteau said we could move the Closed Session before the regular meeting and start sooner. Ms. Ober will read up on the Brown Act to see about the time of meetings and report back next month.

**VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There are no new items for next month.

**The Closed Session was opened at 7:51 p.m.**

**IX. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Pursuant to Government Code §54957(e), the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
Action Taken: None

**Closed Session adjourned at 7:57 p.m.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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

Date Approved:   5/16/18