

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

September 14, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Location: Remote Via Zoom

Board of Directors

Nicole Johnson (Division 2) - President, Randy Mendosa (Division 3) - Vice-President,

Blaine Maynor (Division 1) - Director, Elena David (Division 4) - Director

David Rosen (Division 5) - Director

CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 5:32 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance has been suspended during Shelter in Place.

ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum and the following were present remotely via zoom: President Nicole Johnson, Vice President Randy Mendosa, Director Blaine Maynor, and Director David Rosen. Director Elena David was absent.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Justin McDonald and Board Secretary Becky Schuette.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson. **Absent;** David.

Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

Senior Management Group – No report

Local 4981 – Captain Marcus Lillard reported that negotiations are in full swing, and they are looking forward to the meeting on Thursday to continue with the process.

Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA) – Roy Willis, President reviewed his submitted activity report.

There were no additional comments from the public.

At this time, Chief McDonald requested District Business items 2 & 3 be called ahead of the public hearing to allow Cameron Weist to speak sooner as he had another meeting obligation.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

2. Consider Approval of Resolution 21-245 with Exhibit A Adopting a Debt Management Policy: Chief McDonald began reviewing the staff note aloud and Director Rosen pointed out that there had not been a Resolution adopted. This was the same error that had been made in item 3, which had been revised, and the language had not been corrected. The Chief then proceeded with the remainder of the staff report.

Director Mendosa queried if the District has a Capital Improvement Plan or Equipment Purchasing Program referenced on the bottom of page 64 of the packet. Mr. Weist advised that it was okay to leave the language referencing those policies, whether the District had them or not.

Director Rosen stated that he would continue to oppose the adoption of this policy, providing his reasons for opposition, which led to a broader discussion. President Johnson redirected the discussion back to the current item, debt management policy.

The following member of the public commented:
Captain Marcus Lillard

There was no further discussion and no additional comments from the Board or the public.

It was moved to adopt Resolution 21-245 with Exhibit A.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, and Johnson. **Nays;** Rosen. **Absent;** David.
Motion Carries

3. Consider Approval of Resolution 21-246 Refinancing a Portion of the District's Outstanding CalPERS Unfunded Liability and Authorizing the Form of Financing Documents in Connection Therewith: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report aloud and President Johnson called for Board discussion.

Director Mendosa began discussion pointing out a County name correction in the finance agreement, which will be rectified before signing. He went onto ask a few more questions about other references in the agreement such as "secretary" and who the authorized officer would be for the District.

Following the PowerPoint of the Summary of the UAL Refinancing Bid Results provided by Cameron Weist, the Board members had a few questions for the Chief and Mr. Weist, which were asked and answered.

With no further comments or questions from the Directors, President Johnson opened public comment and there were none.

It was moved to adopt Resolution 21-246 approving the Form and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Financing Documents in Connection with the Refinancing of a Portion of the District's Outstanding Unfunded Actuarial Accrued

Liability to the California Public Employee's Retirement System and Providing for Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto. Select Sterling National Bank for the 15-year term upon recommendation of staff.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, and Johnson. **Nays;** Rosen **Absent;** David.
Motion Carries

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes from August 10, 2021, Regular Meeting
2. Minutes from August 13, 2021, Special Meeting
3. August 2021 Financial Report
4. Adoption of Resolution 21-243, Identifying the Terms and Conditions for the Fire District Response Away from their Official Duty Station and Assigned to an Emergency Incident
5. Authorize Removal of Four Outstanding Invoices from the District Accounts Receivable Records

There were no comments from the Directors or the public.

It was moved to accept the consent calendar.

Motion: Maynor; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson. **Absent;** David.
Motion Carries

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Correspondence – There was no correspondence.
2. Committee Reports

a. Arcata Station Rent Committee – President Johnson reported that the Committee met with the AVFA on August 30 to discuss the rent and were advised that they are interested in moving forward with a potential sale. Either the \$8,000 monthly rent will increase to \$10,000 in January or the District can proceed with the potential purchase of the station.

b. Fire Chief's Evaluation Committee – There was no report. The committee members were unclear and have not yet met.

3. Fire Chief's Monthly Report – Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report aloud. He pointed out a typo in the report under Mutual Aid. Aid received should have been two, not zero. ~~been twice.~~

The Board Secretary, after checking the minutes from May, advised the Board that the members of the Chief's evaluation committee were President Johnson and Director Maynor.

4. Director Matters – President Johnson asked about the rash of crime against fire departments recently. Chief McDonald reported there had been two separate break-ins with thefts from Samoa Fire, Rio Dell Fire had a four-wheeler stolen, Telegraph Ridge had been rifled through, but no thefts and that there had been vandalism to the

Firefighter Memorial in Eureka. Chief is concerned and staff should be vigilant at the stations and with their equipment.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget and Resolution 21-244 with Exhibit A: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report aloud and President Johnson asked if the Board had any questions.

Director Mendosa asked a few questions related to the budget public hearing process, why liability insurance had gone up so much and if staff's experiences with the County's Auditors Office had improved.

With no further questions from the Board, President Johnson opened the public hearing and opened the floor for public comment and the following public member commented:

Roy Willis, Bayside

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed by President Johnson.

Director Mendosa had a question about the necessity and high cost of repaving the Mad River Station. Chief McDonald explained that the weight of the engines is hard on the driveways and pavement. The asphalt has disintegrated, and deferred maintenance has now turned into expensive repairs.

Director Mendosa also asked about a remodel of the Mad River Station with the potential of more private areas for staff and including it in the budget planning. Chief McDonald would like to include staff in a remodel discussion.

With no further deliberation, President Johnson called for a motion.

It was moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson. **Absent;** David.
Motion Carries

CLOSED SESSIONS

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)

Employee Organization: *Local 4981*

Agency designated representative: *District Counsel Jack Hughes*

Conference with Labor Negotiator (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)

Employee Organization: *Senior Management Group*

Agency designated representative: *District Counsel Jack Hughes*

Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code Section 54956.8)

Property: *631 9th Street, Arcata, California*

Agency Negotiators: *Director Nicole Johnson and Director Randy Mendosa*

President Johnson adjourned to closed session at 7:11 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:11 pm.

Report out of closed session by President Johnson;

Item 1: Nothing to report out.

Item 2: The Board gave direction to the labor negotiator.

Item 3: The Board gave direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Motion: Maynor; Second: Mendosa

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for ~~November 9, 2021~~, **October 12, 2021**, at **5:30 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Schuette,
Clerk of the Board