ARCATA
FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting
June 11, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Location: 631 9th Street, Arcata
Arcata Fire Station Classroom

Board of Directors

Nicole Johnson (Division 2) *- President,* ***Randy Mendosa (Division 3)*** *- Vice President,* ***Blaine Maynor (Division 1)*** *- Director,* ***Eric Loudenslager (Division 4)*** *- Director,* ***Jason Akana (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 5:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum, and the following were present: President Nicole Johnson, Director Akana, Director Mendosa, and Director Maynor. Director Loudenslager is absent.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Chris Emmons, Assistant Chief Ross McDonald, and Board Secretary Anali Gonzalez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to approval of the agenda, the Board discussed postponing the Ceremonial Matters agenda item to a future meeting.
A motion was made and seconded to:

- Remove the Ceremonial Matters agenda item from the current agenda.
- Continue the Ceremonial Matters item to a future agenda.
- Approve the agenda as amended.

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Motion: A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Mendosa
Second: A second was made by Director Maynor
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Mendosa, Maynor
Nays:
Absent: Loudenslager
Result: Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT/ ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Michael Winkler

Former Arcata City Council Member and former Mayor Michael Winkler addressed the Board regarding fire prevention following the January 2 fire.

Mr. Winkler referenced former Chief Cowan's report titled *A Roadmap to Success, Retroactive Sprinkler Ordinances* and requested that the Board:

- Consider placing the matter on a future agenda.
- Direct staff to update and investigate a potential retroactive fire sprinkler ordinance for the Arcata downtown district.
- Work with the City of Arcata to evaluate implementation options and possible financing mechanisms.

No Board action was taken.

No additional public comments were received.

Local 4981 Monthly Report

A representative of Local 4981 reported the following:

- Members received the Team Spirit Award at the recent barbecue event.
- Members appreciated the opportunity to engage with the public outside emergency responses.
- Representatives met with the Finance Committee regarding the alternative staffing plan.
- Board members were invited to participate in a ride-along or station visit to better understand department operations and assist with future decision-making.

No Board action was taken.

Arcata Volunteer Fire Association Report

- The annual barbecue was successful.
- Training was completed on the new air compressor.
- Thirty-two CPR students were trained during the reporting period.
- CPR training was provided at Mad River High, Cummings West, and Green Diamond.
- The Association covered approximately $528 in costs exceeding grant funding for equipment purchases.
- PG&E and Coast Central provided grant funding for future projects.
- Firewise community meetings were underway and community participation was increasing.

No Board action was taken.

<u>Closed Session:</u>

The Board recessed into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.
Prior to entering Closed Session, the Chair called for public comment.
No public comments were received.
Following the Closed Session, the Board reconvened in open session.
The Chair reported that the Board **provided direction to staff**.
No additional reportable action was announced.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Chair opened public comment on the Consent Calendar.
No public comments were received.
Board discussion identified the following corrections:

- Page 32 contained an incorrect appropriation limit resolution number, which was corrected.
- Page 34 (Exhibit A for Fiscal Year 2025–2026) was identified as an incorrect attachment and was removed from the Consent Calendar.
- The Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Exhibit A was confirmed as the correct exhibit.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with:

- the correction to page 32 as discussed; and
- the removal of page 34 from Consent Calendar Item No. 4.

Motion by: Director Akana
Second by: Director Mendosa
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Maynor, and Mendosa
Nays: N/A
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Staff presented the draft Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 pursuant to Health and Safety Code requirements.
Staff reported that:

- the preliminary budget was based on rollover amounts from the current fiscal year;
- CalPERS actuarial information was still pending;
- health insurance premiums had not yet been finalized;
- the final budget would be presented after updated financial information became available.

The preliminary budget assumed:

- static property tax growth;
- static district assessment collections;
- current staffing levels;
- estimated CalPERS unfunded accrued liability payments.

Staff recommended:

- approval of the Preliminary Budget;
- scheduling the public hearing for final budget adoption on September 10, 2026; and
- authorizing the Board Clerk/Secretary to publish the required public notice.

The Chair opened public comment.
No public comments were received.
Board discussion included clarification regarding projected revenue figures, including investment income, charges for services, and miscellaneous revenues.
Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to:

- approve the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 as presented;
- schedule the public hearing for final budget adoption at the September 10, 2026 Board meeting; and
- authorize the Board Clerk/Secretary to publish the required notice pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13893.

Motion by: Director Akana
Second by: Director Mendosa
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Maynor, and Mendosa
Nays: N/A
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

2. Authorization to Purchase replacement 1 3/4 – Inch Fire Hose

Staff reported that annual hose testing resulted in a significant amount of attack hose being removed from service after failing required testing.
Staff advised that:

- replacement inventory was critically low;
- maintaining reserve hose inventory was necessary to ensure operational readiness;
- grant funding had been requested for a larger hose replacement project, although the award timeline remained uncertain; and
- the proposed purchase would provide sufficient replacement hose and reserve inventory for one engine company.

Staff estimated:

- purchase cost: **$10,500**;
- anticipated district cost after grant reimbursement (if awarded): approximately **$8,000**.

Board members asked questions regarding:

- grant funding;
- expected hose lifespan;
- replacement of hose on the new engine;
- hose durability;
- repairability;
- future replacement needs.

The Chair opened public comment.
No public comments were received.
Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to authorize expenditure of **$10,500** for the purchase of replacement 1¾-inch fire hose and reserve inventory replenishment.
Motion by: Director Mendosa
Second by: Director Maynor
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Maynor, and Mendosa

Nays: N/A
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

3. Award of Contract- Arcata Station Exterior Painting Project

Staff presented the results of the competitive bid process for the Arcata Station exterior painting project.
Staff reported that:

- six bids were received;
- Empire Painting of Redding submitted the proposal determined to be the most responsive and responsible;
- the recommended contract amount was **$33,640**;
- sufficient funding was available within the approved maintenance budget; and
- the project was scheduled for completion by September 30, 2026.

Board members discussed:

- the differences in bid amounts;
- contractor experience;
- experience working at occupied fire stations;
- project coordination;
- staging and maintaining emergency access during construction.

The Chair opened public comment.
No public comments were received.
Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to:

- award the Arcata Station Exterior Painting Project contract to **Empire Painting** in the amount of **$33,640**; and
- authorize the Fire Chief to execute the contract and related documents.

Motion by: Director Mendosa
Second by: Director Maynor
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Maynor, and Mendosa
Nays: N/A
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

4. 2026 Biennial Review of the Conflict of Interest Code

Staff presented the required biennial review of the District's Conflict of Interest Code pursuant to the Political Reform Act and the Humboldt County Office of Elections. Staff reviewed the statutory requirements, filing deadlines, and procedures applicable to the review process.

Board discussion included:

- the required biennial review process;
- whether amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code were necessary;
- discussion regarding language contained in Section 5 relating to Form 700 filing procedures;
- whether legal review would be necessary if amendments were made; and
- the potential costs associated with legal review.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize staff to review, complete, and submit the required 2026 Local Agency Biennial Notice.

Motion by: Director Mendosa
Second by: Director Maynor
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Maynor, and Mendosa
Nays: Akana
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

5. LAFCO Independent Special District Election

Staff presented correspondence regarding the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) election for a Regular Special District Member position.

The Board discussed the candidates and previous experience working with David Couch.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate **David Couch** and direct staff to complete and submit the official ballot.

Motion by: Director Mendosa
Second by: Director Maynor
Roll Call:
Ayes: Johnson, Maynor, Akana and Mendosa
Nays:
Absent: Loudenslager
Abstain:
Result: Motion passed

6. Government Relations Discussion

Staff reported that this recurring agenda item was established to allow discussion of government relations matters affecting the District.

Discussion included:

- ongoing coordination meetings with Cal Poly and the City of Arcata;
- an upcoming meeting with Senator McGuire's staff;
- discussions regarding funding for rural fire districts; and
- continued interagency collaboration.

No public comments were received. No Board action was taken

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee reported meeting twice during the reporting period and advised that budget development work was ongoing.

Discussion included scheduling a future staffing workshop to provide Board members with additional operational information before consideration of the staffing proposal.

No Board action was taken.

Government Relations Ad Hoc Committee

The committee reported that there were no updates.

Fire Chief's Monthly Report

The Fire Chief presented the monthly report, including updates on:

Administration / Intergovernmental Activities

- Attendance at city council and interagency meetings.
- Participation in disaster preparedness exercises with PG&E, Cal Poly, the City of Arcata, and other agencies.
- Ongoing Cal OES reimbursement efforts related to the January 2 fire.
- Regional fire service coordination meetings.
- Planning discussions related to future funding measures.
- Development Impact Fee engineering study.
- Fire Chiefs Association activities.

Planning / Grants

The Board received updates regarding:

- engineering study revisions;
- preliminary budget development;
- drone program development;
- capital improvement projects;
- grant funding for address signage;
- Firewise community development efforts.

Operations and Training

Staff reported:

- successful completion of the PG&E disaster exercise;
- instructor and company officer training;
- acting duty officer and company officer assignments;
- radio testing at Cal Poly;
- annual hose and ladder testing.

Operational highlights included responses to:

- structure fires;
- traffic collisions;
- rescue incidents;
- medical emergencies;
- mutual aid responses.

Maintenance

Maintenance updates included:

- vehicle transmission and brake repairs;

- apparatus repairs;
- replacement of a failed radio repeater.

Public Education

Staff reported participation in:

- public education events;
- career presentations;
- Special Olympics Torch Run activities.

Social Media

Staff reviewed recent social media performance and discussed the historical fire siren currently undergoing restoration.

Board members requested that staff consider providing a public update regarding the status of the historic siren.

Fire Marshal's Report

The Fire Marshal reported activities including:

- plan reviews;
- construction inspections;
- code enforcement;
- special event permits;
- hydrant flow testing;
- public education;
- code training; and
- preparations for Fourth of July fireworks inspections.

Board discussion included questions regarding hazardous material storage and hydrant operations.

No Board action was taken.

Director Matters

Board members discussed follow-up regarding the public comment requesting consideration of a retroactive fire sprinkler ordinance.

Staff advised that such an ordinance would require action by the City and potentially the County, rather than the Fire District.

The Board requested staff provide future updates regarding discussions with the City.

No Board action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair announced that the next Regular Board Meeting would be held on **July 9, 2026**, at **5:30 p.m.** at the Arcata Fire District Downtown Station.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Adjournment time: 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Arali E. Sewzelury

Business Manager / Board Secretary
Arcata Fire District