



# ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT

## MINUTES

### *Regular Board Meeting*

*April 9, 2026*

*5:30 p.m.*

*Location: 631 9<sup>th</sup> 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, and Director Loudenslager

**Absent:** Director Mendosa and Director Maynor.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No public comment was received. The motion passed.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Akana

**Second:** A second was made by Director Loudenslager

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

**Nays:**

**Absent:** Mendosa, Maynor

**Result:** Motion passed

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

No public comments were received.

### **Local 4981 Monthly Report**

A verbal report was provided regarding continued outreach and engagement efforts with the Board and District personnel.

## **Arcata Volunteer Fire Association Report**

The Volunteer Fire Association reported:

- Approximately 30 volunteer hours completed during the month.
- Continued CPR and First Aid instruction throughout the community.
- Grant updates, including support received for the volunteer apparatus.
- Progress on Firewise community efforts and planning for a May 12 community meeting.
- Development of a rural fire hydrant maintenance project in coordination with local water districts.

Discussion occurred regarding hydrant visibility, maintenance, and NFPA color standards.

### **Closed Session:**

At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to closed session to consider existing or anticipated litigation, liability claims, real property negotiations, license and permit determinations, threats to security, public employee appointments, personnel matters, evaluations and discipline, labor negotiations, or to discuss with legal counsel matters within the attorney-client privilege.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session for a conference with labor negotiators at 5:44 pm. The Board returned to open session and reported that directions were provided for staff at 6:16 pm.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes from January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. January 2026 Financial Report
3. February 2026 Financial Report
4. Dissolve AVFA, L4981, AFD Relations Committee (Maynor) (Staff Note)
5. Adopt Resolution 26-344 Authorizing the Transfer of Cash from Humboldt County Treasury to CalTRUST Liquidity Fund
6. Consider Accepting the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Audit Report

The Board considered the consent calendar. No director comments or questions were made before the motion. No public comment was received

Motion: A motion was made to accept the consent calendar by Director Loudenslager  
Second: A second was made by Director Akana

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** Johnson, Akana, Loudenslager

**Nays:** N/A

**Absent:** Maynor, Mendosa

**Result:** Motion passed

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**1. Request for Nominations for Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)**

Staff presented information regarding nominations for a Special District Representative position on Humboldt LAFCO. No action.

**2. Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution Approving the Fire Impact Fee Nexus Study and Requesting Adoption and Implementation of a Fire Impact Fee Program by Humboldt County and the City of Arcata**

The Board conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed Fire Impact Fee Nexus Study and Fire Impact Fee Program.

Staff presented the study prepared by SCI Consulting Group and explained the purpose of establishing development impact fees to support growth-related fire protection infrastructure and equipment.

Consultant Blair Aas participated remotely to answer questions regarding the implementation and applicability of the fee program.

Board discussion included:

The need for additional long-term funding to support future service demands. Concerns regarding fire protection requirements for larger developments and high-rise structures.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve approved adopting the resolution approving the Nexus Study and requesting the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Arcata City Council adopt and implement the Fire Impact Fee Program on behalf of the District.

**Second:** Loudenslager

**Roll Call:** Johnson, Akana, Loudenslager

**Ayes:** Johnson, Akana, Loudenslager

**Nays:** N/A

**Absent:** Mendosa, Maynor

**Result:** Motion passed

### **3. Annual Fire Chief Performance Evaluation**

The Board reviewed the process for conducting the Fire Chief's annual performance evaluation.

Discussion included continuing the evaluation process used during the prior year.

An ad hoc committee was established, consisting of:

- President Johnson
- Past President Jason Akana

The committee will oversee the evaluation process and timeline.

## **CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Budget Committee**

The committee reported that a budget workshop was scheduled for April 20, 2026.

#### **Government Relations Ad Hoc Committee**

The committee discussed concerns regarding a proposed five-story hotel development in Trinidad and associated fire protection and mutual aid considerations. Discussion focused on staffing, equipment, pre-incident planning, and firefighter safety

#### **Fire Chief's Report**

The Chief provided updates regarding:

- Intergovernmental meetings and regional coordination.
- Ongoing financial and benefit assessment studies.
- Website ADA compliance improvements.
- Potential dispatch discussions with Cal Poly.
- Emergency preparedness outreach and presentations.
- Training activities and officer development.
- Significant incidents and operational statistics.
- Social media engagement and public outreach efforts.
- Fire Marshal operational activity, including inspections and plan reviews.

#### **Operational statistics for March included:**

- 304 total calls for service.
- 164 medical calls.
- 10 fires.
- 23% overlapping incidents.
- Approximately 60% response arrival within five minutes.

#### **Director Matters**

##### **Board members discussed:**

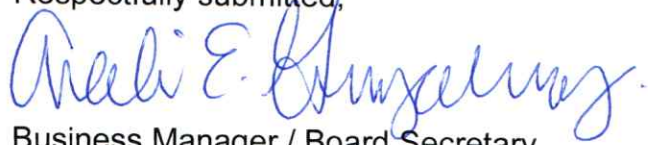
- Financial planning documentation.
- Ongoing coordination with Cal Poly and the City of Arcata.
- Potential development of a regional training site.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Director Akana and seconded by Director Loudenslager for adjournment.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arcata Downtown Station. The adjournment time is 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aneeli E. Gonzalez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Business Manager / Board Secretary  
Arcata Fire District