

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

May 14, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Location: 631 9th Street, Arcata

Arcata Fire Station Classroom

Board of Directors

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

CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Eric Loudenslager at 5:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Loudenslager.

ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum and the following were present: President Eric Loudenslager, Vice President Jason Akana, Director Nicole Johnson, Director Blaine Maynor, and Director Randy Mendosa.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Justin McDonald, Deputy Chief Chris Emmons, Assistant Chief Ross McDonald, Board Secretary Katie Hill, and Public Information Officer Alyssa Alvarez.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no public comments or comments from the Board.

It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager

Motion carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code section 54956.8.)

Property: 631 9th Street, Arcata CA 95521

President Loudenslager adjourned to a closed session at 5:33 pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:22 pm.

Report out of closed session by President Loudenslager, no reportable action.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes from April 12, 2024, Regular Meeting
2. April 2024 Financial Report
3. Adopt Resolution 24-304 Declaring Intention to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Tax-Exempt Obligations
 - a. Attachment 1 – Resolution 24-304
4. Adopt Resolution 24-305, Recognizing that Resolution No. 11-131 Supersedes Resolution No. 06-110
 - a. Attachment 1 – Resolution 24-305
 - b. Copy of Resolution 06-110
 - c. Copy of Resolution 11-131
5. Approve Resolution No. 24-306 with Exhibit A, Adopting a New Master Salary Schedule
 - a. Attachment 1 – Resolution 24-306 with Exhibit A

There were no comments from the public or the Board.

It was moved to approve the consent calendar.

Motion: Akana; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager.

Motion carries

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC HEARING – Adoption of Ordinance 24-22, Reinstatement of Board Member Compensation and Updates to the Board Policy Manual

Deputy Chief Emmons read his staff note aloud.

There were no comments from the public.

There were no Board deliberations.

It was moved to waive the reading of Ordinance 24-22, enacting the reinstatement of board member compensation, and approve the Board Policy Manual updates to Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Motion: Maynor; Second: Akana

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Loudenslager. **Nay;** Mendosa

Motion carries

2. Fire Station Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Director Maynor read the staff report aloud. Director Akana provided additional comments.

Board members had input on the topic and discussion.

AVFA President Roy Willis spoke during public comment.

A member of the public, Arcata resident Daryl Chinn provided comments.

Item was discussion only; no board action was taken.

3. Establish an Ad-hoc Committee to Carry Out the Goal Setting Process as Part of the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Incoming Fire Chief

President Loudenslager read his staff note and outlined the ad-hoc committee's parameters.

There was a brief discussion by the Board.

There were no public comments.

President Loudenslager and Director Mendosa agreed to be on the ad-hoc committee.

4. Approve the Relocation of Business Banking Accounts to US Bank, Authorize Account Signers via Resolution 24-307, and Authorize the Closure of the Coast Central Accounts

Deputy Chief Emmons read his staff note aloud.

There was one question by a Director and clarification was provided by Business Manager Hill.

One public member, Daryl Chinn, asked a question.

It was moved to approve staff transferring the District's primary checking account to US Bank and adopt Resolution 24-307 authorizing the account signers and authorize the closure of the Coast Central Credit Union accounts.

Motion: Akana; Second: Johnson

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager.

Motion carries

5. Consider and Vote for Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Regular Member

Deputy Chief Emmons read the staff note aloud.

Board members discussed and agreed to vote.

There were no comments from the public.

There was a motion made by Director Mendosa to nominate candidate Heidi Benzonelli with a second from Director Johnson.

The Board directed the Clerk to fill out paperwork and submit it on behalf of the Board.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Johnson

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager.

Motion carries

6. Consider Agreement for Consulting Services for the Development of Long-Term Finance Planning with CalMuni Advisors and Authorize the Fire Chief to Sign the Agreement

Chief McDonald summarized his staff report.

Directors provided comments and asked questions that were answered by Chief McDonald and Deputy Chief Emmons.

Member of the public, Daryl Chinn asked a question.

It was moved to approve the Contract with CalMuni advisors, authorize the Chief to sign the contract and set a budget item in FY 24/25 for Financial Advisory Services for \$25,000.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Akana, Johnson, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager.

Motion carries

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Public Correspondence

- a. AVFA Monthly Report provided by President Roy Willis
- b. Proposed LAFCo Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- c. Children's Center Thank you Pictures for Captain Nate Padula and Engineer Tyler Sung
- d. Thank you to Engineer Jesus Barron

2. Committee Reports:

- a. Fire Station Committee (Maynor, Akana) – A full report was provided during District Business item 2.
- b. AVFA, L4981, AFD Relations Committee (Maynor) – Nothing to report.
- c. Budget Committee (Johnson, Loudenslager) – Director Loudenslager advised they were currently reviewing the OPEB report that was completed for the district, upcoming budget committee meeting to be scheduled end of July, early August for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

3. Fire Chief's Monthly Report – Deputy Chief Emmons reviewed his staff note. He spoke to the recent agency assist with Cal Poly Humboldt where three strike teams were deployed, including one from Sonoma County. Costs for the assistance will be covered by Cal Poly and OES. Deputy Chief Emmons advised that the CAD system for the District was currently down so statistics for overlapping calls were unavailable for this meeting. Deputy Chief Emmons then summarized his recent FDAC (Fire Districts Association of California) training that he attended with President Loudenslager. The Prevention Specialist reviewed prevention statistics.

Chief McDonald discussed a recent fire that was promptly managed by crews, thanks to efforts from Fire Inspector Matt Knowles. Neighbors became aware of the fire after hearing multiple smoke detectors going off allowing for a timely notification to the dispatch center.

Director Mendosa asked questions about ladder truck assistance from other agencies for calls involving multi-structures. Deputy Chief Emmons explained the process for obtaining agency assists. Director Mendosa also asked if all recent aid provided to Cal Poly Humboldt for the protest was reimbursed. Chief McDonald confirmed services were reimbursed and then reviewed the aid provided to Cal Poly during the recent campus protest.

4. Director Matters – Director Akana advised that he, President Loudenslager, PIO Alvarez, and Chief McDonald attended LAFCo protest hearing. He also recently met with a councilmember and inquired as to whether the Board would want to meet in a joint session with Arcata City Council.

Director Johnson requested that the board packets reference hyperlinks and return to page options.

President Loudenslager provided a recap of the Fire District Association of California training he recently attended. He also attended the K Street and 11th Street meeting held by the City of Arcata and didn't see any negative impact on the District.

President Loudenslager addressed concerns of the letter that was sent on behalf of the Board to Arcata City Council regarding the Gateway Project. Concerns included that much of the content of the letter was not shared. A discussion was had about whether the issue would be an agenda item next month. Staff was directed to follow up with the City of Arcata to inquire as to why much of the letter was omitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Director Mendosa and a second by Director Johnson, President Loudenslager adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **June 11, 2024, at the Arcata Downtown Station Classroom, 631 9th Street in Arcata at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Hill,
Clerk of the Board