



# ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT

## MINUTES

### *Regular Board Meeting*

*July 8, 2025*

*5:30 p.m.*

*Location: 631 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Arcata*

*Arcata Fire Station Classroom*

### **Board of Directors**

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Akana led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

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

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no public comments or comments from the Board.

It was moved to approve the agenda

**Motion:** Mendosa; Second: Loudenslager

**Roll Call: Ayes:** Akana, Maynor, Mendosa, Loudenslager

**Absent:** Johnson

Motion carries

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

There were no public comments.

1. Arcata Volunteer Fire Association Report - report attached to the board packet.
2. Local 4981 Monthly Report- Report attached to the board packet.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes from June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting
2. June 2025 Financial Report
3. Adopt Resolution 25-329 and Exhibit A, Accepting the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Appropriations Limit for the Arcata Fire District

**Motion:** Loudenslager; Second: Maynor

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

**Absent:** Johnson

Motion carries

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

### **1. Consider Authorizing the Purchase of a Replacement Utility Vehicle**

The Fire Chief provided a staff report regarding the need for a utility vehicle. The District's light rescue truck (Unit 8291) was declared surplus in January but has not yet been sold despite significant interest. In the interim, there is a critical need for a utility vehicle at the Mad River fire station for logistical support and station utility purposes, including hauling supplies for training.

Staff has located numerous used vehicles that would fit the purpose. The proposed vehicle would be a used crew cab F-450 with a utility box and lumber rack. Outfitting the car would include a light bar, siren, scene lighting, and radio, with a total cost not to exceed \$75,000. A grant from Harbor Freight would cover the scene lighting and power inverter. An appropriation from the Vehicle Replacement Fund would cover the remaining costs.

A director questioned how much of the Vehicle Replacement Fund is already encumbered. The Chief clarified that approximately \$900,000 is committed to the new engine, leaving a balance of roughly \$275,000 after the recent transfer of \$200,000 into the account from the last budget cycle. This proposed purchase would not interfere with the long-term goal of replacing the next Type 1 engine in approximately five years. The Chief noted that the new Type 1 is projected to cost \$1.2 to \$1.3 million, and the fund is on track to meet that need. The sale of older Type 1 engines is not included in the projections, as they are typically donated or sold for a minimal amount (around \$25,000).

The Chief also explained the difference between the proposed utility vehicle and a Type 6 engine. While the new utility vehicle could be fitted with a skid mount pump to serve some of the functions of a Type 6, it would not meet state standards for an actual Type 6 engine. The District still intends to purchase a Type 6 engine in the future, likely with the proceeds from the sale of the surplus rescue vehicle.

A public comment was made by Roy Willis, who supported the purchase, noting the previous rescue vehicle was an excellent logistical vehicle, but its single use was a limitation. He highlighted the need for a properly designed utility vehicle with organized storage.

A director expressed a preference for capital purchases to be included in the annual budget to maintain transparency with the public.

**Motion:** A motion was made to authorize staff to purchase and outfit a used utility pickup truck for a maximum of **\$75,000**. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Loudenslager; Second: Maynor

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

**Absent:** Johnson

### **2. Government Relations Update and Discussion**

The Board was reminded of the upcoming joint study session with Cal Poly and the City of Arcata on July 30th.

- The Chief confirmed that a department heads meeting at the City of Arcata indicated the July 30th meeting is still moving forward.
- The Chief noted that letters were sent to legislators (Senator McGuire and Senator Rogers), but no response has been received.
- A suggestion was made and approved to extend an invitation to the two county supervisors to attend the meeting.
- The Chief mentioned a new topic under discussion by the City of Arcata and planning departments in other areas: single-stairway exiting in new, taller buildings. The Chief stated the District would not support this due to safety concerns and its potential to restrict exits, particularly during a large-scale emergency.
- A discussion ensued about the state building code. The Chief clarified that the City of Arcata cannot make the code less restrictive and would have to lobby the state to change the building code. The Board expressed concern about the City of Arcata potentially lobbying for such a change without consulting the Fire District, especially given the District's authority over fire protection within the city's jurisdiction. It was noted that this could allow developers to build taller buildings on smaller parcels.
- A director suggested that staff provide educational materials on this topic to the City Manager.

**Action Taken:** No action was taken on this item. Staff was directed to extend an invitation to the county supervisors for the July 30th meeting. There were no public comments.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Public Correspondence: None

2. Committee Reports:

- a. AVFA, L4981, AFD Relations Committee (Maynor) – nothing to report
- b. FY 2025/26 Budget Committee (Johnson, Loudenslager)- nothing to report
- c. Government Relations Ad-Hoc Committee (Akana, Loudenslager)- nothing to report

3. Fire Chief's Monthly Report – Chief Emmons read the monthly report aloud.

### **Operations:**

- Covered for Humboldt Bay Fire during a badge pinning ceremony.
- Attended a memorial service for retired Arcata Fire Engineer Carl Smith.
- Updated on Standards of Cover, with minor changes to the critical tasking analysis awaiting fiscal projections from the city.
- Announced Engineer Tyler Sun left for a position with the City of Davis, and a recruitment for an engineer has been opened.
- Staff participated in planning meetings for the air show on August 9th and 10th. The District will provide on-site medical and fire coverage and will seek reimbursement.
- Reported an increase in transient activity behind the Mad River Station.

### **Administration:**

- Onboarding with Lexipol for policy updates.
- The Chief participated in a peer review for the California Incident Command Certification System.
- Letters were sent to Senator McGuire and Assemblyman Wood regarding the upcoming joint workshop.

### **Grants:**

- No updates on the SAFER grant.
- The Simpson grant for firefighter health and wellness is pending.
- The Bird Foundation grant for a security system at the Arcata Fire Station is in progress.
- Applied for a second California Fire Foundation grant for wildland safety equipment.

### **Incidents:**

- Detailed notable incidents, including a carbon monoxide alarm activation, a two-vehicle accident, a large transient encampment, an overdose, and a controlled burn that spread to a barn and was fortunately extinguished by a broken water line.

### **Statistics:**

- Call volumes remain higher than the previous year.
- The majority of calls originated in the City of Arcata and McKinleyville.
- The average response time is just over four minutes, with 25% of calls overlapping.

4. Director Matters – No additional comments or questions from the Board.

### **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.**

1. Conference with Labor Negotiator (Gov. Code Section 54957.6) Employee Organization: Local 4981 & Senior Management Group Agency designated representative: District Counsel Jack Hughes
2. Fire Chief Annual Review

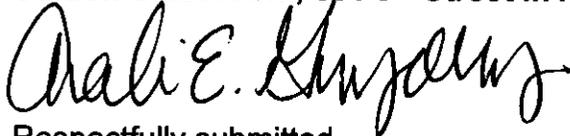
President Akana adjourned the regular meeting at 6:15 pm to convene a closed session. The closed session concluded at 8:37 pm. The regular meeting resumed immediately thereafter.

Report out of closed session by President Akana; there is no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Following Director Maynor's motion and Director Mendosa's second, President Akana adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **July 8, 2025, at the Arcata Downtown Station Classroom, 631 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Arcata at 5:30 pm.**



Respectfully submitted,  
Anali Gonzalez, Clerk of the Board