

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

June 9, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Location: Remote Via Zoom

Board of Directors

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

Rene Campbell (Division 1) - Director, Elena David (Division 4) - Director

David Rosen (Division 5) - Director

1. 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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was no pledge of allegiance.

3. 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 Rene Campbell and Director David Rosen. Director Elena David was absent.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Justin McDonald, Battalion Chief Sean Campbell and Board Secretary Becky Schuette.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chief McDonald advised the Board that item 12.2 needs to be pulled, as there will be no meeting regarding negotiations tonight.

Director Rosen made a motion to remove item 9.2 from the agenda which was seconded by Director Mendosa.

Director Campbell joined the meeting at 5:34 pm.

The motion was followed by a recommendation from the Chief to hear the item, as well as a comment from Firefighter Luke Walker requesting the board allow the item to remain, in order for the Local to make their presentation.

There were no additional public comments at this time.

Roll was called for the motion by Director Rosen to remove item 9.2 from the agenda.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; Mendosa and Rosen. Noes; Campbell and Johnson Absent; David
Being a tie vote, the motion failed.

Another motion was made at this time.

It was moved to approve the agenda, as is, with item 12.2 removed.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Johnson

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following member of the public commented:

Phyllis Chinn

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

6.2 Approval of Corrected Minutes from April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

6.3 May 2020 Financial Report

6.4 Adoption of Resolution 20-220 Accepting the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Appropriations Limit for the Arcata Fire District

6.5 Adoption of Resolution 20-221 Setting the Rate Per Unit at \$22.00 for the 2006 Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2020-21

6.6 Adoption of Resolution 20-222 Setting the Rate Per Unit at \$5.00 for the 1997 Special Tax for Fiscal Year 2020-21

6.7 Renewal of the Interagency Agreement with CPS HR for Human Resource Consultation Services

There were no comments from the Board or the public.

It was moved to approve the consent calendar.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Campbell

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

7. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Consider Approval of the Draft Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note. He pointed out that some items have changed in the budget since it was presented at the last meeting. Tax revenues and sales tax are in decline and still unknown at this time.

President Johnson queried the Board on their thoughts on the rotational station closures.

Director Campbell requested firefighter feelings input as well as the effect the rotations have had on response times. She also wanted public perception on the rotational closures.

Chief responded to the change in response times as well as various public perceptions of the station closures.

Local President Anthony Benelisha commented on behalf of the firefighters staff indicating it being a little more difficult not having a permanent station, but he has not

heard a great deal of complaints. Rotational closures are not a deal breaker for the Local as far as Board decision making.

Director Mendosa commented on a common question about closing Mad River Station.

Chief McDonald offered information on loss values for each stations response areas over the last two years. Although the charts were no visually included in the meeting or provided as part of the packet, a copy of them will be included as an Attachment to these minutes.

President Johnson also commented on being in support of the rotational closures based on comments made by the public.

Director Rosen did not have any comments.

The following members of the public commented on the rotational station closure topic:

Ginger Campbell, Arcata resident

Barbara Georgiana, McKinleyville resident

Both President Johnson and Director Mendosa reiterated that the rotational closures of the stations were not punishment to any one area.

At this time President Johnson circled back to the budget itself and asked for Director comments.

Director Mendosa also pointed out that revenues are so unknown that adopting the preliminary budget is fluid. He requested at least quarterly reviews of the budget moving forward, more if necessary. This sentiment was echoed by both the Chief and President Johnson. The current events with Covid will impact sales tax and the local economy in general.

President Johnson reminded everyone that this was a preliminary budget and that we are still waiting to finalize talks in regards to the staffing situation; the surplus is a moving target, not for sure number and the process is still evolving.

There were no further comments from the Directors at this time.

The following members of the public made comments on the budget:

Ginger Campbell encouraged the finance committee to listen in on the budget hearings for the county for Measure Z.

It was moved to approve the Draft Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 as presented and set the public hearing for final adoption at the September 8, 2020 Board Meeting and public a notice pursuant to HSC § 13893.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

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

Motion Carries

8.2 Consideration of a Second Attempt at a Special Tax Initiative for the November General Election: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note and recommended that the District make another attempt with one change to the ordinance; He requests the new ordinance include a clause for a late fee. He further recommended no changes to the requested amount, because less money would mean we cannot operate three stations.

With no objections from the Directors, President Johnson requested public comment be called ahead of comments from the Directors.

The following members of the public commented:

Barbara Georgianna, McKinleyville
Ginger Campbell, Arcata
Steve Cole, Arcata
Roy Willis, Bayside

This was followed by discussion on various other ways of reaching the public with the continued use of Zoom, Next Door, social media, printed media and KEET. There was also a suggestion about better instructions and possible training for Zoom attendance.

Public member Paul Nicholson commented at this time.

There were no further public comments, however, Chief McDonald advised that he and Battalion Chief Campbell have been working behind the scenes on getting a timeline ready and will be able to move forward quickly with the funding measure.

Director Mendosa made some final comments of concern about the safety of staff and the need to proceed with the funding measure attempt, as did President Johnson.

It was moved to place special tax initiative for the November General election. She then added an amendment to include a late fee in the Ordinance, to reflect 2.2 million dollars annually and sunset after 10 years.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

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

Motion Carries

At this time, Chief McDonald advised the Board that the actual Resolution with draft Ordinance will be back on the July meeting agenda. This was followed by a discussion regarding a suggestion from Alex Stillman that a diverse group of public members from around the District, be the spokes people who sign for the ballot measure.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Consider Approval of a Contract for Prevention Services to the Blue Lake

Rancheria: Chief reviewed his staff note explaining this was the same contract being used with other fire service agencies in the area. There had been a few modifications made by the Rancheria, which is presented in the Attachment.

There was a brief discussion regarding the indemnification aspect of the contract, a specific scope of service and if our insurance carrier has seen the language.

There were no further comments from the Directors and no public comments.

It was moved to approve the contract for prevention services to the Blue Lake Rancheria.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

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

Motion Carries

9.2 Consider Request for Proposal, Cal Fire Contract: President Johnson turned the floor over to presenter Fire Captain Luke Walker. He wanted to note the concerns about how this agenda item was placed on the agenda and that the Local was advised this was the only option they were provided in order to make the presentation to the Board.

Captain Walker went on to read his staff report aloud and continued by commenting on several topics of concern for all parties involved.

Chief McDonald advised the Board that his recommendation would be to put the RFP out to Humboldt Bay Fire at the same time. If we are looking for the best cost and best service, we need to do due diligence. He went on to introduce Kurt McCray, Unit Chief of the CalFire Humboldt Del Norte Unit. Chief McCray introduced himself and his Administrative Chief, Assistance Chief Derek Misner who is in charge of finance, personnel and contracts.

Chief McCray provided an overview and explained the four stages to the RFP process; Concept Paper, Approval Stage, Negotiation Stage, Implementation stage. He went on to explain this would be a lengthy, burdensome process and there was an expectation that the RFP be submitted with the “true intent” to solicit CalFire services for any part of the Districts jurisdictional boundaries and/or operations. A complete Scope of Services will also be required.

A lengthy discussion followed with questions by the Director’s which included the California budget and the impact on CalFire and future employee costs. Would the services include our dispatch fees? Other topics of discussion included the timing of the submission of the RFP and the process interfering with the election process, as well as already existing misinformation behind station closures and the District relationship with the volunteers and the Volunteer Association. There were additional comments about the RFP process continuing alongside the election process, and the potential formation of a working committee to look at options for due diligence.

The following members of the public commented:

Roy Willis, Bayside
Scott Gordinier, Vice President of the Local

Motion to table this topic until next month to do due diligence on Humboldt Bay and CalFire to prepare for an RFP if that is what we choose to do.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Johnson

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell and Johnson. **Noes;** Mendosa and Rosen **Absent;** David
Motion Fails

There was brief discussion about not wanting the motion to fail and what the motion should be so that it did not fail if restated.

Point of order by Director Rosen indicating the item has been dealt with and that the Board should move on.

President Johnson advised that Director Campbell could make another motion if she chose to do so.

There was an attempt at another motion by Director Campbell to do due diligence to see if we have other options available, be it Humboldt Bay or CalFire, and table it until the next meeting.

Second point of order by Director Rosen re-advising the issue has been dealt with and to move on. This was followed by a comment from Director Mendosa advising that the District has spent two years in this process and that we should continue to work on the tax initiative.

Motion withdrawn by Director Campbell.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

President Johnson reviewed the correspondence.

There were no comments or questions from the Board and no public comments.

11. MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1 Chiefs Report - Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report.

11.2 Committee Reports - There were no committee reports.

11.3 Director Matters - No reports given by the Directors.

11.4 Bargaining Group & Association Reports

Local 4981 - Anthony Benelisha thanked Luke Walker for the presentation and the Board for hearing them out.

Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA) - Rob Cannon reviewed his report and added that AVFA was seeking funding for volunteer recruitment.

12. CLOSED SESSION

President Johnson adjourned to closed session at 7:57 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:21 pm.

Report out of closed session by President Johnson; nothing to report.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Motion: Campbell; **Second:** Mendosa

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **July 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Schuette
Clerk of the Board

Year	Location	Preincident Value	Total Loss	Incident Count
2019	Arcata Stn	\$89,430,122	\$2,013,167	50
	Mad River Stn	\$11,576,410	\$394,983	20
	McKinleyville St	\$11,925,901	\$441,836	14
2018	Arcata Stn	\$35,818,854	\$225,246	21
	Mad River Stn	\$1,269,252	\$49,635	8
	McKinleyville St	\$14,248,142	\$50,961	14

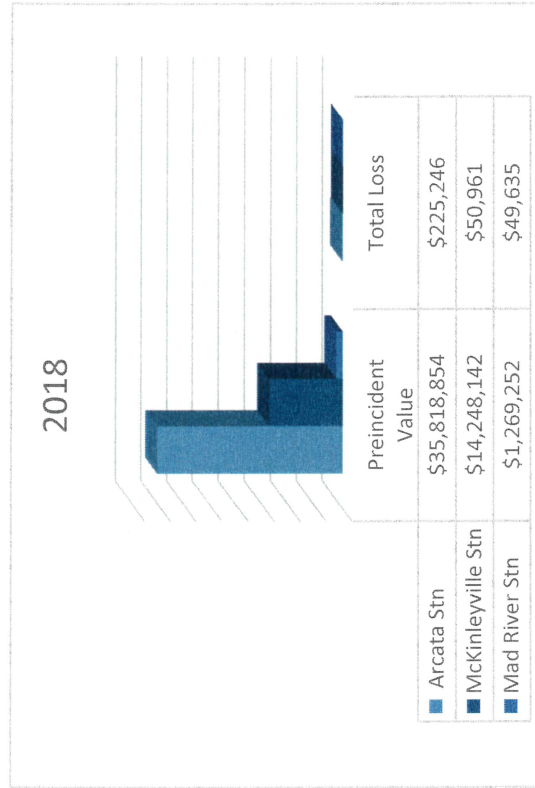
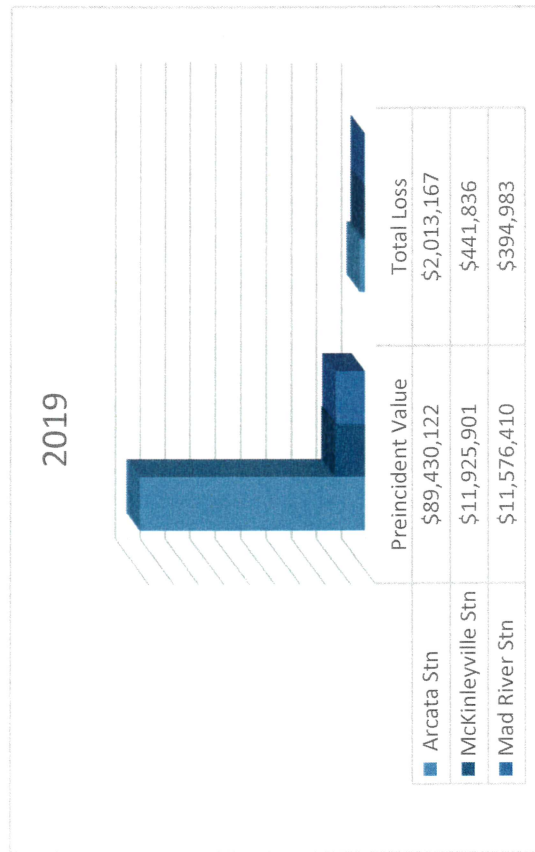


Chart Title

