

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting

March 24, 2020

5:30 p.m.

*Location: 2149 Central Avenue, McKinleyville
McKinleyville Station / Administrative Office*

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*

In order to meet the State required Shelter in Place mandate, this Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire Protection District was held via remote access using Google Hangouts Meet.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The special session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 5:30 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

President Johnson called for attendance and the following were present via a web hosted meeting: President Nicole Johnson, Vice President Randy Mendosa, Director Rene Campbell, Director Elena David and Director David Rosen. Other staff members included Chief McDonald and Board Secretary Schuette, from the Administrative office at headquarters.

President Johnson explained the procedures and process for this particular meeting type, advising that she would be running the meeting and calling roll for voice votes. She also explained the medium that participants could use in providing comments on topics; voice or written “chat” that would be read aloud.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Johnson provided notice and requested public comments, then waited for responses. There were no public comments.

At this time President Johnson advised that we would be calling the New Business ahead of the Old Business, as most of the information in new business will provide additional information regarding the District’s future finances and the Measure R failure topic.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Approve Side Letter to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Local 4981, Amending Minimum Staffing: Chief McDonald reviewed the staff report and advised that the Local had ratified the letter earlier today at their meeting.

Anthony Benelisha, President of the Local, spoke and advised they were in support of the letter, with the caveat referencing a different effective date. Chief McDonald indicated that the Business Manager had pointed out that the effective date should be in line with pay periods, as well as correct PERS reporting for fiscal year end and beginning. Staff was, therefore, recommending that the effective date of the side letter be July 12, 2020.

There were no comments from the public.

President Johnson polled the Board and there were no comments.

It was moved to accept staff recommendations with the correction to Section C and an effective date of July 12, 2020.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: David

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

Motion Carries

5.2 Approve Side Letter to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Senior Management Group Regarding Duty Chief Coverage: Chief advised the Board that District Counsel Jack Hughes had reported that the letter was not complete. Chief requested the item be removed from the agenda at this time to be re-agendized on the April 14, 2020 regular meeting.

There was no action taken at this time.

5.3 Introduce Resolution 20-217 to Grant Another Designated Period for Two Years' Additional Service Credit: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note and the requirements from PERS for such action. He advised the board that there is only one eligible safety employee at this time. He then reviewed the costs for the buy-out and that the fiscal impact would be noticed in the budget in two years.

Director Mendosa requested the salary savings and PERS cost savings be presented at the next meeting.

There were no additional comments from the Board.

There were no public comments.

It was moved to accept staff recommendation on item 5.3.

Motion: David; Second: Rosen

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

Motion Carries

5.4 Approve Reduction in Force Notice: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note and made his recommendation to the Board.

President Johnson opened comments up to the Board and several of the Directors commented on this being a difficult decision, particularly during the current worldwide health crisis.

President Johnson invited public comments at this time and there were none.

It was moved to direct staff to send the reduction in force notices.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Campbell

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

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Consider District Priorities and the Manner in Which Operations and Public Services Will Change Following the Failure of Measure R: Chief McDonald advised that Attorney Ryan Plotz would be speaking on the topic of options for moving forward for another funding measure attempt in November.

Attorney Plotz advised that if the Board planned to move ahead with another funding measure attempt, the resolution for a consolidated election would need to be submitted to the County no later than June. He went on to provide the Board with an overview of funding sources and the related statutes and an explanation of services zones. He continued with an explanation of property assessments and specifically what a Benefit Assessment funding measure can be used for as opposed to the Special Tax. Attorney Plotz also provided the manner in which fees for services and costs could be further utilized by the District with changes to our existing Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Following the presentation by counsel, discussion ensued with comments and questions.

Director Mendosa advised that he is recommending that we put the Anderson (Bayside) property up for sale.

Chief McDonald asked a question on behalf of a Fire Captain regarding a citizen driven tax initiative. He queried if the threshold to pass was the same two-thirds majority as a special tax or if it was different. Counselor Plotz confirmed that it was the same.

Confirming that there were no other questions for District Counsel, Chief McDonald advised that Attorney Plotz would be leaving the meeting at this time.

A lengthy discussion followed with topics including notification of our staffing and station situation to our partner agencies and our dedication to honoring auto and mutual aid agreements. The Chief had planned to send out these notices following some of the decision making by the Board.

The following members of the public had written or verbal questions or comments:

Roy Willis, VLU member and Bayside resident

Desmond Cowan

Brandi Easter, McKinleyville resident and business owner.

Sean Campbell, Battalion Chief and McKinleyville resident.

Director Mendosa moved that the Board direct staff to make contact with a local realtor to put the Anderson Lane property up for sale for use to offset structural budget deficit for salaries and that staff bring that back to a future meeting for the Board to consider.

The motion was followed by additional discussion related to previous history on this topic and any actions taken to research the sale of the property. Chief McDonald advised that we can do updated research to sell the property and put the item on the agenda for the next board meeting, at which time the Board can receive the information, declare the property surplus and vote about putting it up for sale.

Based on that information, Director Mendosa withdrew his motion.

President Johnson offered some clarifying direction at this time regarding a request to gather the Finance Committee for a meeting to discuss the budget and move forward with reduction in services through the budget process.

Director Mendosa requested to make another motion, prior to discussion on the Finance Committee. He then moved that the board direct staff to initiate with the elections office the pre-requisites to start another funding measure on the November ballot and bring it back to next board meeting for anything that needs to be done to solidify that.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Campbell

Public member Brandi Easter commented on support of the motion.

Another lengthy discussion followed the motion. Topics included the input from the Finance Committee, future staffing models, how zone voting data will effect decisions, a true election timeline and the decision on benefit assessment versus a special tax.

Point of order by Director Rosen at this time that a motion and a second has been made and the motion either needed to be withdrawn, amended or vote made.

Director Mendosa chose to withdraw his motion, but wanted to show staff and community resolve to fix the problems.

The Chief specified that the motion would include the following recommendations:

1. Anderson property will be placed on the April agenda to be declared surplus and take action.
2. November 3rd Election on the agenda with pertinent dates so that the board may take action.
3. Call a meeting of the Finance Committee to start looking at what our staffing and costs will be after July 1st

It was so moved.

No public comments

Motion: Campbell; Second: Rosen

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

Motion Carries

6. ADJOURNMENT

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Campbell

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Arcata Station Classroom.**

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Schuette

Clerk of the Board