

MINUTES

*Special Board Meeting
March 10, 2020
5:00 p.m.*

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 special session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 5:00 pm.

The meeting continued with a quorum and the following were present: President Nicole Johnson, Vice President Randy Mendosa, Director Rene Campbell, Director Elena David and Director David Rosen.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code Section 54957.6) Agency designated representative: *Counsel Jack Hughes*
Employee Organization: *Local 4981*

3.2 Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code Section 54957.6) Agency designated representative: *Counsel Jack Hughes*
Employee Organization: *Senior Management Group*

President Johnson adjourned to closed session at 5:01 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 5:33 pm.

Report out of closed session by President Johnson: the labor negotiator was given direction.

*Regular Board Meeting
March 10, 2020
5:30 p.m.*

*Location: 631 9th Street, Arcata
Arcata Fire Station Classroom*

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 5:34 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Johnson.

3. ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum and the following were present: President Nicole Johnson, Vice President Randy Mendosa, Director Rene Campbell, Director Elena David and Director David Rosen.

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was no discussion or public comment.

It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

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

Motion Carries

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

6.2 Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2020 Special Town Hall Meeting

6.3 Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2020 Special Town Hall Meeting

6.4 Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2020 Special Town Hall Meeting

6.5 ~~January~~ February 2020 Financial Report

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

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar, when Director Mendosa requested that he be able to abstain from item. 6.1, as he was not present for the meeting on February 11, 2020. Director Campbell restated her motion.

It was moved to approve the consent calendar items 6.2-6.5.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

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

Motion Carries

It was moved to approve the consent calendar items 6.1.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Rosen

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

Motion Carries

7. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Provide Staff Direction Regarding Future Dispatch Services Beginning Fiscal Year 2020/21: Chief McDonald reported to the board regarding the current status of the dispatch service options with Arcata Police and an extension with CalFire.

Director Rosen offered to be part of the negotiations and the other Directors approved.

The public was invited to comment at this time:

Roy Willis, Jacoby Creek

There was no action taken, however, Director Rosen will work with the Chief on negotiating something to bring back to the Board on a future agenda.

9.2 Consider District Priorities and the Manner in Which Operations and Public Services Will Change Following the Failure of Measure R: Chief McDonald began by reviewing his staff note and reading it aloud for the record.

This was followed by a few board comments and brief discussion about the manner in which to proceed. Chief McDonald added that it was important to include District counsel as well as public input in any decision making.

The public was invited to comment at this time:

Joan Edwards, 27th Street, Arcata

Having no further public comments, the board determined a date to continue discussion on this item.

It was moved to continue item 9.2 to a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2020 at 5:30pm at the Arcata Downtown Station.

Motion: Campbell; Second: David

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

Motion Carries

9.3 Consider Elimination of District Overtime Coverage and a Firefighter Over Hire Position: Chief explained the urgency of this topic and reviewed his staff note and recommendation.

Director Mendosa requested input from staff; Firefighter Sakkis spoke on behalf of the Local, referring to the letter they had submitted to their negotiator and which had been provided to the District negotiator. The letter explained the Local's requests and that decisions would be meet and confer. Battalion Chief Campbell added that Senior Management wants to support the Board.

There was no further discussion or comments from the Board and no public comments.

It was moved to eliminate overtime effective March 11, 2020 and eliminate the over hire position effective on March 28, 2020.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Rosen

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

Motion Carries

10. CORRESPONDENCE

President Johnson reviewed the correspondence.

11. MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1 Chiefs Report - Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report.

11.2 Committee Reports - No reports

11.3 Director Matters - Comments from the Directors revolved around the failure of the funding Measure, the hard work put in by all and the gratitude for everyone's involvement and public outreach.

11.4 Bargaining Group & Association Reports

Local 4981 - Report included in packet, with no additions from Firefighter Sakkis.

Senior Management Group (SMG) - No report

Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA) - Report included in packet, with no additions from Dave White.

12. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session at this time as it was handled in an earlier special meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm.

A letter from Prevention Inspector Bill Walser was provided to the Board, prior to the beginning of the meeting and will be included as Attachment 1 of these minutes.

The next Special Meeting is scheduled for **March 24, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Arcata Station Classroom.**

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 10, 2020
To: Arcata Fire Protection District Board
From: Bill Walser, Fire Inspector
RE: Resignation

It is with sadness I confirm with you the matter of my resignation from the position of Fire Inspector for the Arcata Fire Protection District. This was announced to Chief McDonald via a memorandum on February 19, 2020, and I am sure he has already shared with you.

It has been a remarkable fulfilling experience to have worked for the Arcata Fire Protection District. The personnel of this agency are professional and prepared. Individuals have stepped forward with assistance when needed. More importantly individuals have provided information they knew would be of assistance to me in making the complexes I work with safer. They have also come to me with questions, which gave me an ego boost – “Hey, they know I know what I’m doing and I don’t give bad info.”, or, “They know if I don’t know, I’ll find an answer.” It’s great to be wanted!

Chief McDonald has given me a pretty loose noose for my working hours. That was another ego boost! It made me even more driven to do the very best for the citizens of our district, and for the personnel of our department. I only hope my efforts have been up to his, and your, expectations.

The time has come for me to stop letting an alarm clock and a schedule control life. November 10, 2020, would have been my 40-year anniversary in Public Safety. During the early years of that duration I had to work with Randy Mendosa...now you know why it’s time to hang it up. Just kidding of course. We had some good times at Arcata Police Department.

So thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to be a part of your organization.

Take care,



Bill Walser
Fire Inspector

p.s. That will be \$150.00/hour flat rate please...just kidding!