

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

January 12, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Location: Remote Via Zoom

Board of Directors

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

Blaine Maynor (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

The Pledge of Allegiance has been suspended during Shelter in Place.

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 Elena David, Director Blaine Maynor and Director David Rosen.

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: David; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; David, Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

6.2 December 2020 Finance Report

6.3 Adoption of the Mandated Covid 19 Prevention Program

6.4 Adoption of Resolution 21-231 with Exhibit A, Approving Revisions to the Master Salary Schedule Adopted August 16, 2016

6.5 Adoption of Resolution 21-232 with Exhibits A & B, Certifying the Results of the General Election Held November 3, 2020

There were no comments from the Board or members of the public.

It was moved to approve the consent calendar.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; David, Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

7. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Arcata Fire District Racial Equity Assessment Presentation by Stepping Stone

Diversity Consulting: The presenter was not logged in at the time the item was called.

President Johnson moved onto New Business advising it would resume when Ms. Meiris joined the meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Consideration of Petition for Adjustment of Fire Assessment Fees: The Petitioner was not on the Zoom call and President Johnson advised that we would wait and return to this item later in the meeting, in the event he joined the meeting late.

9.2 Election of New Board Officers for the Remainder of the 2021 Year: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note and advised that President Johnson did offer to stay on as President, at the Board's pleasure.

There was a brief discussion about the length of the terms and the Board Policy Manual, which is still requiring updates.

There were no further comments from the Board or the public.

It was moved that Nicole Johnson be nominated for President for another year and Director Rosen as Vice President, which was seconded by Director Maynor.

Director Rosen requested discussion on the Vice Presidency as he was not going to serve in the position.

The initial motion was withdrawn and it was decided that each position would be nominated and voted upon separately.

It was moved to nominate Nicole Johnson to return as President for another term.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; David, Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

There was brief Board discussion on the Vice President position with no public comments.

It was moved to nominate Randy Mendosa as Vice President.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; David, Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

Melissa from Stepping Stone Diversity joined the meeting at 5:45 pm and President Johnson returned to item 8.1 in Old Business.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Arcata Fire District Racial Equity Assessment Presentation by Stepping Stone Diversity Consulting: Chief McDonald briefly reviewed his staff note and introduced Melissa Meiris who presented their assessment findings to the Board.

Director Mendosa asked how the survey was conducted and he was advised that it was a confidential, on-line Google survey. He went on to discuss his experiences and why he believed this topic to be important. He also asked if the District had a translator accessible to the staff on the engines if it were needed. Chief McDonald advised that we currently do not and would likely have to reach out to our dispatch. Director Mendosa further queried Ms. Meiris about the data, its collection and what is important to collect and she provided several examples. Following further comments from Director Mendosa, he advised that he is in favor of the formation of racial equity committee that he would volunteer to be a part of it. He also added suggestions about getting public speakers during meetings to discuss this topic.

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

Chief McDonald informed the Board that he would reach out to other neighboring agencies and groups to seek out training opportunities and collaborative efforts to reduce costs.

Director Mendosa stated that he wanted to make a motion to form a racial equity committee, to which the Board Clerk addressed a point of order. She pointed out that the formation of a committee was not part of the agenda and therefore could not be acted upon tonight, but would need to be placed on a future agenda for discussion and a vote. Director Mendosa indicated his belief that the possibility of forming the committee was part of the staff report and Melissa's information and that he believed it was not a violation of the Brown Act. He made his motion and the Clerk's point of order was noted.

It was moved to establish a racial equity committee so that we can start to work on this issue.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Maynor

Roll Call: Ayes; Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson. **Abstain;** David
Motion Carries

Director Mendosa then advised that we can agendize a staff report as to how to set up the equity committee, not set it up tonight. He would like it on a future board meeting as to how to set it up.

President Johnson returned to New Business once again.

9.3 Consider Accepting the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Financial Audit Report: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note and advised that he had also requested Director Rosen review the audit when it was provided to the District as an initial draft. Director Rosen had no material problems or issues with the report.

There were no comments from the Board or the public.

It was moved to approve and accept the Fiscal Year 2019-20 financial audit.

Motion: Rosen; Second: David

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

9.4 Consideration of a Safety Committee Assignment for a Board Director: Chief McDonald made his report and queried the Board for a volunteer. Director Maynor requested the Chief indicate what the assignment would entail and the Chief explained.

Director Maynor volunteered for the committee.

There were no public comments and with a volunteer, no further action at this time.

At 6:38 pm, President Johnson called item 9.1 and requested the Chief review his staff note. The Petitioner did not join the Zoom meeting.

9.1 Consideration of Petition for Adjustment of Fire Assessment Fees: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note aloud in its entirety.

President Johnson called on each Board member for their questions or comments.

Director David had none. Director Mendosa commented that he had sought out the property on Google and affirmation of a second mailbox and dwelling unit. He advised that this was a representation of a single family residence with the additional dwelling unit.

There were no comments from Directors Maynor or Rosen.

The Petitioner was not present for comments and there were no comments from the public.

It was moved to deny the petition as the property use does not meet the definition of a single family residence.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; David, Maynor, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed aloud by President Johnson.

11. MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1 Chiefs Report – Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report

11.2 Committee Reports –

- Ad Hoc Committee (Rosen, Maynor) on Citizen Oversight of Measure F – Director Rosen reported the two had met and developed a draft that will be presented at the next Board meeting for discussion and perhaps adoption.

11.3 Director Matters – Director Mendosa congratulated and thanked the four staff members who had given notice to move on to new agencies; Firefighters Sakkis and Gordinier and Captains Walker and Finen. President Johnson also wished them luck.

11.4 Bargaining Group & Association Reports

Local 4981 – Vice President Scott Gordinier commented on the Motel 6 fire last month. As he has provided notice to leave Arcata Fire, Scott encouraged the Board to focus on retention of the career staff remaining.

Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA) – President Roy Willis reviewed the activity report. He did add that it looks like the VLU L8291 will be placed back in service this Friday and will need to be restocked. Friends of Arcata Fire District is being formed from the remaining and interested Friends of Measure F group.

12. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

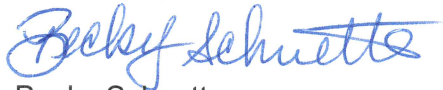
Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mendosa; **Second:** David

Meeting adjourned by President Johnson at 6:59pm.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **February 9, 2021 at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Schuette
Clerk of the Board