



# South Coast Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 334 Gualala, California 95445 (707)884-4700

Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2022

**Location:** 39215 Church Street, Gualala, California

## 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Pete Slunaker

## 2. Roll Call:

Chair Pete Slunaker, Directors Chuckie Sorensen and Kevin Callanan were present. Directors Flavia de Oliveira, and Rick O'Neil were absent.

## 3. Public Expression: 3 – minute limit person, 10 - minute total subject.

None.

## 4. Approval of Minutes form last meeting:

**Kevin Callanan motioned to approved the minutes from the last meeting. Chuckie Sorensen seconded the motion. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen, Pete Slunaker. Nays: None. The motion passed: 3 yeas, 0 nays.**

## 5. Financial Report:

Maureen Carr said we are ahead of last year financially by approximately 17%, though we have not received all of our income from the tax assessment.

## 6. Old Business: Discussion / Action on Grant Update

Jason Warner said the department is going to start spending the funds (about \$45,000) for a wildland grant from the PG&E settlement, and we are already looking into applying for a couple of other grants this year as well.

## 7. New Business: Discussion / Action

**a. Fire Apparatus Engineer Position.** This position is still open and Jason is currently accepting applications. The application process closes on 4/8/22, and he would like to make a selection by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Jason gave the board a rundown on the basic requirements for the position. He would also like a board member to join a group that he is assembling for the selection process. Kevin Callanan expressed interest on serving on that panel.

**b. Purchase of Apparatus.** Jason is seeking pre-authorization from the board with regards to purchasing the dozer. He would like to be ready to make a purchase if the opportunity arises. Calfire has not announced when they will be selling off their equipment yet, so Jason has been looking into private resources as well. Pete Slunaker said he would like to know what range Jason is talking about, to establish a ceiling of what to spend on the dozer. Jason said it would be around \$100,000.

**Kevin motioned to approve \$100,000 for the purchase of a dozer if Jason locates a dozer that meets our needs. Chuckie seconded the motion. Yeas: Pete Slunaker, Kevin Callanan and Chuckie Sorensen. Nays: None. The motion passed 3 yeas, 0 nays.**

**c. Budget.** Jason has started working on the budget for next year. Due to inflation, it is going to be hard to project costs for next year.

**d. ATT outages.** There were widespread landline outages for five days in Gualala recently, both commercial and residential lines. Kevin followed up with AT&T and found that they were unaware of any outages in the area. He also informed our Mendocino County Supervisor Ted Williams who also contacted AT&T. Kevin was also informed by the local AT&T technician that another entity to call is the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). After reporting the incident to the CPUC, Kevin got a call from the AT&T President's Office to get more information on the incident. Kevin found out that AT&T does post outage information on its website. He is concerned that notifications of outages are not getting to residents who are not connected to the internet, have no cell phone, and rely solely on their phone for contact. The AT&T representative had no solution for the issue Kevin raised. Kevin would like the board to send the County a letter to put pressure on AT&T to find a way to notify residents about landline outages.

Chuckie said that she contacted Congressman Jared Huffman's office over concerns about numerous outages her mother was experiencing on her landline. After contacting Huffman's office, AT&T repaired the line and she hasn't had any issues since.

Jason said he was not aware of the outage for quite a while and was not aware how widespread it was. He said if he had received notification from AT&T, he could have staffed the station so that residents could come to the station if they needed emergency services. Kevin said he would work with Chris Dilks on composing a letter to the County Board of Supervisors and copy it to Jared Huffman's office as well.

#### **8. Chief's Report:**

- Jason is coming up with a staffing plan for dealing with infrastructure failures, such as with AT&T, so that the community still has access to emergency services.
- There were two fires last month that were both arson fires.
- Jason said the fuel moisture is already at early summer levels.
- Calfire has a new Mendocino County Unit Chief. His name is Luke Kendall.
- Calfire has started staffing some of their hand crews. There has been a drastic cut in the number of hand crews that are available which increases the urgency in getting the dozer.
- South Coast Fire is hosting wildland fire courses that are requirements for getting signed off for strike team positions.
- Jason looked into whose responsibility it was to put in a fire hydrant—the fire department or the water company. The fire department has taken a role in maintaining the hydrants in the past, but no regular maintenance is currently being done. Jason is working on a plan to get routine maintenance done on the hydrants as well as improving mapping of where the hydrants are, and what their flows are. The water company, however, is financially responsible for installing new hydrants.

#### **9. Directors Comments:**

None

#### **10. Closed Session: Gann update**

No action taken during closed session.

#### **11. Open Session after Closed Session:**

None.

**12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting is on April 21, 2022.